**Course Feedback (Fall 2017) [Surveys: 46]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 42 2 2 91.3**

**Writing 41 2 3 89.1**

**Note-taking 43 2 1 93.5**

**Interpretation 42 1 3 91.3**

**Historical thinking 43 1 2 93.5**

**Critical analysis 40 2 4 86.9**

**Time Management 38 6 2 82.6**

**Total Yes = 89.75%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

* I liked how difficult this course was, actually it made me feel like I deserved the grade that I got because I had worked hard to get it.
* The documentaries, the bonus points were helpful in allowing me to raise my grade. The videos were helpful in understanding the topics. The book was also intriguing to read, wasn’t just a textbook. I enjoyed the challenge of this class made me think deeper about subjects I thought I knew about.
* I would keep the way exams were done. I like it better than just 100 multiple choice questions.
* I would keep the regular quizzes and documentaries. I found as challenging as this class was, regular quizzes forced me to exercise good studying habits and focus on the important details. I also enjoyed the documentaries more than readings because I retain more and performed better on the quizzes. [because the video quizzes are easier]
* The documentaries & writings about the Holocaust & the Armenian, Rwandan & Darfur genocides.
* All of the material in this course is informational & well taught. I think it should all be kept.
* Documentaries, everything
* The reading guides helped me take better notes.
* I would keep the in class writes because it really helped me prepare for the test better and it’s really helpful that the test and quizzes are open note.
* Keep what we learn about the same because it was really interesting to see all the examples of Genocides.
* The videos were very well made. If you pay attention and take notes, you will do well.
* I would keep the in class documentaries, because they are informing and the bonus points.
* The bonus points because they really help if you do the work.
* I really liked the quizzes, they helped me remember things that we were learning. I also liked them because then our grade didn’t just rely on the tests.
* Opportunities for extra credit really helps with keeping a higher grade
* I would keep every aspect of this class. Yes, it is a difficult course and there is a lot of work, but if you attend class and do the work, you will pass the class just fine.
* The bonus points because they really help your grade with the difficulty of the course
* Detailed viewing guides/study guides, quizzes, readings & videos
* I like the quizzes because they give those that do the work a chance to earn points daily.
* I would keep just about everything. The reason for this is that I found all of the information very interesting.

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

* Doing the work will pay off; how to use my time wisely
* It is still possible for us as humans to take part in these acts of genocide that have taken place in the past.
* How war and genocide connect
* The U.S. doesn’t prevent genocide even when they know it is happening.
* The most important thing is how important doing homework is. Without the homework I wouldn’t have learned anything.
* Importance of knowing the background before being able to understand the big picture
* That your attendance WILL affect your grade. This class also GREATLY improved my reading comprehension, and note taking skills.
* What caused genocides to happen and lack of involvement from the U.N./Western powers.
* How to take better notes and manage my time better.
* That there were more genocides than just the Holocaust and that genocides still can happen.
* Time management & how important it is. Had to learn how to put priority on homework.
* Genocide will continue & has continued to go on because people don’t want to act & take responsibility to look after people in other countries.
* The more not so well known genocides that have occurred and more recent genocides/the U.S.’s standpoint on them.
* Just the awareness of all things that have happened in the 1900s. Learning what genocide is and how much it has occurred.
* Genocide and evil can happen at any time, anywhere. We need to be aware, remember, and prevent these terrible genocides.
* The in depth history of antisemitism, what makes a genocide, and the way WW2 started.
* I think the most important thing is that genocides can happen anywhere and the facilitators are not possessed, but normal people who fall into social psychology patterns of conformity. [they are still responsible for their actions though]
* Time management and organization of notes.
* That we need to remember what happened in order to prevent it from happening again.
* History repeats itself even if we think it won’t and not matter how hard we try to deny it.

