

HST 195: History of Vietnam War F11 (Escobar META 21315 24232)

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Student Evaluation of Instruction & Course

ALL online courses at Lane are supposed to have a student evaluation component. While there may be some similarities, this specific student evaluation you are reading now is NOT a standardized list of questions that is used in every class, but is created by the individual instructor and unique to the class.

I am genuinely interested in creating the best online experience that I can, and I am certain there are ways I might be able to improve this course. With that in mind, I would appreciate your honest, thoughtful responses to the following questions.

The only module in Moodle which allows for **completely anonymous student participation** (even though you are logged into Moodle with your L# and PIN) is this Questionnaire Activity, specifically set to anonymous mode, which I have done. Moodle will record a submission "score" of "1" when you submit this survey. That is all I will know... who completed it and who did not.

If you complete this survey by the finals week Thursday 5pm deadline, I will add 1% to your final class grade for the term. I hope you take advantage of this opportunity.

NOTE: Every question below requires some sort of answer.

1. What letter grade do you believe you will earn in this class at the end of the term?

Response	Average	Total
a, a-	 8%	1

b+, b, b-	 67%	8
c+, c, c-	 17%	2
pass	 8%	1
Total	 100%	12/12

2. When you accessed Moodle for this class, from where did you do it most often?

Response	Average	Total
my computer at home	 92%	11
i carry a laptop with me wherever i go	 8%	1
Total	 100%	12/12

3. Over what kind of internet access did you regularly interact with this Moodle class?

Response	Average	Total
high speed (dsl or cable)	 67%	8
wireless access other than lcc	 33%	4
Total	 100%	12/12

4. If you were to advise future students taking this class, how important would you say it is to have high speed internet access where they live and study?

Response	Average	Total
extremely important	 58%	7

somewhat important	 42%	5
Total	 100%	12/12

5. On average how many hours a week did you spend on the course?

Response	Average	Total
1-2 hours a week	 8%	1
2-3 hours a week	 8%	1
3-4 hours a week	 33%	4
4-5 hours a week	 33%	4
5 or more hours a week	 17%	2
Total	 100%	12/12

6. On average how many times a week did you log onto your course?

Response	Average	Total
2-3 times a week	 25%	3
3-4 times a week	 17%	2
4-5 times a week	 33%	4
5 or more times a week	 25%	3
Total	 100%	12/12

7. Including this course, how many total courses (online and in the classroom) did you take at LCC this term?

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Response	Average	Total
2	 33%	4
3	 50%	6
4	 17%	2
Total	 100%	12/12

8. How did you learn about this course?

Response	Average	Total
the lcc online course catalog	 58%	7
an instructor	 17%	2
i searched expresslane for any available online course	 25%	3
Total	 100%	12/12

9. Rate the following:

	Average rank				
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
I felt this course was well organized.					1.3
The required reading and assignments contributed to my learning.					1.3
I put enough time and energy into this course to meet or exceed the course requirements.					2.1
The instructor's feedback was clear and useful.					1.9
The instructor provided timely feedback.					1.5
The instructor treated students with respect.					1.5

The instructor provided opportunities for students to learn from each other.		1.2
The instructor was available and helpful.		1.6

10. Rate the following:

	Average rank				
	Highly Effective	Effective	Ineffective	Very Ineffective	
Overall I would rate the effectiveness of the instructor as:					1.5
Overall I would rate the effectiveness of the course as:					1.5

11. Consider the relevance of this class to your degree program and/or life in general, overall quality of product and delivery, value for your tuition dollar, etc. Use N/A if you have not taken any other courses at LCC or elsewhere.

	Average rank					N/A (#)
	Well Above Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Well Below Average	
How does this course compare to all other courses you have taken at LCC (including online, hybrid, traditional, and telecourse classes)?						0
How does this online course compare relative to other online courses you have taken at LCC?						0
How does this online course compare relative to other online courses you have taken at any institution?						3

12. I enjoyed reading the student discussions. They were supposed to be a way for all students (even shy ones who never like to speak up in a regular class) to participate. The way I see it, if you simply get involved often and throughout the week, this should have been an easy A+

grade. Together, they counted for a substantial percentage of your class grade.

But as you may have seen or read for yourself, a number of students did not participate, failed to post by the first Wednesday deadline, posted less than three times a week, only posted on Sunday just before the deadline, or failed to put forth a thoughtful/analytical effort which included specific data from the materials (textbooks, videos/DVDs, web reading/watching/listening materials).

Help me to understand and/or provide me with any relevant feedback on this matter?

Deadlines for making your first post?

Scoring posts? 1 to 3 scale?

Length of assignment (one week)?

