**Course Feedback (Fall 2010)**

**[Surveys: 71]**

**Did this course help develop or strengthen the following skills?**

 **Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 55 7 9 77.46**

**Writing 52 4 14 73.23**

**Note-taking 67 2 2 94.36**

**Time management 52 9 10 73.23**

**Interpretation 58 4 9 81.69**

**Historical thinking 63 2 5 88.73**

**Critical analysis 54 3 14 76.06**

**Total Yes = 80.68%**

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

**What would you KEEP about this course & why?**

The overlapping of material is extremely helpful in retaining what I’ve learned. Unlike other classes, where the lecture is simply power-point of the reading assigned, I like that in this class the lecture is an extension of several readings assigned. I feel like I will actually remember some of what was learned, as opposed to immediately “cleaning our my memory”, and making room for the next class.

I would keep the VODs there a nice change to reading, the visuals help understanding.

Everything you are doing is working for me. The book readings and VODs are awesome, it gives me the basic ideas, and when you lecture you show me the bigger picture.

I would keep the reading quizzes.

I would keep the different teaching methods you use (VOD, textbook, website). I like that they all provide the same overlapping context but with different details. It helps put the connections together.

Keep the bonus points and quizzes because they are easy if you do your work and majority of points.

The level of difficulty is what defines this class. Taking it away or making it easier would destroy its ability to open people’s eyes. This class was definitely a wake-up call for me.

I like how we have a quiz every day and that it’s worth a lot of points. Gotta love those bonus points too.

Everything, because it helped push me to keep learning about stuff, because if you did not, you would fall behind.

Extra credit, encouraged me to go above and beyond on the readings and the notes.

All the different mediums/sources used to understand and give reference to history.

The way the exams were set up because it forces you to actually prove that you know the material.

My notes. They have just as much information as the book. I will keep my book for awhile & read about what happened to the Roman Empire.

I would keep the bonus points because they are a good way to boost your grade if you did bad on the exams.

The VODs they really provided good information and detail on stuff we didn’t spend much class time on.

The bonus points.

Keep the reading quizzes and practice writings. They helped learn how and what I still need to know before the exam. It developed my skills, and furthered my understanding.

The bonus points were really helpful, but I also liked the VODs and online reading.

The reading assignments were good. I liked that the online and the book readings went over the same material but in different details because it helped me remember the information better.

I would keep this class the way it is.

**What is the MOST IMPORTANT thing you learned in this course?**

The cyclical nature of history, and its relevance to modern events. Also, how to analyze and question sources of information. Everything is written by someone who will put their own spin on the subject matter. It is important to separate the facts from the extra “editorial” additions.

I learned that my time management needs to be worked on and developed better.

Writing, this has really helped me. I have never done essay exams or in-class writing about history. Your feedback and strictness has really advanced my writing.

How to think in the sense of history. That is keeping history in mind when I think about anything.

I believe there are important events in history but that all parts of history are important because even the little facts make a difference in the large ones.

Do your work and attend class.

Study, study, study.

I didn’t notice how much of an impact Greece and Rome made on us.

How civilizations borrowed from each other to turn into the world that we have today.

How to take notes, keep up with large workload.

I learned how to read historical writings and modern texts with better analysis.

I learned how to manage my time better and how to apply my learning.

Learning about the role Greeks & Romans played in ancient times. I didn’t realize the Greeks influenced the Far East through Alexander the Great.

I learned that it is important to do the homework when it is assigned. It is hard to take a quiz when you haven’t done the homework.

The overall big picture of the importance of the Greeks and Romans.

Ancient civilizations are a lot smarter than most people give them credit for. They accomplished many things, mostly art (referring to statues), that we couldn’t accomplish today.

How to study for an essay exam.

I am much better about actually doing the work when it’s assigned.

The most important thing I got out of this class aside from all the history was better note taking. My first quizzes were horrible but once I got the note taking down, I improved a lot.

Hard to choose the one most important thing, maybe a greater understanding of why Western culture is different than eastern cultures, and how it came to be that way.

**What would you CHANGE about this course & why?**

Nothing. Rather easy class if you take good notes/time consuming.

