**Course Feedback (Fall 2018) [Surveys: 62]**

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

**Yes             No              Not sure**

**Reading                         53               6                 3**

**Writing                          52               9                 1**

**Note-taking                  56               2                 4**

**Interpretation               53               4                 5**

**Historical thinking        57               3                 2**

**Critical analysis             58               1                 3**

**Time Management        56               2                 4**

**Total Yes = 88.7%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

* Everything. The daily quizzes & reading assignments really help strengthen my reading, writing, note-taking & time management skills. Not a single assignment was “useless.”
* This course was excellent, I would not change anything about it. This class is the perfect example of a freshmen college class and you shouldn’t make it easier, just because people say “it’s hard.” This is college and people should understand that.
* I would keep everything about this course because it was all helpful whether it be information on history topics or tips on note taking, writing, etc.
* All of the criteria was amazing I would honestly keep everything because there was a lot I learned about in this class that I had no idea even happened. This course opened my mind more with the history of many different genocides that had happened.
* Everything. I think it’s a great course not only for its historical knowledge, but the knowledge to prepare students for their journey through college.
* I like the opportunity for bonus points, they helped set up an early buffer towards my grade & made missing a day not impossible.
* The daily quizzes help force/encourage students to stay on top of things—helping us learn more.
* Keep everything, all the videos really spoke to me because you see the real victims and know that these events weren’t just something that took place in a distant land far away. This can happen in our own back yards.
* Everything because I enjoyed learning about all of this and I was fine with the homework and such we were getting.
* I would keep the quizzes w/ the extra credit because it forces the student to do all the work if they want a good grade.
* I would keep everything. Everything had a purpose and was needed to be successful in this classroom.
* Keep the quizzes they really keep you up in time management.
* Everything.
* The readings and videos.
* How many chances we get to improve our grades, extra credit opportunities.
* Videos, because they are impactful accounts that put the events in perspective.
* I would keep all of the information.
* Everything, all helps further knowledge of the atrocities and a historical understanding.
* The daily quizzes and writing practices. It helps you understand the context of the material.
* I would keep all of the documentary/video assignments because added great additional information on topics and events that aren’t covered in the class.
* I would keep everything in this course. Students receive all the information, there are practices for the exams, you learn so much and you remember the information you study.
* I would keep all of the content. I learned so much that anybody taking this course should know.
* I would keep all the main points we did learn about. Learned a lot of things I didn’t know before.
* The ending where other genocides were discussed and learned because the Holocaust isn’t enough to fully understand the extents of genocide as a whole.
* I would keep all the reading quizzes and critical thinking questions. I think these really helped me look deeper into the topics we were studying.
* The course is easy to understand as long as you show up and pay attention.
* The extra credit; it softens the mistakes that happen throughout the semester. The viewing guides help guide note taking.
* Open note quizzes, it’s any easy way to keep your grade up as long as you get your work done.
* Keep every day quizzes and bonus points because it helps come up from a bad grade.
* I really liked the bonus points, they helped out a lot.
* The whole Holocaust course.
* I would keep the high amount of points given because it is easier to maintain your grade.
* I would keep the structure of the reading and quizzes.
* Everything worked well with me.
* The articles.
* Time management & the analysis process.
* I would keep all of the content because I believe it adequately provides the information needed to understand how and why genocides occur