Group size? Random groups?

Worth your time and effort?

#	Response
1	some students do and some are not. depending which group you are in. i am strongly agree if students do their job, it will be a lively online class.
1	the deadlines were fine. i found it frustrating when other students didn't post, as it was hard to have a conversation with myself in order to achieve the grade i wanted to. yes, it was worth my time and effort. i did find it confusing with the grading, only because i didn't read the scoring well enough and i am in another history class that does a forum, also and scores differently and has a different deadline, but that is my own fault. i really like the forums, and wish there were more.
1	i think the smaller th group, the easier it is to have a discussion, versus just commenting on somenes post. often it was hard to go through and read everyone else's posts and try and understand them.
1	i don't agree with forcing students to interact in an online class. i don't think it added more to my learning in the class. i think making the deadlines for wednesday and sunday were a good idea for those that like to procrastinate and not contribute until the last minute. but that doesn't apply to all students. the scoring scale was an effective way to grade the postings. i liked being broken down into smaller groups, it made it easier to interact with the group. i wish more of the posting assignments had to do with the material we were reading and watching. i really enjoyed the 2 texts plus the pbs series and i think you could have drawn questions from those materials and we would have had a lot to discuss.
1	i will fully admit to being one of those students who posts on sunday, during the day and while i know it would be better for me to post throughout the week i just thought to explain my reason. i'm taking 12 credits this term online, plus i work a full time sometimes overtime job, my first class all work is due thursday and it is

	a much heavier workload than this class in terms of writing papers and time needed, so i spend tuesday and wednesday and sometimes thursday doing that classes work. my next deadline is saturday, so i spend thursday/friday and sometimes saturday doing that class, so i have sunday to do your forum posts and monday i take to go shopping/visit family/breath. i enjoy your class i simply work by the deadlines and time i have, so for that i apologize, though i will say only once have i not gotten my wednesday post in on time. your scoring is totally fair and i generally got 2's with the occasional 1 or 3, so fair. i much preferred the one week assignments, they made it feel like if you somehow screwed up one week your didn't just bugger up your entire forum grade as their are so few weeks in the quarter system group size, i would have liked larger groups personally for a larger variety of opinions every week, however i really enjoy random groups, they keep opinions fresh and if you can't stand someone you may not have to see them next week! again, i apologize for my lack spaced time throughout this class, and my hectic schedule this term (they upped my hours by 15 per week or more) means that i will probably get a b instead of an a, but this class was still worth it to me for the knowledge i gained, even if it doesn't contribute to a stellar gpa overall.
1	i misunderstood your directions for forum 1 because it was a two-week assignment -- i completely missed the second week. i also thought i'd have questions for wednesday and another set for sunday, so i didn't post over the week because i was waiting for you to post the new questions. i'm not sure why i thought that though. i went back and read "how forums are graded" and it all made sense the second time i read it.
1	i felt your guidelines and expectations for the posts were fair. it makes sense to have a wednesday deadline for the first post. i preferred the one-week forums as opposed to the two-week forum. i enjoyed the discussions.
1	i appreciated the forums but not until later in the course did i appreciate hearing how others felt about what we were all learning without really having to argue or feel the need to blatantly critique anyone's else's view.
1	well i responded most of the time over the course of the week. but i can understand why people couldn't. most online courses have a due date where package of work is due on sunday or saturday. i think that a lot of the people that take online courses work or have other courses and want to do their work all at once on sunday. i would have liked to hear from you also, when someone makes a comment in a real classroom the teacher gives feedback on that comment and here we never got that. i also would have liked to be in the same group the whole time. i think maybe encouraging people to use the student forum more would have been good, so