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

* Nothing [3X]
* I would not change any thing
* There really isn’t anything I would change because this class really helped me be a better and more dedicated student.
* Learn about what happen to the Jewish community after WWII.
* More videos and visual learning.
* Discussion before watching the docs/videos on Talon, it might clear up confusion if there is any [?? Free to ask questions any time during the semester: class, e-mail, office hours, in writing, etc.]
* Maybe more class involvement.
* More whole group interaction/work.
* I would assign an equal amount of reading [not possible in a T/Th course, sorry] and whatever else because all of the reading can be hard to want to do [welcome to college!]
* The amount of readings and handouts. It was very hard to keep up with.
* Encourage questions and not just lecture [I did encourage questions every class when I asked “Are there any questions?” and class was never “just lecture”], review day before a test. Also articles were long and not all of them were quizzed over.
* Try to have more transition towards the beginning and ending of course, seems a little random. Also the essay tests are very difficult, I think there should be combination of essay as well as content. [??]
* I would add more in class discussions with more dialogue between the class and instructer. I think it is a better way to learn.
* I would change the amount of coursework between Tuesday class and Thursday, personally. I found it hard to keep up with my schedule because I work full time, but that is just my experience, and I’m sure others may be able to do just fine.
* The matching quotes didn’t add too much extra info. Just another thing to turn in & distract [??] from the longer assignments that need that time instead. Keep them as resources. [never had anyone complain before about reading primary source excerpts and get easy points for doing it]
* I would’ve liked to have the quiz questions printed out in front of me because that is my preferred way of learning. [??]
* Sometimes I thought the wording on quizzes made questions more difficult. I enjoyed lecture but think it would have been helpful to have open discussions in the classroom, to ask specific questions, give input, etc.

**Additional Comments:**

* If you do all the work and go to class, you will get a good grade. It’s all about wanting to do the work. This class isn’t difficult if you do the reading and homework.
* I think this course is very well prepared. The instructor has definitely taken time to perfect the course and it shows. This was a very interesting/well-taught course. I would take another class with Dr. Yost again.

**History of Science**

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

* Everything.
* Everything, it is well thought out and while you do have to put in effort it is structured to help you do well.
* The work, while it is a lot more than any other course I have taken at Kirkwood thus far, I feel has helped to prepare me for transfer to ISU better than any other course.
* The amount of work/knowledge given and gained throughout the course. It forced me to grow up and mature as a student early on in my college career.
* The quizzes and readings because it helped me write better notes. This class helped me learn how to manage my time better as well.
* The exams, they require that you know something. You can’t guess like multiple choice.
* All of the textbooks were informative. All of the lectures were informative. That handouts added supplemental knowledge to texts & lectures. The videos were both entertaining and informative.
* Exam style with focus on impromptu essay writing was quite valuable. Seeing the initial attempts I made not come to fruition gave a clear impetus for making changes in my writing style. The extensive in-class writing was highly valuable, as the personal feedback has drawn attention to issues still to be addressed in my writing.
* I would keep the bonus quizzes because they help boost your grade. I would keep the final optional paper because not everyone needs the extra points. The books help students take better note taking skill.

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

* What to look for when reading for historical context. Thank you!
* I learned many details about historical events, but among the most important of these is the idea of presentism versus the idea that we should look at events of the past and see the circumstances. I also again learned incalculable study skills.
* Just how easy it is to unquestioningly assume things about the historical record and of how easy it is to project what we would prefer to see onto it. Critical evaluation of one’s views is absolutely necessary in having any hope of understanding the past we have all inherited. Thank you.
* Hard to pick only one. That often we view science through a presentist viewpoint. It was fascinating to learn about the social, political, & religious factors that influenced many of the scientific theories, laws, & ideas that we now take for granted.
* How to not procrastinate and actually read/take notes.
* I learned how to take better notes and manage my time better.
* The extensive changes and gains in science, especially in the 19-20th centuries. Also that even the most common sense ideas of science can be change and be re-thought.
* I learned the history of E = mc2 because I knew the equation was important but didn’t know why.
* I learned how all the different historians had their own ways of developing their theories and discoveries.

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

* Nothing [4X]
* Students should be able to see the essay choices prior to the exam. I think students might perform better.
* I would have liked to spend a little more time on the physics part of the course as this subject has always been of interest to me.
* Perhaps scheduling course time to allow for more lecture time on Tuesdays. In cases where we have quizzes to review, it seems like we just start diving into material.
* If it were possible I would add credit hours to this course. This instructor has much knowledge to impart & I often wished for more lecture hours. I looked forward to the longer class period each week.
* The later study guides for late book chapters. B/C they start out very helpful for knowing what is significant, but with each book they tail off making the reading difficult. [why do you suppose they give the readers less guidance as they get later in the semester? They are designed that way, but why?]

**Additional Comments:**

* I loved this class. The expectations are clear. While some of the information is very technical, the lectures & videos make the information come alive. It is fabulous to see an instructor who is not only informed but clearly excited to share his knowledge. I had to work really hard but I learned so much. Thank you.

