**Course Feedback (Fall 2011)**

**[Surveys: 58]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 44 9 5 75.86**

**Writing 40 10 8 68.96**

**Note-taking 53 1 4 91.38**

**Time management 40 12 6 68.96**

**Interpretation 47 5 6 81.03**

**Historical thinking 50 4 4 86.21**

**Critical analysis 48 2 8 82.75**

**Total Yes = 79.31%**

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

The essay exams, they challenge students to understand the meanings and significance of historical events.

Everything, because it does work.

The practice essays because they really helped prepare you for the actual exam essay.

I would keep the quizzes and writings, because those have helped increase my grade, and they help me prepare for the final.

I absolutely love the amount of reading and writing involved in this class.

The amount of reading.

Readings were well chosen.

Daily quizzes. They force one to do the daily work, so everyone who does the daily work has notes for the exams.

The amount of work & you giving us the responsibility for our own education. Doesn’t give us any reason to blame someone else, so we are in the driver’s seat.

I like how much of the information we went over in class, in the reading, and in the clips all related and overlapped each other.

I would keep the website readings & movies/videos. Also, I’d keep all quizzes we do every day. It makes sure you read all material and don’t fall behind thinking you can catch up on the material later.

The readings and the quizzes. They were very informational & because we had to take notes & find the info, I learned a lot.

I enjoyed watching the videos and got most of my information from them.

I really liked the videos you had us watch and the readings you chose outside of the book.

The homework sometimes overlapped in the textbook, website readings, and videos. This helps to retain information.

The repetition in material and reading was helpful in understanding the time period. Was also good for recall—made it much easier. Open notes saved my grade in many ways, you take good notes & you should be golden.

The bonus points are very helpful, in case you do poorly on a test or miss class, they can keep your grade where you want it to be. Another helpful thing was the overlapping reading and video assignments. They really helped in getting you to understand new topics/ideas.

The bonus points because it allows someone to pad their grade if they do somewhat bad on an exam.

Multiple sources covering the same material but with different details really helps in forming a full picture. The quizzes & bonus points are a good aspect to the process of rewarding work.

The reading of the book, then the source book to help get a better understanding of some things like Hammurabi’s Law Code.

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

History is not just memorizing names, dates, & places. It must have both description and explanation. It’s not opinion, there is hard evidence that is tied together to form a clear, persuasive argument. The bigger picture of everything we did was important because what happened in the past explains our present.

Looking at the big picture has helped me to look at information and look further to see why it’s important, when it took place, and how it effects us today.

The bigger picture.

That im not good at writing essays. [then you should seek out classes that make you improve on this important skill]

How to take notes effectively and use them towards the quiz and exam.

Note taking skills. I had to relearn how to take notes entirely which I believe will benefit me in future classes.

I’ve learned how to manage my time better than I have before.

Do your work in detail, & just don’t do it to have it done.

How to manage my time. Also, I learned how to determine irrelevant information from relevant information within the text.

That I really need to watch my health, not let family visit so often, and not take classes like this so early because of my 1.5 hour bus commute, and my note-taking skills did improve.

How to manage my time with everything going on.

To take good notes so you can follow back on the information for tests & quizzes.

Time management. There is nothing better than knowing you did the work and are prepared for this class.

My teacher world views, which bleeds into how he treats his students. [which applies to ALL instructors, no matter the subject]

How much history plays in our daily lives today and how it keeps inspiring many people.

That I really need to work on my writing skills, and just how crazy those Roman emperors were.

The ancient people were successful in making things, such as the Parthenon & Colloseum, that people today could not copy.

History ties in to a great deal of our everyday lives. Learned a lot about the ancient time period.

A larger understanding of the ancient Mediterranean world.

I will never escape Greek and Roman influence…

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

Nothing, I think the class is well designed for the needs of college students.

I wouldn’t change anything about this course, because I’ve enjoyed everything about the class.

I think the class is structured well. No change.

Nothing, it was very insightful. I learned a lot not only from the material, but also with doing your work right away and not leaving it to the last minute.

Nothing. It is a fair and balanced class that has a lot to offer.

Nothing, it’s hard, but it teaches more than history, you learn essential life-skills as well.