	that students could get to know each other if they want. i'm not sure if this could work, but maybe for the people that don't have time during the week there could be a chat session moderated by you held on saturday or sunday.
1	i felt that the requirement to make the first post by wednesday was fair and necessary in maintaining a "forum" discussion. sometimes i felt that the grading was a bit harsh. i do not ever remember having random groups in this class. i liked the forum discussions in this class compared to some of the other assignments.
1	i think the scoring of the posts need to change so there is more of a buffer. 1-5 would be better in my opinion.
1	i generally felt like the student discussions were valuable to understanding the course information and further developing our own understanding of the events we were learning about. i was always able to meet the deadlines (although i'll admit i did post on sunday night a few times). deadlines for making the first post was not difficult. addressing those who were not able to or chose not to meet deadlines, that is just how it goes with any class, but particularly an online class; it is entirely up to the student to meet deadlines without the physical presence of a teacher reminding them. i think the scoring was pretty straightforward. i understood and felt comfortable with the criteria you outlined in the syllabus and always felt like my scores were consistent with the stated criteria. that being said, i was disappointed that the only written feedback i got from you was on the short paper we did early in the term. i would have liked to see another assignment like that one that invited a little more of your feedback. i do think it might be more easily managed and you might see more clash/interaction between posts if people were divided into smaller, random groups. i tried to respond to both people i agreed with and people that i disagreed with but most of what i saw was people picking out the posts they agreed with and ultimately just reiterating the same ideas. i think it's much easier to revert to agreement when there are so many posts to pick from. also, small discussion groups would give students the opportunity to "get to know" a few people in the class; that is ultimately one thing i don't like about online classes -- unless you meet with classmates for study sessions, you never really get an idea of who your classmates are. i definitely think the group discussions were worth my time and effort. there were a couple prompts i felt could have been simplified a little so that you'd see depth in discussion versus breadth. for instance, the last discussion prompt was two parts and i ultimately only ended up answering one part because that in and of itself was quite a large question. i would have felt comfortable with more frequent deadlines to increase the number of forums we participated in. the way that i think about it, if i were taking this class face-to-face in the classroom, i would spend 2-4 hours a week in the classroom, plus any textbook reading i had to do. that being considered, i spent between 5-15 minutes on each post. i think it's safe to say that a 3pt post takes between 10-20min. that being said, we were only required to make 4 posts a week. for me, that means i spent around an hour (not even) writing for each forum. in addition, it usually took about 20 minutes to watch/read/listen to the material required to

complete the forum assignment. so in total, that means i was spending at most 1hr 30min on a forum for the entire week. though the required reading took quite a bit of time, as with any traditional class format, that is to be expected. i hope you got out of that ridiculous analysis that it wouldn't be unreasonable to have 2 forums a week.

13. Rate how each of the following was a positive or negative aspect of this course for you.

	Average rank				
	Very Worthwhile	Worthwhile	Not Very Worthwhile	Worthless	
The George Herring "Longest War" textbook		■			1.7
The Christian Appy "Patriots" textbook		■			1.8
The Television History of the Vietnam War DVDs		■			1.6
The (private) written Assignment		■			2.0
The (public) Forums	■				1.4
The Accuracy in Media Videos		■			2.1
The Soldiers stories audio file		■			1.8
The POW video and website pictures		■			1.7
The Fog of War video		■			1.9
The Vietnam Legacies video		■			1.8

14. LCC is beginning to focus on Open Educational Resources (OER) as a way to help students by reducing or eventually eliminating the need for costly textbooks. Basically, "free" materials found on the web would be used as a replacement.

While this sounds like a great idea on the surface, it would involve many changes in the way instructors and students interact with class materials.

I can think of at least two very substantial changes that would have to happen immediately.

#1 Materials would come from any number of websites and sources. This would necessitate incredible organization on the part of the instructor and student: keeping reading links in order, which specific pages of that multipage website are required reading, hoping that the links don't become "dead" links. Also, just because an instructor could add a new link at any time, some

students may not "get the message" about the new required materials in a timely fashion. In short, think of a textbook with potentially "disappearing" pages and magically reappearing "new" pages.

#2 You would have to do all of your reading online. (Of course, some students may choose to print out the materials, but think of printing out your current textbooks, either a few chapters at a time or everything that is needed for the term. Do you have a printer? Do you have that much paper and ink? Does the replacement of a textbook that results in the printing of volumes of paper cause more problems than it solves?) Do you like to read online, whether it be on computer screen, or Kindle/iPad, or even smart cell phone? Do you have access to (money for) these devices? Does this affect how you would take written/typed/highlighted notes on the materials?

These are some of my thoughts, but the question to you is simple. What can you tell me about your own readiness or willingness to buy or not to buy textbooks and save money (or not), surf to many different websites (or not), read online (or not), print webpages (or not) for a history class such as this one? Have you ever taken a class that used only free, online materials?

#	Response
1	i like combination. nowadays many information we can get it from online almost free. also we need live class interaction so we know what is going on in the class. this is somehow important of traditional class
1	when you put links on the website. i print them off anyway. i would prefer textbooks, because i like to read and read and read. i take the books with me where ever i go.
1	i usuallyi prefer to read hard text, but would rather save money thn purchase a book i am only going to use one term. reading text n my ipad is easier than on a computer, so i am open to using only online resources
1	i think the cost of textbooks is inflated way too much. i like it when there are external links we can learn from. there is so much on the internet these days, and i appreciate it when instructors can use this to teach their course more effectively. i have yet to have a major problem with external links or articles. and i think it adds more to the class because we can learn from numerous sources rather than just the author of a textbook.
1	i can use a computer in the comfort of my own bed, take notes without awkwardly balancing a notebook on my knee or other arm and read on my laptop just as easily as a computer but i can change the magnification for maps and words if i need to. yes i would love to have all my materials online, especially as i take all my classes in a straight shot 10-12 hour day twice a week while i'm going to school without online classes. that means i'm carrying around generally 5-6 books weighing in at 30-40 lbs instead of my few lbs of laptop. i would never print out all those papers to read, i think it would be a waste of paper and ink and money when i could read online. saving money is important to me, i'm under 24

