**Course Feedback (Fall 2013)**

**[Surveys: 44]**

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

**Yes No Not sure**

**Reading 38 6 0**

**Writing 32 8 4**

**Note-taking 40 3 1**

**Time management 34 8 2**

**Interpretation 37 4 3**

**Historical thinking 43 0 1**

**Critical analysis 36 4 4**

**Total Yes = 84.42%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

Holding students accountable, driving them to the best of their abilities. I would keep every aspect.

Everything. Everything we’ve learned about tied into one another, so that made it easier to understand and draw connections.

I would keep all the topics that you had in this course because before this class, I was only taught about the Holocaust and Rwanda. I didn’t even know many of the others even occurred.

Everything, learned a lot of good things and also helped me to better my study skills for future colleges.

Everything, I learned more in this class than I did in all of my high school history classes. It helped advance my skills and all of it was very interesting. I especially liked that the videos usually reinforced the readings and there were bonus point opportunities if you didn’t do well on written exams.

Everything. I absolutely loved this course and all of its content. The course is challenging, thought-provoking, and insightful.

Everything. This is a challenging course but it needs to be, precisely because of the argument in your students or customers essay.

I would keep the assignments, the textbook, and the documentaries the same because I really learned a lot from doing those homework assignments & the bonus points were extremely helpful.

Everything. Everything in this class has been relevant and is needed in my opinion.

Everything.

I do agree with the majority of the students that this is the most challenging/difficult class I’ve taken at my 2 years at Kirkwood. Although I still procrastinate more than I should, this class did help a lot.

The amount of work involved. Not only does it teach you to better manage the time you’re given to do the work, but it also gets you into the habit of doing the same thing for other classes.

I think everything that you are doing is great. Everything should be kept.

The material is always interesting. I never got bored when watching videos or reading homework.

I would keep everything about this course. It challenges the students to keep up with the work. In all my other classes, I had barely any homework. This class pushes people to keep caught up in order to get the grades that they want.

The quizzes, because they held me accountable for my work, every single week.

It was a nice change that with this class if you did the work you were going to do well because everything was open note with extra credit.

Having open notes for quizzes and tests because it helps keep what all we’ve been learning organized and then it’s not all about memorization.

Keep the writing both short answers and the longer papers. These allow the students practice under a time pressure. It forced me to really figure out what is important and what to leave out. Keep the open-notes test because it hopefully forces the students to take good notes. Keep the policy on bonus points since I needed them because my writing skills were subpar.

The video *The Devil Came on Horseback* was very interesting and you should definitely keep that because of how much information and really how inspirational Brian Steidle was. He wanted to change the world so bad but no one would listen.

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

That I need better time management skills.

I learned a lot about history and events that took place that I did not learn about in high school. It opened my eyes to other parts of the world.

I need to write more often—not fluffy, journal writing, but the type we did in this class. I need more practice in being more concise as well as staying on topic. I learned a great deal from the book, Dr. Yost, etc. I did not know as much about Stalin as I did about Hitler.

I have learned how to properly take notes, and then use them to improve my class material. Also, how to properly notate [sic] historical happenings.

Time management makes all the difference in the world

More realization of genocide and the background surrounding it, and that there are MANY factors leading up to it.

Well this course taught me how to link historical things with one another and look at the broad picture.

Time management—I knew if I didn’t sit down with my notes and work thru Angel assignments every week 6-8 hours.

I learned how to be a better student. I learned how to take better notes and not just write down what the teacher says because that doesn’t help you.

I learned not just about different genocides, but the history of them and why they happened. I’ve learned that it is very important to understand and never forget these events, no matter how long ago they took place.

I learned a lot about historical thinking and analysis and how to write better.

The concept of historical thinking & how to interpret well.

How the Holocaust started and what actually happened.

I learned studying skills that not only pertain to history and genocides, but things I can use for all future classes.