Nothing, or some candy. [you get the sweet taste of history instead]

Nothing. This course forces you to change your habits and become a responsible student.

While it could be dangerous due to interpretation [??], I love watching documentaries and would have been open to more of them. They really help visual learners. [visual learning also includes text/reading, not just watching videos. There were plenty of videos as the course is designed, you need to read too.]

I think an additional multiple choice exam should follow an essay exam. Perhaps the following class period.

I would like to discuss our work in class. I know there is only an 1 hr. to lecture, but it may benefit people to talk it out with their ideas to others. [how many times did I ask “Are there any questions?” or say “If you need help come see me outside of class”]

I would change how many tests each term. I would do 4 (smaller amount of pages to read and memorize big pictures of numerous things). [Open notes? No memorizing required in this class]

I know it may not be possible, but if we could have more time for the test. [the time limit is part of the exam, everyone has the same amount of time]. I had a hard time completing everything (especially the essay) on the test in time. [then better organization, preparation, and practice are necessary, as discussed many times in class and supplemental materials on the course website].

The writings were to [sic] rushed, teacher acted as a [sic] enemy to the students rather than a [sic] educator. [all students have the same amount of time; majority of students’ comments don’t agree that I’m an “enemy,” perhaps a visit to a counselor may have helped?]

Cutting back on how often you go on about student being lazy [I never used this word in class] I am not a lazy student [then I’m not speaking to you, so don’t take it personally] and feel that I should not have to have my time wasted because of them [yes, but that’s not the reality of an instructor’s responsibility at a community college]. Maybe a little more straightforward lecture during class, I do love it so. [when I do lecture, I notice very few students actually taking any notes].

I think more in-class writing would be helpful.

The homework load!

The amount of reading each class period could be overwhelming at times for students who work & have full-time semester schedule would’ve been nice to be quizzed on videos the class right after they were assigned [??] to reward those who actually watched them. [open notes, open study guide, students were always rewarded for watching the videos]

That when we had a clip to watch we wouldn’t have class the next day [yes, because it meets MWF]. Although this was helpful sometimes but I would have liked to have class the next time after watching a clip. [open notes, open study guides, review your notes]. But I do understand if there were meeting that you needed to do on those days.

**Additional Comments:**

Thank you, Yost. Your process is well formed and gives incentive to work hard. This semester I have both a class that gives no incentive to ever show up, and I have this class, and I’m glad I did.

**Europe: Age of Revolutions**

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

Honestly, everything. I was a significant workload throughout the semester, but it was worth it. I’ve never learned as much from a course, especially the reading and writing skills.

Everything, It flowed nicely through the whole semester.

Everything. It taught me to try harder. I am retaking the class because I know I can do better than what I have.

The teaching. It was easy to follow. I rarely got lost in the middle of a lesson.

Keeping the different styles of teaching, from the reading outside of class, to the handouts, as well as the videos and lectures. Reasoning why, due to the different ways people learn and understand the information.

I would keep the quizzes and the writings because having these help with grades and understanding the material.

I would keep all the assignments that we were given, because they really helped to gain a better understanding of what was going on during the different revolutions, and historical events that happened throughout Europe.

I feel that the specific periods highlighted during the time periods this class covered were very interesting. It focused in on specific events with great detail which included back history & how they affect us today.

I would keep the in-class writings and out of class readings, for sure. They helped cement the ideas and themes in my head.

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

My note-taking has been the most important thing I’ve learned, as it’s grown and gotten stronger.

Reading and writing in this course has certainly prepared me for future classes.

The information about the Scientific Revolution, because I never studied it before this class.

That the French Revolution was a way bigger historical period then people assume. And that my outside class writings have improved since last semester.

The French Revolution.

TAKE NOTES!

Better time management skills and how to prioritize to get the work that needs done done.

I learned that it is important to look at many different levels when analyzing anything. Context, effects, etc.

That doing all the work assigned is the most important factor in being successful in this course.

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

Nothing. Because it was my choice to not pay attention or do proper notes which I should have. Yost does a good job at explaining topics and helping us connect aspects of what we go over.

I wouldn’t change anything, the course was challenging, but if you did the work that was assigned then the graded portion was relatively easy.