Nothing, because it challenged me and I’m glad it did.

This course is well designed. Though admittedly I complained about homework more than once, the expectations were very clear from the outset—I wouldn’t change anything.

I thought it was a really solid course all around so I wouldn’t change anything.

I would not have as many VODs.

Maybe more VOD because they were easy to understand.

Some of the videos were really good but some of them were really long and difficult to get notes out of for an hour. There really isn’t much that should be changed, it’s a good course.

I would change the amount of writing, only because it’s contributed to the pain of my carpal tunnel ☺

The all writing essay just because I’m not very good at them, but they are good to show you have an understanding of the material.

Possibly more hard evidence, bring in replicas or real pieces from ancient Rome/Greece/Egypt for a more hands-on approach. [??? Really??]

I would have more writing assignments so I could do a better job on the essay exam.

I would change the readings. The textbook explains the basics and then the readings are very detail oriented. It is re-saying the same thing.

I would reduce the amount of reading because on some nights we would have well over 15 pages of reading, which doesn’t seem like a lot, until you realize you have to take notes which can take several hours to do well. [get assistance with note taking]

The time limit/format of the tests. I know it’s part of the exercise, but it still seems overly [??]

I would prefer writing a larger essay or paper outside of class where I can organize my thoughts better & go into more depth. I seemed to have information overload when trying to organize my thoughts.

I would change the layout of the exams possibly because of the time that is allotted.

I feel like I took little from the video lectures. While the information contained in them is valuable, I would rather hear that kind of lecture from a real person. I feel like the video lecturers spoke very fast, making it difficult to take notes.

I would work more on writings but not the random ones, one that are relavent to topic, because they help with tests but the random articles don’t help with learning the topic. [???]

Less talking about how people don’t do well and how your class isn’t hard. We all know you’re a great teacher ☺ instead of wasting your time on that let’s get back to history.

I would have liked to hear more about the subject during class rather than you proving to us that it is possible to pass your class and receive “As” on your quizzes. I understand your reasoning for it, but your lectures are good and I would rather hear you talk about the subject rather than the actual class itself.

**Additional Comments:**

You are one of the most thorough teachers I have ever had, and I appreciate have the chance to learn from you this semester. Looking forward to next semester!

Like your class and very interesting and will be back next semester, hoping to do better.

Thanks for bonus points ☺ I love the extra info about thing’s hidden meanings.

Merry Christmas!

**Europe: Age of Revolutions**

**What would you KEEP about this course & why?**

I’d basically keep everything. It’s set up in a way that’s unique and helpful to developing an understanding of history.

The style of teaching, as it made the class interesting.

The quizzes ensure that we actually learn the material, or at least temporarily.

The text reading assignments & weekly quizzes. Also the option of open note quiz & tests, that makes me take good notes on everything we do and then I comprehend a lot more. I like the style of exams too with IDs & quotes.

The quizzes every day. They make your stay on track.

They every day reading quizzes.

The VOD and in-class videos. Also the quizzing.

I would keep the amount of reading constant. It sucks doing it, but it actually makes you learn the material.

The note taking skills that I developed.

The in-class quizzes have been helpful because they keep you on track.

Keep the quizzes, makes students actually read the material, and is beneficial for tests.

The daily quizzes—they discipline the students to actually read what’s assigned. The VODs gives us a break from class and hearing and seeing the information sticks in my head better than reading.

The daily quizzes. They were definitely a reason to keep doing the reading.

**What is the MOST IMPORTANT thing you learned in this course?**

Responsibility of work.

The most important thing was that memorizing names, dates, and places is not what history’s about. It’s about actually understanding what happened and why, and how it applies to our life.

That history does matter, and affects us today.

Learned how to take notes effectively, and improved on reading for understanding.

Reading & taking notes really does help info stick. Oh, AND attendance, especially for this class, MATTERS!

The scientific revolution was the most interesting, although I’m unsure about what was the most important.

That to understand where we are now, you need a historical pretext [sic]. That to know where your [sic] going you need to know where you came from.

Attendance is very important.

How to take better notes.

I learned a lot of things, but mostly just how all history is connected.