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

* Genocides did not start with the Holocaust.
* The importance of context when considering the Holocaust and other genocides. The reality that the preconditions for genocide exist in the world all around us and it is still a very real possibility if we aren’t aware.
* That there is a difference between concentration camps and extermination camps and the fact that there were no extermination camps in Germany, they were all in Poland.
* I learned how to take good notes & re-write ideas from my notes onto paper for the exam or in-class writing. This strength will help carry me a long way throughout life.
* That many genocides had kept going. I am angry about the fact that many people said “Never Again” but nobody ever did anything about it.
* That it is paramount to hold people to their actions & to not let them deflect their responsibility.
* The humans should never forget about the atrocities that has happened around the world, knowing that it could have been prevented.
* If one awful person can gain a following, more and more people will convince to follow them until that person can start something like a genocide, and then it’s too late and that person’s followers will do as they say.
* I learned the importance of historical context in the discussion about genocide and the climate that nurtures the extreme climate that brings about genocide.
* Time management. Through the many quick write, quizzes and tests. This course has taught me how to be efficient with my time and to always be prepared.
* Note taking skills have increased, and it was an eye opener to learn about different genocides too—as I had only heard of the Holocaust.
* I have learned quite a bit, the most important thing I learned is how brutal and cruel people can be.
* Everything was important for me on what I learned, but specifically would say learning what genocide is and how genocide is caused by people and how cruel people can be and how genocide can happen at any moment if measures aren’t taken to prevent genocide from happening.
* That I got the results I deserved. I gave my best effort & ended up getting a better grade than I expected. I learned so much in this class & will always remember this class.
* All the students in this course could team up & start a genocide tomorrow under the right conditions. We haven’t been brainwashed or provided instructions. What most people struggle to understand is this is how genocides are. Perpetrators aren’t brainwashed. They are just as human as anybody else. [??]
* All of these people are evil and they are thinking for themselves not being brainwashed. People tried to hide these thoughts when they failed but that is who they truly are.
* Understanding genocide and the context of what happened in the genocides we learned about.
* Even when we can help, people still find an excuse to stay out of it.
* That if you want a good grade, you have to earn it by working hard and staying focused.
* That genocide is continuing to happen because bystanders aren’t getting involved but stopping it can happen.
* That its mostly normal people who haven’t been brainwashed that commit these crimes.
* Genocide will keep occurring until the world and U. N. especially stand up quickly against it.
* The term “genocide” was the most important thing I learned. What I thought it meant is nowhere near what I know it means now!
* Learning about the backgrounds of the Nazi party and Holocaust.
* The genocides that I had never learned at this level.
* How to understand how humans could create such tragedy
* That history does repeat itself & it will unless we do something about it.
* That it’s regular people who are committing the actions.
* Mass genocides are still happening to this day and no one is stepping in to do anything.
* I learned how to manage my time better.
* There was danger in the past, up to the present, and there’s potential to see danger in the future. Speak out for what is right. Inspiration to keep working hard.
* Given the right situation, humans will do very messed up things to other humans.
* That genocide was and can now be done by humans to humans of their own free will.
* Genocide is based on human behavior and it can be repeated.
* Time management and historical thinking.
* There were many genocides, not just the Holocaust.
* The context of the Holocaust and other genocides.
* How the events leading up to genocides are surprisingly similar to each other.
* The context is just important as people and dates; not all genocides are planned for the start, but some are as well.

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

* N/A [2X]
* Nothing.[2X]
* Nothing, I enjoyed the class.
* I would not change anything about this course because everything learned in this course was helpful not only for this course, but for others as well.
* I don’t think I would change anything because I liked everything.
* I wouldn’t change anything, the course was very consistent which I really liked.
* Nothing, I believe what you have in this course should stay in the criteria.
* I wouldn’t change anything, I liked the structure, and the documentaries and readings. I liked the repetition for some things that needed more emphasis.
* Nothing. Lots of students say that this class was “too hard” because there was “too much reading & pop quizzes”, but that’s not true at all.
* I would not change anything—great instructor and course. It’s challenging at times but rewarding.
* Honestly I’d keep the course how it is. The course challenged me, and yes maybe have only passed but I have learned quite a bit academically & improved on my skills.
* I don’t think you change anything about this course, I really enjoyed each homework assignment, quiz and paper. They each in their own way broadened my knowledge immensely about the word genocide.
* The grading is tough but it makes you understand the material instead of just knowing it.
* Less paper [??]
* The last couple of weeks of class were too rushed. I know there’s only so much time, but I think there was too much info in a couple days.
* The amount of homework.
* Maybe add another hour of class per week to cover the topics more.
* Less videos, the book and articles helped but some of the videos didn’t seem very useful at times. [please give specific examples here]
* Not at many documentary assignments because they are very time consuming.
* I would change on when you give the quizzes. Start them a little earlier before class ends.
* The open note exams are to picky & it’s very hard to prepare for them properly [did you ask for help, how many times did you contact me during the semester?]
* An improvement in teachers understanding and sympathy for students [?? Not sure what this means, did you ever come talk to me?]
* Documentaries. They are very time consuming and can pile up quickly. [?? We only assigned one documentary at a time, most were 30-50 minutes long]
* Had a few weird issues with playing of some of the videos (the accounts of Sonderkommando barber, for example) [contact the Help Desk? Contact me? Cannot know about problems if no one tells me about them]
* The only thing that I would change would be the amount of homework assigned every night. I did not have a problem with it but there are many people that have many classes and a ton of homework assigned at one time.
* I would change the amount of homework that is due at one time because some of the information gets confusing when trying to take on so much at one time.
* Something I would change would have there be more group discussion. Have some in class discussions about the material, let us ask questions & be more clear on ideas we learned in the readings. [chances were offered every class to ask questions, especially when we go over the quizzes, there were plenty to chances that I asked questions and no one seemed willing to talk]
* I would give slightly less homework. At times, the reading & video got to be stressful when added up with work from other courses.
* I’d allow 1 sick day pass. I work 40+ hours to pay for my education, I have a sick mother—I’m not coming to class because I don’t care, but because I can’t make it. [we had over 22% bonus points, and it was offered to opt out of the bonus points in favor of make ups for sickness at the beginning of the course. As explained in week one, you can have lots and lots of bonus points and no make ups or make ups and not all the bonus points.].
* A little bit lighter on rules for making up quizzes. Although bonus points are a possibility, quizzes make a huge difference percentage wise. In occurences of doctor’s notes, maybe the possibility should be considered. [22% extra credit during the semester allows a student to miss multiple times and make up for it by earning the bonus points. This policy was very clearly explained in week one. I could drastically lower the bonus points and allow for make ups, but the end result would be exactly the same.]
* One thing I would change would be maybe you could add audio to the textbook. Audio could of help for student better/full comprehend the textbook as learning by hearing & following along. [I don’t make these type of decisions regarding the format of the textbook.]
* Break up the videos or the amount of HW in this class. It was a lot this semester [this is a common complaint and yet the workload is appropriate and will stay the same]
* I would dedicate more time to the genocides that aren’t the Holocaust because most people don’t know about them & and they hold just as much value as the Holocaust. [a good idea, but we don’t have enough time]
* More direction on in class notes [?? Did you ask for help, come and see me, lots of direction provided in TALON]
* Sometimes I felt like I was trying to teach myself because there was so much out of class work and during class we spent most of it taking quizzes and writing about stuff I taught myself outside of class. [quizzes and in-class writings took about 15 minutes, so in a 55 minute class we could not spend most of the time with these activities; how many times did you ask for help or come talk to me?]