I would not change anything about this course, because it gives a fair opportunity for students to succeed.

Cannot think of anything to change.

I felt that we shot through the industrial revolution, but it may be because it was the end of the semester and the days went by faster.

Frequent tests every class. [??]

Maybe a few multiple choice questions on the tests. I think that the quizzes should not be timed per question. [??]

The first half of the semester seemed to be a broad overview & not as interesting or as in depth as the last half [??]. The amount of reading not tested over could be reduced.

I would change the first part of the course—the scientific revolution. The fact that we weren’t reading and talking about the same thing seemed random and confusing. [this isn’t really true, we read a lot about the Sci. Rev. it just wasn’t in the textbook, because the textbook doesn’t have much on the topic]. Notes got overwhelming but I understand why we have to do them.

**History of Science**

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

The course seemed fine to me.

I would keep just about everything about this course. This class was a challenge and I enjoyed it. A lot of classes at Kirkwood, all you have to do is show up and you will pass. This class you must show up but you also have to do the work, in detail.

The textbooks used & the documentaries we watched I found very helpful especially in covering materials & information reinforcing.

Everything, the course is very well structured and I feel there’s no way to improve upon it at this time.

I would keep the course largely the same because it appears to me to be well-thought out and well prepared.

This is a strong course that really pushed me. This is one of the first college courses that has a good workload.

The bonus points really helped me out.

Books, videos (most); enjoyed & learned a lot.

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

I’ve definitely improved my note taking and study habits, although I didn’t finish as well as I’d hoped I feel I’m in a better spot than I was coming in.

What a real college course is like. I need to study hard & put more time into my work.

Even though this is my third semester in college, this feels like my first real college class. I learned how to better my note-taking and reading abilities. Much of the most recent readings and videos over Einstein was interesting as well.

Historical thinking and interpretation. While my writing may have improved I feel like the greatest things I’m taking away from this class are the ability to put my mind into that of people from these periods instead of simply forcing my ideas onto them. [excellent!]

“presentism”

A lot of the more recent information (Darwinism & Einstein). I had no idea about eugenics either, I found that very interesting in understanding more about the Holocaust & its beginnings…

That the view we hold in the present can color and distort how we view the past, so it is important to look at the stories we are told about the past with a discerning eye.

I have only taken a few classes that had this much work and I learned once I fell behind there was no coming back. I need to start semesters better. [lots of opportunities to catch up with many, many bonus points offered]

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

Some of the video’s [sic] felt like they contained most of the same information as the reading. [an odd complaint since most students like the overlap/review] I noticed this most with Darwin & Einstein material. You know how I feel about essays. ☺ [learning to write an essay is in important skill that you need to prepare and practice for the future]

The only thing I would change is possibly splitting the class into two semesters. It’s an interesting subject and I am greatly saddened by the lack of time to delve deeper into the history of scientifically important figures and events.

I would change the video part of this class. I wasn’t a fan of watching videos in my free time, even though I know it was homework. [??]

I know there is a lot of material to get through, but maybe if there were more visuals to help understand certain ideas. [for example? There were MANY, MANY visuals used throughout the entire course]

The mini-quizzes in class & quotation identifications. I think they just cause anxiety & don’t really help with knowing/understanding the individuals any better. [?? Need to be better prepared for exam, that’s what they do; you may want to see a counselor regarding anxiety issues]

Wish it wasn’t T-Th [??] Really punishes you if you get sick because of the T-Th format. [there were plenty of opportunities for bonus points throughout the semester]

**Additional Comments:**

I loved this class. Not only am I interested in the subject but I enjoyed the challenge. Dr. Yost demands that you be accountable & that is lost form of discipline in the educational system. He’s fair but not soft and that is perfect for me. No excuses, just results.

Great class overall. Even knowing how badly I did in the class due to my own laziness, I am glad I took it. It’s been the best experience out of all my classes my first semester and I wouldn’t change my decision to take it.

I was always pretty confused on essays information. [then you should have come and got help or asked questions, also I offered several times to print out “model essays” to compare with your own]. On my essays I tried to show the “bigger picture” & omit information you’d find unnecessary, but then you would write “be more specific”… Its frustrating. However, I really want to write a better college-level essay & have that as a skill so I am willing to take any advice I can receive from you [how many times did you come in to see me?]

