**Course Feedback (Fall 2015) [Surveys: 61]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 45 9 7 73.8**

**Writing 46 8 7 75.4**

**Note-taking 56 1 4 91.8**

**Interpretation 53 1 7 86.9**

**Historical thinking 56 4 1 91.8**

**Critical analysis 52 4 5 85.2**

**Time management 49 6 6 80.3**

**Total Yes = 83.6%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

* I would keep the homework. I wouldn’t change it because it caused me to learn more than what could be covered in class.
* The schedule—flows well—chronologically. Homework load—I found myself researching more about topics!
* The workload—It will better prepare the students for other classes as well as future plans to transfer at a four year college/university.
* The material & length of time spent on each individual genocide was very appropriate I thought. I liked that we spent longer amounts of time on major genocides & I also liked that we made connections between all the genocides & compared/contrasted, etc.
* I would keep the videos and reading assignments because I feel it really helped with my comprehension of material we went over. I also would keep in-class quizzes because it keeps students accountable to the homework. The reading and movie guides are really awesome and helpful.
* How clear expectations are; it allows the student to complete things knowing the standards. My eye for specifics in readings became better.
* The work load was a lot but I agree it fits the class and is manageable.
* Everything we learned about is information that should be kept. It shows how the world has come about and how terrible people can be. Also open note quizs/tests are awesome. ☺
* Amount of time on the Holocaust
* I would keep the documentaries we were assigned to watching those really helped me understand things I didn’t get in the reading.
* The videos and documentaries, because they help give a visual of what happened.
* The documentaries were the most helpful—informative and good visual. Also liked interpreting the various cartoons and propaganda. Helped up everything in proper context around the world.
* I liked the information covered & liked the speed at which it was covered.
* I think the way we learned everything had a really good structure. I like the way that everything is on our shoulders I don’t like to be spoon fed information.
* The visuals (videos, pictures, etc.)
* I think you should keep the videos and other readings that are not from the textbook. Because I feel it helps students understand the material more.
* I personally liked the workload because I think it felt more like a college class than a high school class and I liked the responsibility. I also believe that it made me understand all of the content more, therefore making the class easier.
* Every note taking guide was very helpful. Also the quizzes having notes open was helpful and actually helped me remember more.

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

* The most important (scariest) thing I learned is that it’s really easy to say you wouldn’t go along with the atrocities we learned about, but in reality most people would listen to authority telling you to do awful things.
* That genocide was not only the Holocaust, and that similar crimes occur without the publicity. That people need to be educated.
* The real meaning of the word genocide.
* The most important thing I learned was managing my time better and that if you work really hard in the class, I’ll see it in my grade.
* I think the most important thing I learned was that to be successful in a class at this level you have to do all the work and make sure to pay attention to detail.
* I learned how to manage my time and how to focus on homework.
* Human life is so undervalued. Everyone deserves life. Every life is valuable.
* The role of the Nazis and the Holocaust. Learning about the politics to the harassment of asocials to the concentration camps and death camps. This class showed how little I knew about the topic.
* The genocide in Darfur is what I think is most important. Also the lack of help that America was/is giving. It makes me want to reach out and help.
* The amount of effort it takes for people to intervene and/or stop a genocide. I’ve learned there’s fear in a lot of people to help stop a genocide.
* Genocide awareness
* About the other genocides that I knew about prior to class—but I learned a lot more in depth info.
* That genocide is still happening today, and that it doesn’t take crazy people to commit dreadful crimes.
* How many people are willing to do this.
* Time management—with volleyball and other classes it made me realize I need to put more effort into my school work and prioritize.
* Learning about how things escalated to what they became.
* The excuses people use when conforming & killing others. How shallow people could get.
* There’s more genocides than the Holocaust.

