**Course Feedback (Fall 2012)**

**[Surveys: 51]**

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

**Yes No Not sure**

**Reading 43 4 4**

**Writing 42 5 4**

**Note-taking 49 1 1**

**Time management 43 4 4**

**Interpretation 43 1 7**

**Historical thinking 47 1 3**

**Critical analysis 41 0 10**

**Total Yes = 86.27%**

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

All of it.

Everything from the rise of hunter-gatherers to the many rises and fall of Rome.

VOD movies were very helpful, made thing more visual

All the quizzes, they are used to help our grade if we do the work.

Very interesting material

I would keep the quizzes. They fact that maybe having a quiz every day pushes students to do their homework.

The short quizzes are a good thing no matter who complains. They offer up extra points and if you don’t get a good score it’s that person’s fault for not doing homework. Forces you to be accountable for yourself.

The amount of homework, it keeps the number of points high so if you do bad on exams, you can still do decent in the class.

The study guides for videos. They help spelling words.

I would keep the videos because I’m a visual/audio learner.

The information that you teach about, because all the info is very useful & comes together.

All the readings and videos. Very informational and entertaining.

The notes they’ve expanded my knowledge greatly.

I think I would keep the quiz/homework style. This is a fair way to learn. If you do the homework, you will pass the quiz.

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

To do the work and don’t slack on doing it.

I enjoyed everything we learned about in this class, but this class taught me most how to construct better time management because we do have to read everything in order to get a good grade.

Time management. This class taught me how to plan out and get my homework done and prepare for quizzes and tests.

Better time management.

Note taking and linking events to current situations.

History is not just history, but something that evolved as people and way of government and life today.

How difficult it was to understand history after we learned the meaning of it.

Greek & Roman history has a lot to do with modern society.

That history is connected to everything now.

I learned a lot!

The affect that history has on modern culture and wider life perspective.

The creation of Rome. Without these people, the world would be no where near as successful as it is today.

Must come to every class [this really isn’t true with almost 150 bonus opportunities, you can actually miss a few classes and still do just fine. However, if you miss 8-9 classes or more, then it’s obviously going to lower the grade regardless]

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

There isn’t really anything I would change. I think the class is structured well and makes it so you are in charge of your grade, meaning you can do well if you choose to.

Nothing really. This course was helpful to me.

Like the videos, more would be good.

I would change the purely lecture style [didn’t really lecture that much] and have more class interaction because it would increase participation.

The tests, although if you have sufficient amount of material, the topics for the large essay are very broad sometimes. Students aren’t able to write to their full potential [that’s exactly why you have to do your best within the time constraints, you won’t be able to include it all]

On exam days it felt rushed with how much we had to write down and get into the exam booklet [see above comments]

The exam essay, so much to write not enough time [practice, organization, preparation]

More time for homework, when I take 5 classes & all give homework it’s hard to do it all [welcome to college! ☺]

Some of the extra readings got lengthy

Have homework up on Angel a few days ahead to let some people get ahead in it.

Learn a little bit more about other areas [??]

The essay exams. Its difficult to be specific under the short time limit [see comments above and advice on Essay Writing given multiple times in class]

Maybe start class explaining good note-taking skills to encourage and determine people to succeed in not-taking.

**Additional Comments:**

Brad Pitt DOES NOT look good in a mini-skirt.

**Europe: Age of Revolutions**

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

The bonus points; they really help if you ever get into a pinch or have a hard time understanding a chapter or section.

I would keep the reading/video assignments because they both add to understanding of the subject.

Consistent homework makes it easier to time manage, in the long run helps you remember you have HW and be used to doing HW

Text reading & improved note-taking

I guess I would keep note-taking for your quizzes and tests.

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

I learned how I can take notes in a history class and remember most of what I write down. I’ve also learned that Europe’s history is far more connected and complex that I thought.

Connecting everything we have today to history, realizing the events that led up to the world being how it is today.