The course was interesting at points. It seems that there are too many names of important people in the past, it is hard to keep track of them. It could have been nice to have a handout like at the beginning of the semester with the ancient Greeks and those after the middle ages. Maybe like have a tree or branch like design that shows how everyone is connected through work. [good idea that you could make yourself for study purposes, rather than have me do the work for you]

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

I think I will keep mostly everything because it’s really interesting & it’s opened my eyes to that this stuff happens all over & more than we think & not much is done to stop it, so I may go into more research about it & keep everything I learned here for future reference.

The actual reading-it’s a lot of information so there would naturally be a lot of reading.

I would keep everything because it was interesting, and informative. It really opened my eyes about what people are capable of and how naïve and cruel people can be.

I would keep the videos (great help understanding details). I would keep the study guides for the notes on reading the textbook.

I would keep from this course is how to manage my time and how to take good notes.

Everything, I like how you make us work and if we don’t put in the effort it shows on that grade that is given.

The note taking skills I developed. It has helped me greatly in every class.

I think I will keep the management part. I will keep some of my notes as example of how to take notes in other classes.

The amount of quizzes. It forces everybody to do the assignments assigned, which is great because it helps us as students get the main idea of each section.

The note-taking & reading skills that I have learned in this class have really helped me not only in this class, but everyone of my classes.

The note taking & in depth discussions in class. It helped refine my note-taking skills and gave me a deeper understanding of the material.

Everything we did in here was important and pertained to genocide. Keep everything.

I would keep my notes, essays, & exam notes for future references.

Material—it’s interesting.

I would definitely keep the way this course is organized. Keep giving the quizzes over every assignment given. Despite how much homework we had, I wouldn’t change the amount you give. I say this because I’ve never learned/remembered so much in one course (class) out of all the classes I have taken in the past. Even through all the complaining/hard work I did, every class should be like this. I learned a lot and am proud of the grade I received.

Everything I learned (Germans weren’t brainwashed, genocide more common that I previously thought).

I would keep the different videos and readings. They helped grasp the greater picture of each topic we covered.

The quizzes. I think they make you responsible for doing the homework & coming to class.

I would keep the structured lectures and solid schedule, it really helped my learning.

Explanations given for readings and videos. It helps in the thought processing.

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

There is not a specific event or piece of information that was more important than the others. Everything in this class was important and I’m glad to have been able to learn it all.

Not to procrastinate even though I still do sometimes. But this course has helped me w/time management.

The most important thing from this course was time management, time management, and time management how to use by time.

Who what when were sig diff. I keep asking myself that and changed the way I look at things. I now want to know why things happened the way it did and why.

About all the different genocides. I had never even heard of the Sudan and Darfur genocide. I learned so much.

Is that there’s a bigger picture to the whole story.

That the Darfur genocide along with the Rwanda genocide could have been prevented if only people would have done something.

How to connect historical events to help explain why things happen.

If you do the work and take good notes, you can succeed in this class & others as well.

I learned how to take notes properly.

In general, if you work hard for what you want, you’ll find a successful ending. A more specific answer, I learned how to understand/interpret something. In all my other history classes, I never really could talk about what I’ve “learned” outside of class, but this history class I truly understood what I was learning and could tell people because I finally LEARNED a part of history. When you wrote “the big picture” things on the board helped a lot!!

I feel that I understand the Holocaust, and everything that happened.

That there are many other factors that lead up to genocides/wars. And learning those things are necessary in understanding the event.

A lot of times the myths and stories we hear as young children are rearranged to fit the needs of the people telling them; whether to hide the truth, or sugar coat the rotten taste of it.

Won’t take another class on this subject.

When power is perverted, and peoples’ views go unchecked, leaders can sometimes be capable of atrocities the world has never seen.

Well, I took German for the last 4 years & my teacher taught about the history of Germany as well, some of the things you taught were review but I did learn more in-depth things such as the other genocides & #s of victims. Overall, I loved this class. Thanks for being the hardass you are! ☺

History and the many genocides that have occurred, their preconditions and the roles the U.S. have played.

People are messed up. That’s all I have to say.