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

* Nothing
* None
* Don’t know, nothing.
* Nothing. All the material is important and helpful.
* I wouldn’t change anything. You did a fine job with the course. Everything was useful.
* I honestly can’t think of anything to change. I think the workload is necessary to fully understand the material.
* I wouldn’t change anything. I liked the structure & the work assigned.
* Spend more time on genocides. As the Holocaust is important, I think the other genocides are as well. Especially Brian Steidle & the Darfur genocide.
* Spend more time on more modern genocides.
* I would try to cover fewer genocides. The course moves very quickly, and it is sometimes hard to gain a solid understanding of each event before moving on to the next thing.
* I would say a little more group activity or student engagement especially in the 2 hour classes. Even though we have the 10 minute break it gets hard to stay focused when were just listening for 2 hours. [we never had 2 hours of lectures in class]
* The note taking guides, just a few of them did not help me even though I would follow it.
* Sometimes I felt as if my writing was more graded on how as in grammar rather than what I wrote about. I found this frustrating, however, I never asked for help.
* More student interaction/answering questions in class so essentially a bit less lecture.
* The only thing I would change is more in-class discussions, like you asking us more questions about what we’re going over instead of strictly lecture. I think teacher-student interaction would help some students understand material better. (To the people who can’t handle the homework: welcome to college.)

**Additional Comments:**

* This is the best class I’ve taken. Not only has it prepared me better for other classes, but outside of school. Dr. Yost is so far (and probably will remain) the best professor. You keep the interest alive through how you teach. It’s not that you expect too much or little out of your students—you just expect the right things from your students. Thank you!
* Thank you.
* Solid class. Yost won’t baby you, but if you can accept that, you’ll do fine. He’s a good teacher and gives more than enough opportunities to help your grade.
* Yost was an extremely good teacher and those who say otherwise weren’t putting enough effort in the class. I learned A LOT in this class. Thank you.
* Another comment that I have is that I like your teaching style. It really works. I feel like putting all the responsibility on the students is a good way to make them see that to be successful, THEY have to do the work.
* This class is difficult, but I feel I actually learn or get something from the class. I feel the class is appropriate for a college class.
* I really enjoyed this course. You gave a lot of homework but it was easy as long as you got it done. I wish I would have applied myself more. Thank you for teaching such an insightful course!
* I just wanted to say how glad I am that I took this class and got the opportunity to have you as a teacher. Thank you for pushing your students to produce college level essays and for asking us tom complete appropriate college level homework. I personally think you are an awesome teacher, and anyone who fails to see that either didn’t show up for class or doesn’t like to work hard. I have the utmost respect for you, and I hope you have a great Christmas. Thanks again. ☺

**History of Science**

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

* Everything. I thoroughly enjoyed this course.
* Everything, this course has helped me understand and learn about the history of science that I never knew before.
* All of the reading and quizzes, the lectures, and all of the material builds on itself and allowed a better understanding of the material in broad spectrum.
* All course content. I enjoyed learning about the advancement of science from the time of Aristotle to Einstein.
* What the historical evidence says about the largest events in science, how they occurred, and what may have actually happened. As I continue to advance in the field of science, the knowledge of its history is an invaluable form of knowledge.
* The study guides were useful for me knowing what main points to focus on.
* Interesting subject, great eye-opener to blatant lies about science
* Definitely the extra sources at the bottom of the assignments on Talon, which allows for great jumping points to further learning.
* Study guides, review in class, updated grades, open notes.
* Keep all of the people you go over.
* I would keep all of it, I loved this course. It was truly a joy to learn about the history of science and my journey of learning is just beginning.
* At the beginning of the semester I would’ve said less HW, but as we’ve moved on I think the HW is appropriate and actually pretty easy.
* The second two books. I liked the content and the way it was presented.
* I would keep informing students about how we can’t always view science as what it is in the present, instead we should get an understanding of science has evolved into what it is today.