	and my parents make too much for me to qualify for grants, yet they cannot actually help out, so anything that can make me not have to work 50 hours a week just to pay rent and for college is a major help.
1	i like the feel of a book in my hands. i have a kindle i received as a gift and i hate it. i'm very tech-savvy, but i don't like how books are being replaced with digital images.
1	i think textbooks are still important and are much simpler to use when wanting to find specific course information quickly. i think we should continue to use a combination of online and hard sources.
1	i felt how this class was handled was excellent as is and wouldn't change anything.
1	oh boy, well, i am always looking to stick it to the text book companies. most of the time i buy previous editions or find the info in another book because, after i pay for tuition i don't have the money for text books. i think it's very easy to find information online that agrees with what was taught in this course. when i wrote out my note cards for the mid term, i used wikipedia to define the term, or person and the significance in relation to the vietnam war. and since any decent article on wikipedia has to site other sources (no original research is allowed) it ends up being a very good source of information. since the video course was from pbs i uploaded it to you tube, which i think is an extremely powerful tool for finding documentaries or video documents from history. the text books weren't too bad for me in this class, after buying both books and finding the video series online i only spent \$15, the herring book has the same number of pages in the new edition, as it did in the previous, so i can't imagine there is enough information to justify the extra price. however, i thought the herring book was really good, and i don't think it would be easily replaced.
1	i have taken other classes through other universities that were specifically set up for online students. it was very organized and very specific. there was an adjustment to reading online than reading in a text book, the same applies with taking notes from that material. i don't think it's bad, it's just different. i would be willing to do this in order to not buy materials. with the amount of information available online, much of the info provided or included in this class was in that kind of format anyway.
1	i am able to buy text books when they are reasonably price, the new editions that are extremely expensive and are often are no different from the old edition besides the new stick photos. reading information online is easier for me personally and you can get about the same amount of information from a book.
1	i hate buying textbooks. though i think in most classes they do end up being needed, they do end up being educational and further the educational

experience, i have encountered on many occasions an assigned textbook that i pick up zero to just a few times, or more frequently, i only end up having to read a couple chapters. this makes me favor a print on demand center where you would be able to print just a few chapters of a textbook instead of having to pay between 50-150 dollars for a book you barely use. much of the reading i do is online due to the amount of research i do. this means that i am already surfing many different websites, reading online, printing webpages, etc. but i consider that i am 20 years old, have grown up using computers and the internet, have been doing the bulk of my reading online since i was 15, and know how to troubleshoot if a page won't load or another problem arises. this is not the case for a large number of students at lcc. one of the important things to remember about lcc and every community college is that it is supposed to be a friendly environment for non-traditional students to go to school and learn these skills that i grew up with. in many ways, i don't think the format you are discussing would be friendly to such students. i think it would require a new "tech literacy" placement test before students could enroll for such a class so that professors weren't suddenly being expected to be computer teachers too. in terms of the "dead links" issue you mentioned, it's not too difficult to copy-paste info into a word doc, reformat it, of course provide the source, and then turn it into a pdf. that way, students could still be working with documents that could be read online, printed, or read on an e-reader. i recently bought an e-reader and am thoroughly enjoying the simplicity and comfort of reading on it. i love books in their natural form but i do think there are some major advantages to making a transition to electronic devices for college related materials due to the cost and weight of paper books. i have never taken a class that used only free, online materials but i have taken a number of classes that used a textbook as reference and then tons of free, online materials to supplement. it worked well for me. even in this class we did use quite a few online resources and i think you did a great job of making the class moodle site simple and straightforward. that's really the main disadvantage i could see -- if a professor didn't have a good sense of organization in the site it would be seriously hard to work with.