I learned that we always say “Never again” but it keeps happening over & over again. I also learned about other genocides that I had no idea about.

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

I wouldn’t change anything I just wish we would have had more time to cover other genocides.

I wouldn’t change anything. Everything that we went over in class flowed with one another and it all connected in some way. Even though some things were hard to watch and read, I would keep it because that is what happened. People need to realize how bad these genocides were. They can’t learn if you sugarcoat the information for them.

I honestly don’t know anything I would change would only be because this class is very different from all other classes. It’s hard but it’s worth taking. I got a real taste of what college should be like & not just an “easy” A. It’s sad that I’ve been here for 3 years now & I’m just finding out what college is. This class makes my other classes look like high school classes.

I wouldn’t change anything.

Nothing, I was impressed with the class overall, although scary and intimidating. [BOO! ☺]

I wouldn’t change anything from this course.

Nothing. This is really the only class where I had to work for my grade.

Nothing about the course in general. I’m just not a fan of Angel & it’s system setup. [all we used Angel for was watching the videos, it’s much better than the older system too]

Nothing, it’s a well-rounded class. Best college class yet.

The videos. Maybe not as many. They were the same as the reading for me. [??]

The videos were difficult to load whitch [sic] irritated me they were good tools but for slow internet it was hard to get done. [they are required just like the readings, and it was made clear in the syllabus where the open computer labs were located on campus]

I thought that the videos were just repetition of the readings [they were not just repetition]. I didn’t really get more out of them. I though a few were helpful but not all of them. [be specific here]

More “classroom” interaction/discussion w/instructor. Not take points off for spelling if w/i reason [open notes, open handouts means spelling counts]

The Angel videos, most students who live on campus have limited internet speed through September, and the Allsop labs computers go through updates which make them impossible to watch for the first 2 months [the videos are here to stay as a required part of the course, just like the textbook]

Talk a little bit more about the Darfur and Rwandan genocides. Since they were in our life times it was interesting to learn about them.

Not have a quiz every class period.

Spend a little less time on the Holocaust so we can go more in-depth over the other genocides. Granted this class is called “Holocaust & Genocide,” but I don’t think we got too in depth in the other genocides.

Workload (1 hour class = 4 hours homework) [?? Did you ever come to see me about doing the homework more efficiently?]

Assign slightly less homework. It is difficult sometimes to retain all the information, however I do admit that I have learned a lot.

The test just the essay part. [?? Essay part will stay in the exam, it’s important for reasons discussed in class]

**Additional Comments:**

I want to say that this class has motivated me to do better in the rest of my classes. I’m motivated to learn and do the work it takes to get a good grade. For that I thank you.

This has been by far the most impact a class has had on me. I will remember always! Thank you.

This class was difficult, but I learned so much. Never in my life have I been so proud of a B+. He is prepared for every class, and anybody who doesn't like his class is purely lazy. He can be a little harsh, but I respect him for it. I got my money's-worth in this class. I think that classes like his are the reason you go to college.

I started college a Georgia Tech, and have had some incredible professors in my day, Mr. Yost is top 3 of all time!

This course was challenging. However, it was not anything that I could not handle. By putting in the work and showing up to class, my A in the class was an achievement & I’m proud of it. This is a university level class & shows people what 4-year college courses are like.

I would like you to know that I truly learned a lot from this class and one small irritation will not change my opinion of this class overall. If I had a chance to do it again, I would.

I liked this class & would definitely recommend it.

Really proud of the B I got in this class!

I wanted to say thank you for teaching the way you do. I took a lot from this class.

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| **Fall 2004 to Fall 2011** |  |  |  |  |
| **[Surveys: 896]** |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** | % (Yes) |
| **Reading** | **689** | **120** | **87** | **76.90** |
| **Writing** | **654** | **129** | **113** | **72.99** |
| **Note-taking** | **819** | **46** | **31** | **91.41** |
| **Interpretation** | **760** | **50** | **86** | **84.82** |
| **Historical thinking** | **834** | **23** | **39** | **93.08** |
| **Critical analysis** | **736** | **37** | **123** | **82.14** |
| **Time management** | **542** | **105** | **98** | **72.75** |
|  | **5034** | **510** | **577** | **82.24** |