That the things that happen in history tend to happen again at some point, so knowing history is an important thing.

the most interesting thing I learned about in this class was the evolution of astronomy.

I learned a lot of things about European history that I did not already know.

**What would you CHANGE about this course & why?**

Nothing, it is a college level class which has been the most like classes from the private college I went to last year and people need to take classes like what they will have to take when they move on.

Wouldn’t change anything.

Sometimes there is a lot of homework that is overwhelming.

Less reading assignments, from online sources that are 10 plus pages.

The doubling up of information on different subjects—handouts that don’t exactly coincide with the readings. [??]. I would get confused easier about where I read what. [open notes, open handouts?] Also, I think the writing response assignments should only be 1 page. I found I repeated myself a lot on some of the easier papers when it was 1.5 pages assigned.

Have more practice for the essay.

The only thing that I didn’t really find that helpful was the IDs that we would do in class. [so no practice was needed for the exams??]

Maybe break up the last VOD because I had a lot of trouble staying focused on the 2nd half of it. [it was 1 hour long, with 4 days to watch it]

I like that fact that the tests are set up in a way that’s not just a guessing game (by excluding multiple choice questions), but I think one thing to change might be the preparation aspect of the essay. At the very least, I think it would be useful to see an “A+” example of the same essay response after ours were graded. [sample essays of varying quality were handed out shortly after the first exam]

Perhaps lighter grading-hand on the exams. [criteria for written exams was discussed and provided in advance, writing only gets better with practice, not with laxness of standards]

Less weight on the essay portion on the exams, because I feel it overshadows the rest. [bonus points??]

The amount assigned sometimes. If every single class assigned as much homework as this class every night, college would be nearly impossible to do and work part or full time too. But at the same time if you didn’t assign all that you did, the exams would be harder. [??]

I would change the amount of papers that we write because its hard to take what someone else said and put it into your own words. [??]

**Additional Comments:**

Yost is a hard ass and demand a lot. But if you want to learn history in a relevant manner, there’s no other professor that should be considered. He really pushes students to prepare them for college level work.

Happy holidays!

**History of Science**

**What would you KEEP about this course & why?**

The challenge. Because it is severely lacking at Kirkwood.

All of the habits that I had to develop into order to succeed in this course. These habits will be helpful for my future classes.

I’m keeping all materials—very interesting stuff. I love the test formats. Essays are a great way to communicate what I’ve learned. I enjoy the VODs. Really helps bring history to life—I’m more of a visual learner—I have to see the working diagrams or experiments to really understand it.

The way the course is set up. It teaches much more than history but skills that translate to all other classes. Also, the “speech” in the first few days of class was important. Take it seriously or get out. And if you do the work, you’ll be rewarded in your grade.

The information presented & the repetition of pounding in ideas. It helps keep the information intact in the memory longer & seeing the big picture puts everything into perspective. The way information is presented is interesting & the text books & handouts go hand-in-hand beautifully.

Very intelligent teacher knows subject well.

I like the teaching method.

Note taking and making sure that I review material before any quiz or test.

I enjoyed the course very much, and learned a whole bunch of useful info & skills.

Reading quizzes take knowledge & an understanding of the material. Bonus points aren’t handed out but you can earn them for knowing the material covered.

The bonus points they help out a lot. Plus all the study guides.

E = mc2 good insight on modern physics.

The books used. They were very interesting. The continuous tests taken in class makes student to actually read the books. The format of the exam actually encourages student to think critically of what they have learnt and apply their knowledge in answering the question.

The bonus points on tests.

I really enjoyed the section on Evolution. It was very interesting learning about things changing over time and the debates that were brought about @ that time.

Everything, it was a good course.

I would keep everything from Unit 3.

Daily reading quizzes—It helps to retain knowledge opposed to simply instructing every day.

**What is the MOST IMPORTANT thing you learned in this course?**

Study habits, note taking, reading skills, being self-accountable, critical thinking, in general ALL skills necessary to succeed down the road in all advanced college classes and also certain parts of life. The skills required to do well in this class were by far the most beneficial.

To be responsible with the homework and to take time to study and go into depth with the material.