**Europe: Age of Revolutions**

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

* The amount of readings and assignments really motivated me to get the job done!!
* The class was interesting. Came with a lot of information. I liked the way the tests were structured, and I enjoyed all the extra bonus points.
* I liked the in-class writings, they really help you prepare for the exams. I also liked how we could print off links from Talon to use in class.
* Note taking, helps out with reading so much.
* The quiz/writing everyday is a good incentive to complete homework and studying on time.
* The wide variety of content not including the source book. This really helped keep the homework more interesting. The bonus points were a life saver.
* I would keep the daily readings and daily quizzes. They helped with understanding material and keeping on track with the reading.
* I would keep the 10 minute writing practices because of how much they help for exams. Keep daily quizzes because it incentivizes you to keep up with assigned readings.
* I would keep everything. I think all that we have learned in this class made my interpretation about European history much more strong and accurate.

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

* I took so much away from this course, the most important thing I learned was managing my time and making time. In fact, you brought history to life for me.
* How much from history is still around today, like ideological –isms and philosophy and economic thinking from the Enlightenment.
* The most important thing I learned in this class was how to take notes. I loved learning about the information we covered, but I feel like my ability to take notes improved greatly. That will be helpful for me in other classes as well. Thank you! ☺
* To make sure you do the work assigned.
* I learned that good note-taking skills are very important for more than just this class.
* How to take notes and manage time effectively.
* History is really interesting and very humbling. This course really helped me understand where I come from.
* I learned a lot about history which is very important, but what I learned most importantly is how to take proper notes.
* Clearing common misconceptions, such as religion and science often being at odds.

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

* No changes come to mind.
* I honestly can’t think of anything to change—really comprehensive, in-depth class.
* I would not change anything as this class has prepared me for future classes more than my high school did.
* The amount of things tested over, and quized over, was to much. I think it was hard to keep up at some points.
* More reading from sources like Leviathan, Wealth of Nations, etc. We would learn more about the context of the times.
* The source book readings were very dense and did not make much sense. [did you ask any questions or seek any help during the semester?] I spent more time trying to figure out what people were saying than understanding their perspective.
* Give short recommendations on what to look for in textbook readings (ie focus on events or on names). As the readings can sometimes suddenly change their focus and I don’t notice until I’ve read a few pages, such as going from a section about society to one about a series of wars/battles. [how many times did you come and talk to me about improving notes or reading skills?]
* A lot of reading is necessary, but lowering the readings required by a small amount would be preferable. Maybe have a little bit more about Eastern Europe.
* If I could change anything about this class it would be making the points ½ in class quizzes and ½ at home assignments. I feel like if I would’ve been able to think out my answers for writings you would’ve been more impressed with my work.

**Additional Comments:**

* Sometimes you seem very aggravated during lecture which makes the environment uncomfortable [I was aggravated by the technology consistently not working in more than one classroom]. I wished lectures had been a bit more engaging. Overall I enjoyed this course a lot! ☺

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

* I would keep everything, they are all enough to make this class challenging, it’s not hard, just takes new skill that I didn’t learn in high school.
* Bonus points, daily quizzes, and open-note approach.
* Practice writing, because it helps engage me with the topic.
* Notes without a guide except with videos. This made me actually get good at taking notes with and without a guide.
* I would keep the out of textbook reading & videos. I thought the textbook covered the same material with less detail.
* Pretty much everything because it forces the student to be independent.
* Bonus points on each quiz. They are extremely helpful for maintaining your grade.
* I would keep the bonus point system, I liked this because you could help raise your grade if you did bad on an assignment.

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

* A greater understanding of the way Rome and Greece have influenced the present day.
* To put forth effort and be independent.
* How to take good notes!! Previously I had never taken useful notes, and this course definitely helped me with that. I’m also a lot better at managing my time with work/studying than I was at the beginning of the semester.
* That the Greeks & Romans have an impact on our lives today.
* How to efficiently use time management and effective note taking.
* The historical significance of the Greeks and Romans and the origins of civilization. I learned a lot about famous Greeks and Romans and can recognized their influences in our current society now.
* The extent of Roman and Greek influence on our society today.

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

* Not really anything
* Not a thing
* I wouldn’t change a thing.
* I don’t think I would change anything.
* Not a lot of stuff I would change, however maybe not as many video assignments because sometimes the videos wouldn’t load. [did you contact me about this when it happened so I could have someone fix it?]
* Maybe do some group activities.
* I would change the amount of quizzes.

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| **Fall ’04 to Spring ‘17**  **Surveys: 1437** | |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **1130** | **176** | **131** |  |
| **Writing** | **1079** | **193** | **164** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1326** | **63** | **47** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **1224** | **68** | **144** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1348** | **32** | **57** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **1194** | **59** | **196** |  |
| **Time management** | **963** | **156** | **132** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **8264** | **747** | **871** | **83.62** |