I’ve learned why it’s important to know the impact of historical events on life today and also I have learned to better use my time to the fullest and not procrastinate as much.

The best way to take notes from the textbook.

Time management, better note-taking

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

There’s actually nothing I would change; it is a perfect system of keeping students in the class and providing plenty of opportunities to get a good grade, and it becomes a rude awakening to the unprepared.

[check minus, check, “late”] curious what my grade would be if a few points were added here and there throughout semester that were lost from “check minus” or “late” [yes, that’s why it’s important to show up on time rather than late almost every class (except exams, curiously). The late policy was made very clear in the course syllabus and covered during the first week]

Maybe on your test have a few multiple choices not only just essays [tests also had IDs & Quotes, not just essays], or maybe a few T/F questions.

Sourcebook readings, dry readings

I would change the amount of outside work, three assignments in one day, because some people do not have the time to get it done without late nights or waking up early the day it’s due and losing sleep. [welcome to college! ☺]

Student’s understanding would expand if it were possible to show more videos in class, maybe with a comprehension quiz at the end [why? Explain why in-class videos would expand knowledge more than videos that can be viewed multiple times, paused, backed up, and at the convenience of the individual student outside class?]

**History of Science**

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

I would keep the daily quizzes. I believed they helped force me to do the readings and take good notes in order to do well on the quizzes. This made me prepare for each class and not procrastinate.

Everything is constructed in a very effective structure. It forces you to change bad habits and creates better students.

Everything.

Everything. Everything that this course involves has its place.

My time management skills because it helped me a lot in this class and with my other classes this semester. It has helped bring up my grades.

I would keep the books we read. The information was pretty clear.

All of the reading assignments & quizzes. Also the practice identifications. The fact that the final is optional should definitely be kept.

All the quizzes because they really make you read and keep up with the class.

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

How to become a better student. You have to approach concepts in a dynamic way and must see beyond normal boundaries in order to understand. You must be concise, pay attention to detail, and exact.

To take notes and study!

To not procrastinate and to prepare for every class by reading and taking notes to make sure I understand the concept. I came to class more and procrastinated less in this class than I have in any other.

How to take information in historical context and not judge from current-day views.

How to read & take notes. I also learned how to understand historical context.

Do the work. Listen to the instructor

I learned that taking notes really does help out and that more teachers should force you to do the same.

That you have to take responsibility for your own actions and get your homework done otherwise you will have to suffer the consequences.

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

N/A

Nothing

I wouldn’t change anything.

I wouldn’t change anything about the course.

Not sure I would change anything.

The amount of reading, although the extra packets online helped it was a lot more work along with the book assignments.

Getting people more involved because I feel like it would make people understand it better.

I would change taking off points for spelling. Mainly because I am a terrible speller and I may get the answer right, it just doesn’t happen to be spelled right. [open notes?? If you’re not good at something, then you should try to get better at it, right?]

**Additional Comments:**

Extremely effective course, taught me many things about how to become a better student. Very interesting material from start to finish, though the ending material was the best. This is one of the few courses I will take a lot away with me. Thank you for your dedication.

You are one of my favorite teachers, very helpful. You have made learning about history a lot easier and really enjoyed having you as a teacher, thanks so much.

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

Everything, I learned so much about the Holocaust and what led up to it. I learned about other genocides I had never heard of and that there is so much more to genocides than I thought.

Everything, very well put together course, very informative.

I would keep the reading and note taking because it really helps develop good skills and it’s a bit overwhelming, but it’s how you learn and it prepares you for harder classes.

I plan on keeping all my notes as well as the book. This course has opened my eyes to a lot and I have learned so much!

I would probably keep everything, the things we have learned in this course are all very important in my opinion. I do not want these things to be forgotten.

The presentation of information is very good and easy to access. This made learning the info and studying it very productive. I heard others complain of the amount of work, but I felt it was fair with all the extra credit, if you put in the time, you allowed us to not take the final this made all the work worth it.