This course prepared me for what kind of student I need to be in order to be successful especially when I transfer to U of Iowa.

I learned that taking good notes is really important. But you can’t rely on them 100%, you have to have a general understanding as well.

How to be more direct to the point in timed exams & learning how to pace myself & give enough hours a night to do the homework. I have a better understanding of how historical ideas have developed, and have a perfect understanding of natural selection. Passing with a better grade than most people sadly feels satisfying.

Most important? I’m not sure. Really learned a lot. Enjoyed learning about Galileo, learning more than what I knew about Darwin and the Voyage of the Beagle was probably my favorite part, and learning about E = mc2 was truly interesting as well. It makes me wonder if we had education here like they did back then, if we would all be doing that much better. Why isn’t it so?

Valuble [sic] reassessment of myself.

How to manage my time and get things done.

Reading and good note-taking is a great way to help advance studies.

Not to use presentism and how much people built on previous works to come up with new theories and inventions.

I’ve learned a great deal about the history of science. I have learned beneficial study skills.

The subject matter is great but getting into a rhythm of readings, note taking, and quizzes was new for me.

Learned to [sic] many new things, but seems not to matter.

How theories and ideas came to be & just how different modern day science & science in the past really was.

The importance or presentism versus contextualism.

The historical figures attached to the courses I learn in science. It makes science classes more interesting now since I know the origin/history behind them.

How E=mc2 works.

**What would you CHANGE about this course & why?**

Nothing, the class is challenging and I like that.

Maybe a quick discussion on how to do well on the exam. Me and my study group mates found out after the first final how differently they work after getting it back and seeing it ripped up. We did better on the second, but a better understanding going in to the first one could have helped.

More discussion in class. Personally I have a hard time learning from just reading a book.

I would split up Unit 1 into 2 units. I thought studying for the first unit was very difficult because it covered so many years.

I don’t agree with the exam format and how they are graded. [then you’ll need to make adjustments, adapt, and learn how to study differently, get help, all the things said repeatedly in class] It seems that exam grades have a strong emphasis on compositional skills. I think the grades should be based on the students [sic] knowledge of the history of science [and that’s why they are essay exams] and the material presented and assigned during class, rather than skills at writing timed essays. [???]

Focus more on modern phics [sic]. Simply because I enjoy it.

The amount of work due so quick and all the time. We do have other things to do, besides this ONE class! Mabe cue each book down a bit. [welcome to a college-level class!]

I wish I would have known how much time this course was going to require. If I would have known that I wouldn’t have taken such a demanding schedule. The course was fine it was just hard to balance it into my schedule.

Would have liked some info as to why “moving earth” became popularly accepted. Otherwise, course is interesting and helpful as anticipated.

“Darwin’s Dangerous Idea” wasn’t really needed except for the complexities of the eye. There isn’t much else you can do giving/taking away more homework with so much material to cover. Quantum mechanics would have been neat and the broth experiment involving Lamarckism being disproved would have been cool to cover. “DDI” took up room that could be used for reading.

More VOD because I think students will follow up the work more if they watched it which makes its informations much more interesting, clearer and easier to remember.

Lighten up on the reading just a bit.

The all essay tests, although I know it won’t be changed. What if you just can’t write. I guess you’re screwed huh? [as explained in class, getting better at things requires practice, practice, practice. Avoiding them requires no effort, plus never getting better]

Maybe the sheer amount of information. Seems a little overwhelming for the semester—yet all good information. Just hard to really grasp so much thoroughly in this time frame. It’s great to be able to use notes though, that’s really the huge help.

The check or check minus for writing assignments could be a 1-10 grade instead of either 100% or a 50% grade on a paper.

Maybe have some kind of powerpoint notes we could print off for review [no, not when you can use open-notes on all quizzes & exams]

**Additional Comments:**

You’re a great teacher, you really know your stuff, you just have a lot of material to learn in your course which makes it seem hard.

Anyone who has problems with you or your classes is just an lazy \_sshole. I don’t want to be a kiss ass, but we need more professors like you. Then there wouldn’t be so many slackers & people would start learning. It’s unbelievable how much work you put into notes, papers, searching through material, and finding the best way to present it. However you do it is genius, as I’ve learned more in this class than almost all my other classes I’ve taken put together.