15. Would you recommend this course to other students?

Response	Average	Total
i would highly recommend this course	 50%	6
i would recommend this course	 50%	6
Total	 100%	12/12

16. What recommendations would you suggest in order to improve this course?

#	Response
1	i think this course will be great if teacher can do a weekly quiz.
1	i think more cartoons and maybe more video clips.
1	using additional media sources because with an online course, i feel like i am a very visual learner.
1	the only problem i had was with the one major assignment given with the appy book. i wish i would have gotten more feedback regarding my poor grade, and i didn't appreciate the tone of the feedback i did receive. it was a little condescending. there could have been many other subjects we could have written about, and i think doing think assigning it later in the course when we have learned a little more would have been better.
1	a major help would be to grade forum posts as they were being added, so students could get an idea of how they were doing while they still had a chance to correct their grade if what they were saying was obviously not what you wanted to hear. i know that would be extra effort for you, but i have had a teacher who did such a thing (will sarvis) and i cannot even begin to say how much that helped me to hit my stride and get an almost perfect score in his class. the only other request would be to add more of a perspective from the side of north vietnam, this is the history of vietnam but we barely touched anything that was from nv authors or viewpoints, even herring much more detailed on us plans and actions and motivations.
1	be a little bit more clear that the written assignment is not a "journal." the way the questions were presented really made it seem like that was what you were after.
1	make it so the discussion questions are at the top of the discussion section rather than in a separate link.
1	none
1	i would really like more interaction with the professor, in the forums i wish he would have commented on our posts during the week, maybe playing the devil's advocate and sparking new discussion. i learned a lot in this course but i don't feel like i was challenged like i would be where the professor was interacting with me and making me understand the material better. i also would have liked to write a second paper, i felt like i didn't do well on the

	first one and i wasn't able to apply any critique you gave me to a second paper. the reading from the appy book was extremely hard to keep up with, and i don't feel like it added very much to my overall experience for me i would have liked to get a few selections out of ever chapter and then move on. but as it stood i was spending twice or three times more of my time reading the appy book than i was from the herring book. maybe that was the point but for me i don't feel like it added much. oh yes, this is more minor but i think the videos you have need to be uploaded to you tube. half of them i couldn't get the actual video to work, just the audio, and i saw some other students had trouble with it too. everyone can access youtube, and knows how to use it and how to browse it. having your own youtube account for the class, or linking your videos to youtube would make things a lot simpler.
1	i think that there is too much material overall for this ten week course. combined with the videos, reading two required texts, and the misc. other materials throughout the course it was an overload. i know that there is constantly new information coming about and i think some of the material that may have been previously used should be reconsidered. i liked the instructor feedback and it helped me to improve my forum posts in particular as i understood more of what you wanted.
1	nothing
1	i think small discussion groups is a fabulous idea and would greatly improve the discussion part of the class. other than that, this was the best online class i have taken at lcc.

17. Did I forget to ask any other relevant question(s)? Is there anything else you'd like to add?

#	Response
1	the survey is perfect.
1	no
1	it would be nice to have the room to drop a low grade somewhere
1	no.
1	n/a
1	i liked the appy book. the videos were dry and hard to follow.
1	thank you for an informative term.
1	no
1	i can't think of any, everything seems to be covered.

1	something else to consider is the fact that this is not only an intense academic class, but it is an intense emotional class as well. i particularly had a hard time with this and throughout the ten weeks had a rough time. a slower pace to go through all of the material may have proven to be more effective when it came to being able to deal with emotions and also absorb necessary information.
1	nothing
1	you covered it!

18. Do you have or regularly use any of the following?

	Average rank		
	Yes	No	
iPod or other MP3 player			1.2
cell phone			1.0
laptop computer			1.0
iPad or other tablet type of mobile device			1.7
your own website			1.8
a Twitter account			1.8
a Facebook/MySpace (or other social networking) account			1.0
a Flickr/Picassa/Photobucket (or other picture sharing specific) account			1.5

19.

Is there any other type of web-based tool or service that you know of or use yourself that:

#1 would be cool and/or useful for me to implement for future students in this class?

- OR -

#2 might be helpful for learning or studying historical information covered in this class?

#	Response
1	learning geography about vietnam and the historical version of the war from vietnam\'s side.
2	no
1	no.
1	there are several sites for generating quizzes, i use some of them to generate quizzes from study guides, after i've studied i take the quiz and if i can't get at least a 90, i know i need to study more, and where i need to focus. it would be

	extremely helpful if you as the teacher created such a quick quiz so students had an idea of how prepared they were for your tests, plus what they needed to focus on.
1	i like google docs. i especially like that i can "share" my documents with other people who have a docs account. that\'s how my 5th-grade daughter turns her homework in.
1	na
1	no
1	youtube.com would make viewing videos much easier. a java chat program so that people could chat during certain times of the week.
1	not that i can think of at this time :)
1	add an alternative format for the class movie, avi format has more options for streaming then quicktime mov format.
1	i don't believe so.

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