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

* To look at history without presentism
* To always view historical events within the context of the time they took place in.
* How to highlight important content
* Knowing how to take notes that actually help
* That there is always a deeper story to all science breakthroughs not everything about these breakthroughs is true. Chances are it’s been romanticized in one way or another. Deeper story to all advancement in science.
* Context and the realities of scientific discovery.
* To not judge past scientists by modern ideas. In other words don’t use a present lens.
* Learning the history of scientific discoveries, the paths that led to what we seem to take for granted, like the concept of gravity for instance, is extremely important to understanding who we are, as humans, as scientists, as people trying to figure out who we are and ultimately what we are capable of.
* The most important thing I have learned from this class is that note taking is very important and that there are multiple ways for people to interpret science and they all have history behind them.
* Popular beliefs about major people are shrouded in misinformation and presentism
* If you have something to say or write make sure you have examples. I really enjoyed your class, learned a lot.
* That history isn’t always remembered correctly and there are a lot of myths and problems with modern interpretation of the history of science.
* The amount of “history” people teach doesn’t go into depth of how it happened or what really happened. I learned more about historical background.
* Time management and note taking
* To never accept anything for face value, especially if spoken from someone of high status (intellectually) [?? Not sure that’s a lesson from this course]. Though way to pave out a true view any angle of any instance must not be seen, but understood from every view.

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

* Nothing [3X]
* Nothing, it’s challenging in the sense of thinking & understanding history of science that may have not been exposed to before.
* Nothing, this way of teaching leads me to conclude that was the most influential class I have ever taken
* Nothing, because there is no need to change
* I would make it longer so we could talk about string theory and more of quantum mechanics. Although that is probably no realistic. [I agree, but we only have so much time and have to be selective. It would be nice to have more time to discuss the origins of quantum mechanics along with countless other topics, but on semester won’t allow it.]
* I would add more about chemistry and other fields of science [this is a good idea, but then the course would be in danger of being a mile wide and an inch deep (that is, trying to cover too many topics for sake of breadth, but never getting into any depth on any of them). It’s a problem for all broad survey courses]
* I feel in the future students would do better on the exams if they had opportunities to turn in essays for points and get feedback because students are hesitant to do so if they won’t receive any points for doing so. [so I interpret “hesitant” to mean lazy? I’m already swamped by almost constant grading all semester long, so I do make the offer to practice all you want or need, but I simply won’t be adding additional things to grade. If you want feedback on writing, I’m more than willing to do that just not give everyone points every time they write, sorry!]
* There was very little emphasis on women’s contribution, and for that matter, on the contributions of non-Europeans. I would have liked to know more about early Arabic contributions to modern science, for example. [two comments: 1) the course has to be selective as a survey course, so we don’t have time to cover everything, although it would be nice to examine the things you suggest. 2) science primarily originated in Europe and in a patriarchal context (medieval universities), which we read about in class. We did encounter a few of the women in the history of science (e.g., Emilie du Chatelet, Lise Meitner, Marie Curie), but there simply aren’t that many until the 20th century. It’s a sad historical reality that women were shut out of most fields of science and were not allowed access to higher education until more modern times.]
* More writing and matching practice, along with quote practice for exams [matching doesn’t need practice, it’s just careful reading. Also, you can do more writing practice outside class and I’d gladly look it over and discuss it with you. I made this offer multiple times during the semester]
* The only thing I would change is that the notes seem to bounce around a lot. One minute you’re talking about Aristotle then you’re talking about Ptolemy, than back to Aristotle. Sometimes it’s hard to keep notes organized.
* I would not use the first book. I couldn’t comprehend what the author was saying even after re-reading the sections twice. [Use the note taking guides? Did you ask me any questions during the semester?]
* Give a more detailed description of what you are expecting for exams. I studied all the material given, worked before exam with tutors, asked you questions [what questions did you ask? Be specific], I thought I was prepared and did well on the exam, but I received a grade that didn’t exemplify the work put in. [just working a lot or studying a lot doesn’t guarantee that the final product is good or of a high quality. Sounds like you needed to talk to me more, practice outlining essays, practice writing essays outside class, and discussing them with me before or after to make improvements. All of this was recommended in class and in the written advice as well.]
* Entirely too homework heavy for a full-time student. [75% of the grades were As-Bs, so was there “too much” homework, doubtful] Too much content too quickly, nothing really sank in, I was just memorizing [open notes?] key facts in hoping they would be on the test [the main issue here is not the amount of homework, but the need to adjust poor study habits, no memorizing is required because everything is open notes]

**Additional Comments:**

* I was close to dropping this class, however I’m glad I didn’t because I learned a lot about how to attack my studies through this class.
* Another great course I have enjoyed
* This class heightened one not only as a student, but also as a philosopher.
* Thanks for teaching us so much, it means a lot! P.S. I am a fan of your style of teaching, it is very clear cut and your expectations are clear.
* This class was different from my others only because you made sure we were learning the material, just not writing it down and copying. It helped me learn how to take better notes and manage my time not only with tests but with homework as well. To help me raise my grade I had to find interest in the subjects being taught also my tutor helped me manage my study time and note taking. This class was only hard at first because I never had to manage my notes/homework/and time for class. So, I guess thank you for that. Keep doing it the way you are because if it helped me it has to help others as well and that’s something all students should learn.