Sometimes I think Prof. Yost drills students too hard on how people who don’t pass the class are the ones who don’t work hard enough. Say it once, point taken. Repeating it over and over again using new phrases gets old. People don’t enjoy it and it’s annoying. Obviously, if one doesn’t to the work, one won’t pass. That’s clear from very early on. [but who will those students who don’t put in the effort or get help blame for not succeeding?]

DON’T CHANGE!

**Holocaust & Genocide**

**What would you KEEP about this course & why?**

Everything

The fact that if you do your work you will succeed.

I like that it I was pushed to work. I knew I couldn’t get by without reading all the material. I loved the War and Genocide book. It was very informative and taught me a lot about the Holocaust.

The book definitely gives great insight as to Hitler’s state of mind leading into the Holocaust & WWII.

Open notes because there is a lot of stuff talked about in a short time. Keep your lectures—they are almost easy to engage in. Keep writing assignments just the way they are. Quizzes are good opportunities too.

Keep the book, War and Genocide. Keep the VOD selections and most definitely keep those bonus points.

The teacher and the teachings, because more students should know what is going on in the world, or how history has or hasn’t recognized things for what they are or aren’t.

I think this class was very well planned & prepared by the teacher. I liked how we didn’t just learn about the Holocaust, but also about other genocides that I have never even heard of. I would keep everything the way it is. Extra credit was a good bonus!

Bonus points and optional final paper, because they allow students to raise their grades outside of the tests.

The quizzes having extra credit, it helped to keep my grade high even after tests. I enjoyed reading the book over the Holocaust, *War & Genocide*

I would keep all the reading. It helps me to read & have taken notes.

I think the book for this class is really good. The VODs are good as well. I really liked all the quizzes.

The readings were very interesting maybe more videos during class I like having the opportunity to discuss right after.

The bonus system! It not only motivates classroom attendance, but also to do the class readings. As long as you do the work, they’re easy points.

I would keep all the information I learned and all the tools we used to help learn and remember the information.

Bonus points on the quizzes were helpful.

The quizzes. You learn a lot about what happened & it’s easy to fall behind without them.

I would keep all the information about the holocaust because once you understand the holocaust it is easy to understand every other genocide that has occurred in today’s world. [??]

Benefits of extra points (plenty of opporotunities [sic])

The extra credit points on the quizzes.

**What is the MOST IMPORTANT thing you learned in this course?**

The genocides. I never knew about them. It makes me watch the news and want to be informed. I’ve never wanted to watch the new until now.

That there have been many other genocides. Not just the Holocaust. And I found out a lot more about Hitler and that a lot more people died other then Jews.

The want to learn more about the history of other countries & current events.

That not only Jews were killed in the Holocaust. We studied this quite a bit in school, but I didn’t know so many other people had been killed too. There are other genocides! I had never even heard of the other genocides we’ve covered, aside from the Holocaust.

Touching on some other genocides was important because I had no idea about the Armenian/Cambodian genocides or about Darfur. Learning the details of the Holocaust was my absolute favorite part. In high school we only touched on the fact that Jews were killed in brutal ways and there were concentration camps. Reading about all the other victims and events leading up to the Holocaust was extremely mind blowing. The Holocaust was always my favorite part of history class because I found it the most interesting. This class went above and beyond my expectations. It is a tough part of history to learn about, but I really enjoyed all the class and wouldn’t change how you teach it.

Deeper insight to these events. Clear idea of genocide/democide & behind the minds of these events.

Genocide is still going on today

To take good notes while reading.

Do your work. Manage your time and you will succeed in this class.

To keep up with the homework in all my classes.

The most important thing I learned was that anybody is capable of genocide today. During war people are influenced greatly and capable of anything.

That genocide can be predicted because it is usually a logical reason for it and that makes it preventable.

What led to the Holocaust.

How the Holocaust started & what led up to the mass killings. Also, that Jews were not the only targeted group in the Holocaust.