I like how there are quizzes over the material every day; it makes you always get your homework done & learn the material.

The interpretations of the political cartoons we looked at. I haven’t ever done those before, so I was one that was pointing out the obvious things at first instead of putting it in historical context.

The readings and quizzes. They helped me actually read and learn about it as I was reading.

The videos and the opportunity for extra credit b/c it gives people a chance to get points for hard work.

All the good information, good videos.

I would keep all of the helpful study guides & inform students that what is on the study guides is EXACTLY what you want them to know. [do I really need to do this for college students?]

Open not quizzes & tests, bonus points.

All the information I’ve learned has been very interesting and I will keep it all.

Video watching, it helps really understand as much as possible what really happened

The videos. It’s important for us to see what happened since we weren’t there.

The videos & readings, it keeps us responsible, also really shows how bad these people were treated.

Keep all of the videos and readings—it changes up the learning type. I’m glad this course wasn’t all reading because I learn better from watching/listening. It gives all types of students the keys for success—unless they’re slackers.

I would keep how there are bonus points on the quizzes and how the quizzes cannot be made up.

All of the work and points. Yes, it is overwhelming sometimes, but you really learn a lot.

I would keep it all, this class has been the hardest I’ve taken, but it challenged me in a good way. I needed a class to challenge me.

I would keep the quizzes because they offer bonus points and are easy to complete.

The effects that genocides have on countries & people. I would keep everything except for the time wasted preaching to us about not doing the work, etc.

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

How to be a college student.

Aside from learning about history/holocaust & genocide this class has taught me most about time management. I learned it was 100% necessary to do the homework at an appropriate time. I slacked once and came to class without doing a few readings and was so upset with myself for not making time to do the work.

I learned you can never underestimate the power of denial.

Learning about genocide and how it still exists today. It really opened my eyes.

Time management. I am one to procrastinate but I found that if I procrastinate for too long, it take a long time to get caught back up. I don’t procrastinate as much anymore.

I learned about history in a more in depth form than anything else. I really enjoyed learning about what led up to everything.

I learned that the Holocaust and other genocides were acts that had gone way out of control. People who had power took advantage of others completely. They will never end.

Not to judge a book by its cover. There is a lot more context to a situation that you need to know before passing judgment.

That these things aren’t stopping & continue probably even until today.

The background of the Holocaust was the most.

You need to understand the historical events that lead up to a genocide to be able to understand the whole thing.

That even though we say it will never happen again, it doesn’t mean anything unless we try to stop and help.

How awful genocides are to people. How there is more genocides besides the Holocaust.

That the Holocaust is not the only genocide that has taken place.

The importance leading up to the holocaust.

It’s not about Jews, it’s about our future and how this easily happens.

No matter which genocide, there wasn’t much done from other nations to stop it. So each genocide will continue unless the other nations do something.

People are the cause, and the fix of genocide. The hate that people have for others will always lead to genocides continuing. And the trouble is that not enough people are willing to step in and try and help in these situations.

You have to take well-though out notes that are meaningful, not the useless stuff.

That human nature is absolutely corrupt.

That there is so much cruel stuff that has happened throughout history that almost no one even knows about. I am glad that I have been informed about this stuff because I would hate to not know and remain in the dark about things like this.

That there were Nazi death squads and a million Lithuanian Jews were shot. “race and space”

I learned the background of so many historical events. When learning or hearing about the Holocaust I never knew the true background and mindset of these people, monsters. [actually they were mostly ordinary people, not monsters, which makes genocide a human thing unfortunately]

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

There is honestly nothing I would change. It was taught extremely well and I got the most out of this class than any other history class I’ve ever taken. I was a labor-intensive course but many fair warnings were given at the beginning of classes. People who chose to stay in the class knew it was not a class you could pass easily.

N/A

Nothing. Everything flowed together and made sense. Doing the readings and watching the videos outside of class and then discussing it all in class was really helpful.