For me, is if you want good grades, you have to go above and beyond to earn it. Your class opened my eyes to my old habits and how they won’t get me far.

I feel like a lot of the ideas I had about the Holocaust were corrected or I learned more and was able to understand the situation better.

You prepared me, and actually challenged us. I’ve learned so much from this course that’s it’s unreal. I’ve learned how to do better note taking, studying for the quizzes. So thank you!

Be prepared. You aren’t going to do well if you’re not willing to put in the effort to get it done, & do it right.

I learned a lot of things about the Holocaust that in previous history classes I never had a clue ever happened.

The most important thing I had learned in this class is what a “real” college class should be like. I like working hard to achieve the grade I knew I could get without having it “handed” to me.

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

Nothing.

NOTHING! It pushes students and gets them ready for when they transfer.

Nothing. This class reminded me of a class in high school that prepped me for college and made my Comp 1 & 2 classes very easy because I learned it all in high school already.

Nothing really. Make it more fun… just kidding ☺

Absolutely nothing. Loved the course.

Nothing, the only thing is maybe have more time in class to be more depth in lectures.

Nothing, I was given a challenge.

I can’t think of anything to change.

I think the teaching method used is very effective. It had the right amount of writings, videos, & activities.

I would spend a little bit more time on topics like Rwanda and Sudan. I know the Holocaust is a main topic, but in school we learn about that and not others.

The only thing I would change would be to give assignments out more in advance. Sometimes if I was getting many things to read or watch on Tuesday, due Tursday [sic], I wouldn’t have enough time to finish because of work.

I wish there was more interaction with peers. We did a couple group quizzes or short answers, but I would have liked small group discussions or something like that.

I would get rid of the group work because I would prefer to earn my grade on my own and not depend on other people for a good grade. I would have liked to have seen the Martin Niemoller quotation sooner. I don’t have a reason why…

I would add more videos because it made the content more real & relatable

The only thing I would change is may be have more interaction with classmates and more open discussions. [about which topics, for example?]

More information [??]

Open discussion is engaging factor to a classroom to keep it interesting.

I would shorten the amount of time spent on the Holocaust just a little so we could spend more time on some of the other genocides like Rwanda & Darfur [fine with me, but that means heavier reading assignments from the *War & Genocide* book, I’ve tried this before and, guess what, some complained.]

Sometimes I felt like the class was a little disjointed. We would do homework for a certain thing to prepare and I felt like we didn’t always get to talk about we were just quizzed right away [quizzes are based on readings & videos, NOT lecture. If you had questions, you should ask them]. Or I know that there’s not as much time at the end of the semester but jumping back and forth [?? Not sure which jumping we did without a specific example] between genocides was confusing sometimes.

**Additional Comments:**

Before this class I have actually never had to open a book for a class and read, besides opening my math textbook. This is the worst grade I have gotten since going to Kirkwood and I only have one semester left, but it is also the most influential class I have taken. I had my doubts in the beginning of this class, but I am glad I stuck with it the whole semester.

Thank you! I feel like I was held accountable for my actions and work. I was pushed, I was frustrated, I have failed in a few aspects, but through this effort I am better. I feel this experience was far better than any grade I get, even if the grade I get is not a very good one, I feel blessed to have the knowledge bestowed on me from this course, and feel I now hold myself more accountable. Thank you!

For this class I did have to get a tutor because this class was a challenge for me, not because I didn’t do the work but because I needed better help organizing the things we were learning all at once but this class has helped me figure out what I need to do in order to be successful in classes where the majority of it is reading and note taking.

When I signed up for this class I hated history, but now I see how interesting it could be. Thank you.

Students need you, Dr. Yost!

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

Everything, it shows those who don’t have good study habits to get moving, and those who have not been going to class that it matters to show up.

Everything. The multiple disciplines and material really engaged me, as well as changed my way of learning as a whole.

The readings. Normally, it feels like I don’t have to try very hard in class. With the readings and quizzes we do it makes me feel like I have to do them and I actually remembered things easier.