**Europe: Age of Revolutions**

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

* I like the variety of textbook readings, articles, and documentaries. I like how we are tested for knowledge of context and understanding. It’s more work than some of my other classes, but I retain much more information.
* The material was very well taught. I am much more intelligible about what I learned than I was at the beginning of the course.
* The course material and teaching style.
* I liked the pictures of artwork and the documentaries were very interesting.
* I think the course is set up great. I’d keep everything the same. I’d also keep bonus points on the daily quizzes.
* I like the daily quizzes, it is a great motivator to some to class.
* I would keep the bonus points because they help cussion quiz scores, especially because of how specific the quizzes are.
* I like the optional final that gives some people a break at the end of the year.
* Put more about Napoleon & other later info we learned in the second exam. Be more open to others opinions.
* Bonus points, because you can earn points for showing up to class.
* The bonus points on quizzes because it helps if you do the work.

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

* How to manage time, and better note taking. How important it is to be educated about history, why it is significant, and to be aware of what is going on in the world.
* This class has really helped me develop a better work ethic.
* I learned that history isn’t just facts and historical people. Context and interpretation are also important when studying history. Events in the past affect the future.
* History of the Scientific Revolution, especially astronomy advancements.
* The way that the French Revolution impacted all of Europe & the world. How to think critically & analyze both positives and negatives of events.
* Note taking skills & time management are extremely important in success in more strenuous courses.
* I learned that the French Revolution was a considerable factor in the establishment of important ideas, such as liberty and freedom, in the founding fathers of the United States. [remember however that the American Revolution happened before the French Revolution]
* How to take effective and understandable notes.
* How to think more critically and not accept information anyone gives you.
* Time management and the French Revolution. Writing skills.
* Massive reading
* Critical thinking

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

* Cannot think of anything really, if you did your work and attended class you would succeed in this class.
* This class seems ridiculous for a community college. 2-3 hours of homework per class makes it hard to study for other classes if you also have a job, which many students do. 1 homework assignment per night would be better. [Welcome to college!]
* Lighten the daily work load slightly
* Make the quotation portion of the tests less obscure
* Maybe add a couple of discussions on certain topics to see if some new insights can be had. [I’m open to specific suggestions here.]
* Personally, I would like 2 reading assignments per class as compared to 3 because I am a slow reader [we didn’t always have 3 per class, see Talon], but I understand that each assignment has a purpose and that it can be done with good time management.
* Easier tests—the writing part is tough for me [then you need to practice more and get help, not make the test easier]. We should have the full hour to take the test [?? you did have the full class time to take the test]
* Less work outside of class to make it easier to balance other classes, work, etc. [Welcome to college!]
* Have all the reading assignments available before there assigned so you can pre-read materials if your busy on certain days [you are always welcome to read ahead in the textbooks, or come talk to me, but I don’t map out the entire semester’s reading that way so it’s simply not possible]
* I would like to include more analysis on historical events that played a key role in shaping the modern world. Such as the Enlightenment and French Revolution [?? Which class were you enrolled in? We read and discussed both of these, in detail, during the semester]
* The hard grading system. My papers in this class were graded harder then my English papers [then maybe your English instructor needs to raise expectations/standards?]