**Additional Comments:**

* I am sorry for not giving you more effort sooner that is my fault & I apologize.
* This course has impacted the way I see genocide & all the mass murders around the world. I never knew that all these genocides could have been prevented if the UN & other powers of the world would come together. Thank you for being such an amazing professor & educating students about the world’s most unfulfilled promise.
* I enjoyed how this class made us understand why and how these things happen. I’ve learned more in this one semester class than I did throughout high school.
* I learned a substantial amount of information of facts from the tragic events that have unfolded over the past 100 years. I believe I was fortunate to be a student in your class. Thank you.
* Great course! Really enjoyed everything about it! You have a very successful teaching style!
* This class prepared me for the future because there was so much work and every genocide that we talked about, I had heard of, but there was always more and more new information that I had never heard about. If people were complaining about the amount of homework, then they were not prepared for college because the amount of homework was a lot but every assignment was assigned for a reason and it helped with background information on topics that we went over. I think the best part of this class was having a quiz over most of the homework that was assigned from the previous class. I liked this because it was a great opportunity for people that actually did the assignment to receive bonus points and that was a great way to learn. If anyone ever asked me about this class, I would say yes I did. I would also say that it was a great class and a great way to learn about history that is being forgotten. I could recommend this class to anyone that asks me about it.
* Dr. Yost, Thank you so much for teaching this class, I really needed a teacher who put effort in & someone who cared about me learning the material. You helped me more than you know & honestly I’m very thankful for the opportunity to take it. You’re a great instructor & I’ll always remember taking this class.

**History of Science**

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

* Everything.
* Everything. I really learned a lot from this class, things I thought were very interesting. I also really liked the documentaries, I learn better this way.
* While I was initially worried about how difficult the class would be, it really helped me push myself as a student. The course is fine if the student tries.
* I think the workload is good, it’s not overwhelming but it’s enough to gain a thorough understanding of the material. The quizzes helped a lot too.
* The study guides and the viewing guides, these helped me focus my notes a lot better than I thought I could. They also followed the timeline of each video or readings which also helped.
* The documentaries really helped explain the information well. Also, the amount of work required helped push myself to learn the content better.
* I liked everything about this course. It was very challenging and frustrating sometimes, but in the end it was worth it.
* The daily quizzes and extra credit opportunities because in ensures people that want a good grade can earn it through these. Workload is a bit much but I would say it is definitely appropriate and manageable.
* Open note/handout. It’s really nice if you are bad at remembering specifics in history.

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

* How and why we know what we do about the world. The actual content of the class was very interesting.
* While the history part is important, time management and study habits are probably the best thing I learned.
* Stuff about evolution as I had it all wrong.
* Time management, especially during exams.
* The different ways to manage time, and note taking also helped with “guided” note taking.
* To not attack past history with a presentism train of thought.
* I couldn’t point to one specific thing, but in general I have different aspects on things in life because of this class.
* My note taking skills improved which will help in my other classes
* As a science major, I learned more about basic fundamentals in science, which isn’t covered in many classes. I feel this helped me with my scientific understanding.