The amount of reading from textbook because I felt it was a good amount for each assignment.

Your reading make sense. Some instructors reading they assign does not follow the course in a straight line while yours is easy to follow from one reading to the next.

The amount of work keeps me focused so it’s fine, even though it is a lot.

All the documentaries & readings. They were all very useful & I enjoyed learning about all the things in our past from Ancient Rome to Ancient Greece.

The bonus points, help cusion [sic] grade.

All of it, but it might help to explain more about the people in the readings because it was confusing who was who. [need to ask questions then, did you? Or come get help?]

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

Proper studying. Before I was bad at taking notes. With this class I needed to take better notes.

The constant feedback, in fact my first college feedback, on essays really helped me develop better skills all together.

Learning about our past as humans can greatly help us understand why things are the way they are today and how they got there.

Reading and note taking helps a ton

Not to take the bible completely literally

I learned how to take better notes of the chapter.

How ancient history is seen in our current world & government. It laid a foundation for us & who we are had a correlation w/ the ancient past. History repeats itself, and we should learn more from it.

Time management, the fact that not all history is boring, only American civil way history (lol).

Time management

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

Maybe be a little more lenient on spelling errors at least in the beginning and when doing a quiz on powerpoint equal time for each question because it was hard to find answers at the end because less time than beginning questions. [it’s fair to count spelling because it’s open notes, time was generally equal for each question, less time at the end of the semester because most people have improved by that point an important skill]

The professor continuously lectures about how poor of work ethic we have [??] and we all need to apply ourselves more. These “talks” become extremely annoying and pointless [??] considering the people he was talking to already don’t care and the people that do care don’t need to hear it. [??]

I think the time spent in class could look at the readings not from the book [free to ask questions at any time, I don’t lecture over readings]. Most of the discussion in class focuses on the book [??] but doesn’t talk about the other readings/videos as much. Just relate them to discussion or look over the material.

Have less readings from the packet.

Maybe more in-class lecture? It’s nice to learn from a teacher as much as a documentary.

Maybe more group things, like a group project or discussion.

Not moving the test up to the day after Halloween. [?? States in syllabus, schedule subject to change]

See if you can get more time for the class. You seemed rushed at times and it would help take tests/quizzes in this class. [we all have to work with time constraints and do the best we can]

**Additional Comments:**

I really feel like I learned so much in this class. I could tell anyone about how ancient life was in Egypt, Rome, Greece, ext.

I enjoyed that you took sections of another book instead of having us buy another book.

**Europe: Age of Revolutions**

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

The videos helped a lot to understand more in depth about what is going on.

I liked the video at-home assignments that went along with the assigned readings because it helps emphasize main points & drill the context into my brain. The in-class assignments are a good way to earn points.

I think practically everything should be kept in this course, because it all works together to develop us into better students, rather than just informing us on the history and topics we studied.

The material studied, I enjoy history in europe [sic] of this time we studied 1500-1900ish

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

Scientific revolution material

I learned how to be a better student, all together. It made me open my eyes to the reality of college, especially here at Kirkwood. There are so many teachers and students who slack off, together. This definitely was one of my more positive class experiences at Kirkwood.

I have learned how to take notes at a level that can help me in class. It helps me understand more what is going on in class and keep me interested. I am able to learn about new things that I want to know more about.

I learned that many courses at Kirkwood are a lot easier to get a good grade in, but this course covers a huge amount of content.

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

The way it was taught [?? Need to be a little more specific here; what would you change & why?]

If I had to pick one thing, I would say to talk about the internet portion of the test a little more in class. This would have given me a better idea as to what to study. [internet portion is open-note, open-textbook, if you have questions about the readings, please see me!]

I would change the types of questions on the quizzes, when reading ten pages at a time, it’s hard to get all the little details [quiz questions, as a rule, were not about trivial details but main themes/examples; this probably means you needed help with how to take notes, did you come see me during the semester?] that were often asked about on the quizzes.