The Holocaust wasn’t the only, or even the worst, genocide that has happened.

There was not just one thing I learned that was/is important. I didn’t know ANYTHING about the Holocaust. I thought I did… but I truly didn’t.

Everything –a lot of things I didn’t know about.

I learning many things about the Holocaust that I didn’t know before I took this class.

It’s important to know about what you are studying so you cannot get the facts wrong or twisted, and to keep an open mind in learning the who, what, when, where and most importantly why.

I had not realized that the United States does not always help those less fortunate like in Rwanda or Darfur. Alos I had not realized that ordinary that ordinary people had the capacity to kill, torture, beat, rape thousands & thousands of people.

**What would you CHANGE about this course & why?**

N/A

Nothing.

Nothing that I can think of.

Nothing, by the way you teach with the assignments and quizzes, it makes you learn and try.

Honestly, nothing. Yes, this class is intense but it’s supposed to be. I learned a lot and the readings were always interesting.

Read through to the end of chapters, instead of half chapters [??]

2 exams over Hitler and the Nazi’s instead of one. [???]

Give more information over Darfur because it is happening present day. Although I realize the Holocaust needs more time to understand it better.

Shorter videos. At least a couple. Watching long ones all the time got me very uninterested. [no video was longer than 50 minutes]

I didn’t like the quotations. It was very hard to remember where or who said it in the readings. [open notes? Open handouts?]

Not as much group work and a couple multiple choice on the test. Involve the class more in discussions.

Maybe don’t have as many VODs. I know it is a class requirement to have internet access, but it’s sometimes hard to find good internet access. [see syllabus with locations for Kirkwood’s open computer labs]

Fewer or different videos being assigned online. A lot of what was in the videos just repeated what we had already read.

There was a lot of reading to do. Sometimes I felt like I was reading the same thing over and over. (like when we read the packets).

I would change the way we prepare for the exams, there was no review.

Format of exams—they were not beneficial to my learning.

The exams. Its hard to judge what information you are looking for when writing everything.

I would like to have a little more classtime for discussion between classmates about the readings. This helps students for better opinions and lets them understand the main points better.

More time on certain subjects.

Better explain the secrets to doing well. Reiterate maybe in a couple different ways other than just saying “people doing the work are doing well” [???] IDK it is a mystery how to get more people to get passing grades. [???]

**Additional Comments:**

The class was hard but I need the challenge! Best “real college” teacher yet!

Sometimes I felt that maybe the writings were picked apart too much. I’ve gotten straight As in every literature, english [sic], and comp. classes [sic] I’ve ever had, but I seemed to not get as good of grades as I would have liked on all of the writings and papers in this class.

I enjoyed this class very much! It was very interesting and I though you taught it very well. You seem very enthusiastic about the subject. I did feel intimidated at times especially when I wanted to ask a question, but overall I’m glad I signed up for the course.

This class taught me a lot and I think you are one of the better teachers at Kirkwood. But I do feel like you spent a lot of time talking about grades, which was well explained on the first day of class. Most people worry about themselves and not others. Your first speech about grades was most effective for me. Thanks for a good semester.

Enjoyed the class very much. This is the second class that I have taken of Professor Yost and it just keeps getting better and better. Thank you for all the things that you have taught me, and the different things you have shown me.

I’m so happy I stuck it out through this class! Even though, I absolutely HATE reading.

Sorry it is such an exhausting class for you, but I really respect you for being a distributor of the information. You are a good teacher. It is difficult information to deal with and explain. Glad to have you as a teacher. I don’t have any good ideas for your teaching strategy but I wish you luck.

**GRAND TOTALS (2004- 2010)**

**[Surveys: 757]**

**Did this course help develop or strengthen the following skills?**

 **Yes No Not sure % (Yes)**

**Reading** 579 102 76 76.49%

**Writing** 558 104 95 73.71%

**Note-taking** 689 42 26 91.02%

**Interpretation** 648 42 67 85.60%

**Historical thinking** 710 18 29 93.79%

**Critical analysis** 625 34 98 82.56%

**Time management** 439 85 82 [606] 72.44%

**Totals: 4248 427 473 82.52%**