I don’t think I would change anything, I mean we had quite a bit of homework, but we learned so much valuable and heart-wrenching stuff that we couldn’t have learned all in class.

Can’t think of anything, it’s a well-organized class & I wish every class I took was like it.

There isn’t anything that comes to mind that needs to be changed.

I wish it was longer but obviously you can’t control that.

At the end I felt that we rushed through the other genocides and I would have liked to talk and learn about them more.

Some of the videos are very gruesome that would be the one thing that I would change. But for the full effect of the class and understanding, I realize this is not possible.

No more documentaries that are an hour long, no more quizzes everyday [most students liked the quizzes, see above about what they would keep. The quizzes will stay]

Some of the videos on line. They were hard for me to understand and take notes sometimes [?? Viewing guides, watch more than once, pause, rewind, ask questions, etc.]

More of a review before tests would help. I always feel that I would study but it would be the wrong topics.

Just more focusing on the course material [??], rather than preaching to us about doing the work, etc. We are college students, if we don’t us our time efficiently that is our own problem [actually, this isn’t true since instructors are pressured to keep students around, even if they are NOT “college” students yet] Don’t waste other’s class time on them. [didn’t really “waste” much class time on this in reality, see next comments please]

The amount of notes taken, I didn’t like how I basically wrote every tiny detail for the quiz [use study guides??] but didn’t need it for the exams. It felt like every small thing I learned was pointless [?? Learning is ‘pointless’ because it’s not on exams??] because it was too small to fit in the big picture. [a specific example might help to clarify here]

Teach how we should take notes from the books. We never know what to write [study guides?] so instead we are basically rewriting the whole book into our notes [study guides? ever ask for help or advice on notes during the entire semester?]

Longer time on quiz. [quiz results were just fine with the time allotted, time isn’t the problem it’s preparation and notes]

The amount of homework each class. It makes it hard to do any other classes homework or do well on each assignment.

I would change the amount of readings we had to do because I felt like some of them were just repeating facts. [?? Give an example here, not sure about “just repeating facts” claim]

i do think that the work load is a bit much 3-4 assignments [?? We never had 4 assignments at one time, and usually when we had 3 things to do you either had extra time to do them or they were relatively short] because i have 5 classes and worked 40+ hours a week. And when i was sick and missed a week of class my grade dropped from a B to a D and i tried and worked the best i could and could never revive [probably missed more than 1 week, and missed later in the semester too, but did you ever ask for any help?]

I would change the exams to either have more time or to have more directed questions for the essay [have almost 2 hours and already told what would be on the essays in advance of the exam, many students hand in their exams 20-30 minutes early so do they need more time as well? If so, what will they do with it?] I feel the more broad questions take more time for us to give you as much detail as you wish for [better preparation, organization, and practice are the keys here, NOT more time]

The exams. I didn’t having to write an essay in a certain amount of time [??]

Not so much homework!

I would have liked to spend more time on Stalin and on current/recent genocides [me too, but we only have one semester] More class discussions, would like to have discussed M-23.

I would give more time for quizzes, 4-5 minutes for a quiz is tough [not reflected in most of the class acing the quizzes]. I already struggle for comprehension issues and it is difficult to do a quiz under those circumstances.

**Additional Comments:**

The grades on got back on the quizzes reflected my lack of preparation. I truly believe that your class has made me a better student, and for that, I thank you, Dr. Yost.

Honestly, without this class, I would’ve seen Kirkwood as a complete joke. Thank you for challenging me & making me learn.

I learned a ton during this class. It was by far one of my favorite because of all the content.

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| **Fall 2004 to Fall 2012** | |  |  |  |
| **Surveys: 1001** |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **768** | **136** | **97** |  |
| **Writing** | **739** | **141** | **121** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **918** | **50** | **32** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **850** | **53** | **97** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **934** | **25** | **42** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **827** | **40** | **137** |  |
| **Time management** | **637** | **115** | **104** |  |
|  | **5673** | **560** | **630** | **82.66%** |