Identify which ID’s can be found in which readings [??]. This will help with all the printouts and notes taken be organized. [college students need to learn how to do this rather than having the professor do all the work for them]

**History of Science**

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

The lesson on interpretation. The notes on how to think critically and how to do interpretations because they helped me learn how to break historical events down in order to comprehend.

The quizzes helped me do the work and helped my overall learning. All of it! I felt the class was well structured and all content very beneficial.

The quizzes and reading, while intense, honestly it is nice I have been in “soft” courses, and became frustrated because I didn’t even need the course book, take notes on lecture, the individual would almost say what would be on the test… Felt a little cheated as a student.

I would keep the workload and quizzes. These prepare students for university expectations. The quizzes provide immediate feedback on retention and study habits that help students grow.

Note taking, never had to before and it helped me to learn for this course.

The organization and schedule seems to be well laid out.

The daily quizzes and writing. They encouraged me to do assigned readings and video watching and to take notes. The extra credit was also great, especially since you had to do the reading and note taking to earn the points.

I would keep the quizzes they did help. It was sometimes a bit much due to being a student athlete, but if I had more free time it would’ve been good.

Quizzes, keeps you reading the material and staying up to date.

The daily quizzes, it made me do the readings & reminded me of the material & what’s important.

Everything. The course structure was fantastic and I felt challenged.

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

I learned to take good notes, better time management, and how to study.

To read and how to take good notes with assigned readings.

Reading is important and it must be done.

You gotta do the work to pass the class.

How to take good notes and prepare for a class.

I have learned how important context is when learning about historical events and persons.

Note taking

Better note taking and time management skills. It is why I recommend this course to friends.

How to pick readings apart and take notes w/ the meat & potato information from reading, instead of noting everything.

Proper note taking, better listening skills, to manage my time correctly, to do the work and do it well, not to cut corners. To think critically. I also significantly improved my reading and writing skills.

The importance of doing homework and passing quizzes. Creating time to do them and study.

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

Nothing, because I enjoyed the class and it challenged me.

Nothing. This was the most useful course that I took this semester.

Nothing!

Nothing

More emphasis needs to be made up front about the writing skills expected in the class [it is in the course syllabus on page 1]. There should be a prerequisite of some writing courses to match up. I found it difficult to organize essays with no prior experience or training [and did you come in to ask for help? How many times?]

I would change the formatting of the test or at least add some multiple choice because not all students are able to or very good at putting things into words.

Making reading less in beginning, it is so hard to read.

I am not sure, honestly workload, but that is the reward, discipline.

The way the quizzes are given. The study guides because they lead you into writing a lot of notes that you won’t need. [?? Need for just quizzes or for learning?]

The videos covered the same material as the books & packets. This seemed redundant and because of their information density seemed like poor uses of time. [most students like the fact that the videos reinforce the readings and vice versa, so it’s not a problem of redundancy]. Also the strictures on correct spelling seems overdone [??] Names of figures & places should be spelled correctly of course, but the ubiquity of spell check makes this strictness seem out dated like docking points for not using cursive. [?? Analogy is flawed, spelling should count anyway it’s not the same as cursive, and everything was open note. Why should students who are too careless to spell something correctly get that same points as those who do?]

**Additional Comments:**

I will say I plan to go to the U of I, and am a little intimidated because 4 courses as intense as yours, yikes. But if you get something for nothing, what’s the point? Thank you for making me a stronger student.

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| **Fall ’04 to Fall ‘13**  **Surveys: 1111** | |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **863** | **146** | **102** |  |
| **Writing** | **823** | **157** | **130** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1020** | **55** | **35** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **944** | **58** | **108** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1038** | **26** | **47** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **917** | **48** | **159** |  |
| **Time management** | **729** | **127** | **110** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **6334** | **617** | **691** | **82.88** |
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