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

* Personally, I would keep everything the same. All assignments and tasks were relevant and prepared us for in-class activities and tests.
* Taught me how to be responsible for my time management and not make excuses for things. So keep the daily assignments.
* I love the many formats of materials.
* I would keep the structure of the course, and the standards. I’d keep the content as well, it’s educational and interesting.
* The documentaries served as a nice break between reading assignments and were always interesting.
* The quizzes to reinforce the assigned readings.
* I like the book that was used.
* The out of book readings (a lot more interesting than book readings). The E.C. on each quiz, viewing guides.
* The extra point opportunities
* Daily quizzes tested understanding of reading & note taking & opportunity for bonus points.
* The reading was helpful. Having reading outside of the book helped fill in gaps from the book.
* All of the built in extra credit throughout the course. It’s very comforting to have that as a buffer; it motivated me to try and go above and beyond.
* I enjoyed and benefited from most of this course and the daily quizzes were a great way to keep me on track and on my toes.
* The in-class assignments were immediate feedback on concepts I had missed.
* Daily quizzes: helpful for accountability & allowed me to understand where I stand in the class. Bonus points: super easy to get and rewarded those who attended class regularly.
* The straightforwardness of assignments; it keeps things easy and with Talon I always know what is due when.

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

* I learned that note-taking, paying attention and attending class is the most important.
* How to analyze whether or not a source is credible and the significance of something in relation to other historical events.
* That I can do a lot when I apply myself to a task. This class asks for a college student and it made me into one.
* The most important thing I learned was to question things and always look at the context of what of what is being presented.
* I feel more well-rounded now that I know the foundations of Western Civilization. Now I feel like I am allowed to have an opinion on historical things.
* If I take the time to do the work, I can produce results I am proud of.
* That history is written by people & they are full of bias and willingness to denounce those they do not like.
* Mythology has pieces of fact in it.
* Note taking; the foundation of our everyday life.
* I learned to prioritize.
* How to scrutinize what we can really tell from history and historical documents as well as how ancient peoples still influence us today.
* That history as we understand it is always changing. How to approach evidence & analyze it critically.
* To view history texts as I would internet news. Consider the source.
* Importance of good note taking.
* How to devote my time.
* I enjoyed learning about how civilizations like the Greeks and Romans grew and prospered in their time.

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

* Nothing [3X]
* Not much, really liked the lectures & overall format
* the amount of work per class
* the amount of reading & work at the beginning of the semester was a bit overwhelming to start with but with some adjustments to study habits, it got better.
* Suggest students buy the book’s you pull a lot of articles from, I believe it’s 12 Greeks and Romans who changed the world.
* Less handout reading. I would prefer to use the book that I payed for. [did you NOT use the book in this class?]
* The in-class lectures are very cursory due to the quiz structure of the class, so little is explained. [I do not lecture from the textbook, as stated the first week of the course. Also, you can ask any question in class or in writing, how many times did you ask questions?]
* don’t give 3 assignments and a quiz/writing every single day [we didn’t go back and look at Talon announcements], because most students can’t get it all done with other classes and a job [this is a matter of better time management and priorities, not too much work. 54.5% earned As-Bs, so that’s not “most students” unable to do the work.]
* change the book, we did a lot of work through the book but none of it was really referred to in class (near the end of the semester) [???]
* the book—handouts had better info. More student participation.
* Quizzes sometimes come days after the reading [never more than one additional class period, always reminded to review your notes]. Though you can take notes and use them, I’d forget what the reading was even over. [then you need to improve your reading/note taking and review your notes, as you were always reminded in Talon].
* I would have liked more readings then documentaries, when watching a film I find that when I divid my attention to take notes I lose something while watching. [this is exactly why we assign documentaries outside of class so you can always pause, rewind, and watch more than once, thereby cultivating good study habits.]
* I do wish there was more interaction in class. I have never been in such a silent class with no class discussions and almost no questions. [If I give students chances to ask questions repeatedly and no asks or wants to discuss…?]

**Additional Comments**:

* Your course challenged me and taught me not just about history, but good study habits & note taking techniques. Thank you!
* Thank you for helping me throughout the semester! I have changed my major to history and look forward to more classes with you!

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| **Fall ’04 to Fall ‘15**  **Surveys: 1316** | |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **1028** | **165** | **123** |  |
| **Writing** | **978** | **185** | **152** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1213** | **60** | **42** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **1119** | **66** | **130** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1234** | **31** | **51** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **1092** | **55** | **181** |  |
| **Time management** | **895** | **147** | **130** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **7559** | **709** | **809** | **83.28** |