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

* Nothing.[3X]
* Nothing. I felt that I learned everything I wanted to throughout this class.
* The final book feels like an afterthought given how in depth the rest of the content was. I’m not sure how to improve this though. [just the inherent limitations of the semester format, we can’t cover everything in the depth we might like]
* I would have liked if the first textbook had bigger text so readers can easily it for more than the 10-20 minutes without going crosseyed [??]
* Lecture was great, Dr. Yost does a good job of explaining different concepts on the assignments assigned prior to class. However, I think it would be beneficial to have some discussion based lectures to engage the students. I would also suggest more encouragement on the professors behalf and attempt to make connections with students. This makes for a welcoming environment in which a student could be comfortable to learn.
* Less repeating what was read and more new in class information in lectures [I am not aware of lecturing from the textbooks, would need more specific information here] I feel like if you did the homework it isn’t super interesting and hard to actively engage at lecture time.

**Additional Comments:**

* Thank you!
* Really enjoyed this class, felt like I was actually learning something.
* I am a bad test taker, so it was a little hard for me. But, I am glad I took this class.
* I know we got off on the wrong foot in earlier classes, but I’m glad I took the course and I did enjoy it. This taught me to keep working and grind when times get hard. I appreciate you for letting me take the course.

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

* All the different examples of how history affects us in the present, because it’s neat.
* Textbook readings, they are challenging but not a huge leap for people coming out of high school.
* I think the daily quizzes are helpful, not only points wise but in terms of making sure you’re prepared.
* The workload is stunning at first but helps to encourage strong work ethic, especially in first year students like me.
* Book readings & online readings with quizzes because it force me to read and take detailed notes.
* Consistent point value earned in quizzes
* I would keep the quizzes and writings every day for points.
* I would keep the daily quizzes because they force me to keep up on the reading and the bonus points were helpful.
* The extra online readings were helpful, since they usually connected to the textbook.
* Keep the course load because it helps practice time management and managing lots of work.
* I have grown to like the quizzes because this way, your true effort will be shown in your grade.
* Open note quizzes, it is the best way to learn a lot of content in a short amount of time.
* I would keep most of the information. It is all in the course description.

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

* Better ways to take notes
* How interpretation is a big part of everything.
* The strengths and ideals held by Roman leaders. A lot of people draw upon them to strengthen their rhetoric.
* .Lots of things we use today are from ancient Greece and Rome.
* Note taking and time management
* Do the homework
* I learned putting in the time and effort can be very beneficial.
* Don’t skip class
* How to plan out my homework times and getting done between all my other responsibilities.
* How to take more precise notes
* History of writing and ancient civ
* I learned the Greeks and Romans had a bigger impact in America besides Latin root word.

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

* Can’t think of anything
* Nothing
* Nothing really set up very well
* Practice IDs were a bit confusing at first, became easier after we did a few.
* I would change the amount of homework
* I would like they’re not to be so much online and book work. To have most of the work in our book, or most online.
* If possible, shorter, more informationally packed, documentaries would be cool. Some of them nearly put me to sleep. [most documentaries were less than 40-50 minutes, and you could watch them whenever you wanted rather than in class at one shot]
* While the documentaries were beneficial some felt repeatative if we had already read it in the book [for example?] and an online reading so I would say only have students watch certain segments [it’s hard to know which docs this is referring to without more specific examples]
* The amount of homework given each night, the amount of IDs, actually get rid of the quotation identification entirely those test your ability to memorize facts not interperte and therefore go against what your trying to encourage. [??? Very confusing, perhaps you needed tutoring, how many times did you ask questions or come see me?]
* .take out some online readings. It can get to be quite a lot with taking other classes and trying to have a job [the most common grades were As-Bs, so the workload is manageable]
* Personally, I believe that the documentaries weren’t really needed [such as?] If there were readings already assigned with it, I didn’t see the point to adding a long documentary. I felt the assignments were also repetitive, especially if there were 4 things assigned in one night for 1 topic. [We had 4 things assigned in one night 4 times the entire semester, and some of those were in lieu of a class meeting.]
* I would want assignments to be posted a week in advance [simply not possible given that I don’t always know what the exact assignments will be, this was also discussed at the start of the semester] so I could plan out my assignments ahead. Sometimes I couldn’t spend the time I wanted on assignments b/c assignments only gave me 2 days to do it and I have 4 other classes and a job. [welcome to college, that’s what it is balancing and managing your time]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fall ’04 to Fall ‘18****Surveys: 1575** |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes**  | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **1243** | **189** | **143** |  |
| **Writing** | **1198** | **209** | **174** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1453** | **67** | **54** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **1343** | **74** | **157** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1475** | **37** | **63** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **1315** | **65** | **207** |  |
| **Time management** |  **1084** | **166** | **139** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **9111** | **807** |  **937** | **83.93** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |