**Course Feedback (Spring 2010)**

**[Surveys: 65]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 55 6 4 84.6**

**Writing 52 8 5 80.0**

**Note-taking 57 5 3 87.7**

**Time management 52 8 5 80.0**

**Interpretation 52 4 9 80.0**

**Historical thinking 64 0 1 98.5**

**Critical analysis 57 2 6 87.7**

**Total Yes =** **85.5%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

Even though I didn’t do very well in this course I think everything should stay. It was interesting and it’s the only class I’ve taken that hasn’t babied me which is what college should be more like.

Primary source documents because they are the main sources that are to be used in historical research and it is good for people to be exposed to them.

The amount of homework.

I would keep everything in this course, because it was all important and about the Holocaust and genocides.

Info about different genocides and definition of a genocide.

I would keep the reading assignments/quizzes because, I really learned how to develop my note taking skills, and reading skills.

I like the weekly quizzes, it definitely makes you accountable for the readings. I also like how you’d still go over important information to make sure we understood the text. You know what you’re teaching and are organized so you make it easier to learn.

The quizzes and reading requirements. It actually entices the student to learn the material because their grades depend on how well they know the material. I would also keep the bonus points & open notes opportunities. It’s rewarding when you do the readings and take good notes and get to use them.

I would keep the videos because they helped me remember facts that I might have missed in the readings.

The extra credit on the reading quizzes because it helped to balance the grade if you missed a previous, or didn’t do as well on a paper.

The book was great—full of facts and stories. There was almost too much! But I really enjoyed it. Also, the quizzes are a must.

I enjoyed a lot about the course. I was glad that it wasn’t strictly Holocaust, so we could learn about issues you never learned in grade school.

The daily quizzes with the bonus points as it helps ensure you stay current with your readings.

The VOD that go along with the readings b/c it makes a bigger impact and helps people who are visual learners.

Book & powerpoints. Helps with readings and really gives info on what is important and what’s on the exams.

Just a better understanding of the Holocaust and genocide alone. I didn’t know a whole lot about them.

The reading quiz because they motivated me to take notes and actually do the reading.

The quizzes helping your exam scores, so if you didn’t do well on the exams you could make up for it.

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

Opened my eyes to Lenin & Stalin with the USSR where I plan to continue to learn and expand my understanding of the events in the USSR during WWII.

We’re all affected by the Holocaust whether there or not.

About the Soviet Union and Joseph Stalin, because I had never heard about the democide before this class.

Events of the past effect the future.

Not everyone is innocent in a genocide. You have the initiators, the victims, and the bystanders.

Respect of life, how prejudice & hatred can do a lot of damage.

Jews weren’t the only victims of the Holocaust and how much I enjoyed learning about this topic & not all history is boring!! I also wasn’t aware of the severity of the losses of life. I also learned how a great deal of history in a variety of subjects are correlated to the Holocaust, so knowing background info helped me understand.

I learned that time management is important if you want to do good in any class.

History can always repeat itself.

That you must know the history before the Holocaust to fully understand it and that note taking is extremely important, not to mention helpful.

Time management, study skills, & note taking skills.

That things similar to the Holocaust have happened many times before and since.

That there is always things that lead to the mass killing (democides/genocides) they don’t just happen and people don’t follow along right away.

I learned how horrible each genocide was no matter how it was done. The skills I will take from this class are note taking and writing.

That people can do evil things, and will continue to do so. Always about power, religion, etc… Genocide can happen anywhere and anytime.

That the Holocaust wasn’t the only significant genocide committed in the world.

The importance of the Holocaust, Stalin’s communism, Khmer rouge & Rwanda because it’s an important part of history.

There were more genocides besides the Holocaust.

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

Nothing.

Nothing.

I wouldn’t really change anything about the course. I would more change the way I did things in the course. It’s really not too hard if you do all the reading and watch the videos. I wish I would’ve done more reading and watched the videos.

More VODs

I would change it so their was more time to learn about Rwanda and Darfur.

I would change maybe going more into genocides of like Cambodia and Rwanda.

I felt we spent so much time on the Holocaust and not a lot of background or understanding of the Stalinist terror or Cambodia/Rwanda.

More concentration with Stalin & USSR if possible but understandable that there are many things outside WWII that need to be covered.

The broadness of the test questions. Even if I feel I’ve specified my answer enough, it is still isn’t what you’re looking for. Plus, broad questions all for rambling and insignificant facts/points. The VODs, especially those specific to the Holocaust are hard to understand because the German sounds different then the words look, making it hard to take accurate notes. [??]

Not so much reading packed into one week, it felt overwhelming at times. [the class meets once a week, hence lots of reading each assignment]

I didn’t like the short clips in class, they are harder to follow even with the talking in between and it was harder to get the whole picture.

The amount of readings assigned, you start to put less effort into the reading if you have to read too much. [??]

I’m horrible at essay tests, so that’s what I’d probably change. Although that’s probably exactly what I need, I never do well on them which is discouraging. [you only get better by practicing what you’re not good at]

Add more genocides or be able to spend more time on the other genocides.

A lot of reading and information to take in at one time that is very vital.

The written assignments—Grading rubric, I don’t really agree with. I would get rid of it. [??]

Maybe how broad the questions were on the exams. It make it very difficult and hard to come up with exactly the right answer.

**Additional Comments:**

I really enjoyed this class and how it challenged me as well as opened my eyes to events I either knew little about or nothing about.

I loved this class and I’m sad it’s over ☹ However, I’ll see you next year in another class!

I really enjoyed the class!

Fantastic course!

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

The reading & writing and quizzes. The bigger picture as being the focus of the material. It’s important to know, what, when, who and why!

New note taking skills, I am reading more and attempting to understand what I am reading. I would keep all the reading and the website, way helpful especially the readings online.

Primary source readings & analysis; powerpoints w/ art. Variety is very helpful to get a rounded view of events and concepts.

Extra credit because it helps bring up grades.

Reading quizzes (make sure reading is done), anything with Liam Neeson narrating.

The explanation of Latin and Greek phrasing. Though this course isn’t for Latin or Greek, it’s fun learning the origin of words.

I would keep the class quizzes, it has students interpret their not as important [?]

The same teacher

All- it builds support.

I think it is interesting to learn the history to so many things that I thought I knew about already. I enjoyed learning about the history of names and languages, also Dante’s Inferno, stigmata and how depictions of the Bible change dramatically over time.

The pictures & contrasts over time—it helped to see more examples than what’s in the textbook.

The quizzes really helped me redo how I take notes. I loved all the sources we reviewed and learned to better interpret truth from feelings.

I like that it’s something every class. You read, you take a quiz. It’s constant ☺ there’s also a lot of variety with videos and pictures. I liked learning about the paintings & architecture, that was a neat section.

Notes –reading skills.

The extra credit, gives more incentive to go to class and do the work.

Debunking myths, learning about historical/lack thereof evidence of Jesus/origins of Xianity. Understanding why things happened how they did. Learning how events are tied in.

Primary sources, and outside of the book examples because it applies our reading to other connecting documents and ideas of the times we have read about.

The note taking w/ quizzes, helped me understand the material better.

The note taking and the reading quizzes because not only does it make you read the book to learn the information, but the quizzes allow for those “easy” points and bonus points so those who are not very good at written essays can make up those points.

The quizzes because they definitely help if the exam went bad.

Not taking anything at face value.

I really enjoyed how many time periods we were able to get through.

The critical analysis and emphasizing the importance of being able to discern what can be taken seriously and what has been changed over time. It gave me a different view of history.

Everything, it was a good course.

Bonus points.

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

How to efficiently read a textbook and take useful notes.

How to take notes better, and to have better study habits.

Good note-taking skills

How to take notes and how to read more critically.

Note taking and reading is very important.

Note taking & historical thinking.

Note-taking & reading & critical thinking, think while reading don’t just read to get it done.

Taking as many notes as possible, it really helps on quizzes/tests and makes it stick better in memory.

Time management, note taking skills.

Time management and note taking skills.

Critical thinking and how to keep thoughts organized and writing on a deadline. You made the subject tangible, relevant and real and I use it all the time in my other classes.

The difference between good teaching and useless teaching in another class. I’m here to learn, not waste time.

To not take everything for what others tell you it is. To do the research yourself, to be more open minded and see things from a new perspective.

Being analytical

Taking facts in history and using them to piece together their relevance to the big picture.

That it [history] is more important than I first thought

Connecting small parts to understand big picture.

Ask questions—examine sources & motivation of sources.

Even primary sources have a bias and to notice the period it was written vs. when the event took place.

Nothing is ever as simple as it seems. History in high school is garbage.

How religion has impacted everything in the middle ages, and how events today can be traced to them.

Religion is messed up.

How religion played a big role in shaping Europe.

The history of Christianity. I’m not religious, but I find it interesting.

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

Nothing comes to mind

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing really, this class makes you think more than probably any of us have had to do. Thinking never really hurt anyone. [or did it…? ☺]

Not sure

Nothing at the moment.

I would change the amount of IDs, possibly less, per test and only use one of the very most influential people [?? 10-12 listed, student generated of major people, places, events, with open notes & handouts, only have to pick two]

Timed writings ☺ [??]

More quizzes over readings from sourcebook? I enjoyed reading a lot of them, the first accounts were interesting, and I would have liked to voice my thoughts on them or maybe be given the chance to prove that I read them. [good idea!]

Multiple choice questions on quizzes because fill in the blank works better [?? 90+% of quizzes were fill in the blank]

Essay exams—hard to get what you want out in time [then more practice, review, and better organization are needed: practice, practice, practice]

Didn’t really like VODs, maybe less videos in class. Not sure what to replace/do differently though.

Huge reading assignment/text readings, no time to study for other courses [?? readings were not huge, adjust expectations from high school in terms of commitment and study time required]

Better study guides (they suck) [study guides will not change based upon “they suck,” study guides will not spoon-feed exact info to study for and what to ignore, they already have plenty of information of what to expect in terms of content, essay topics, and exam format]

Exam [??]

Sometimes homework was a little overwealing, having 3 or 4 things to do for class is a lot sometimes.

Not to overload with information, it is hard to keep up and retain it.

Better communication when student misses class—having to expect another student to care enough to give you missing assignments didn’t work as well as direct communication with professor.

A little more discussion, might help students learn better to be more involved and not space off.

Less bonus points. Although I think that these points are good for making up the difference with the difficult tests that are most likely new for students, I feel that 100+ are more than needed. [Very odd complaint]

More points split up on exams.[??]

Possibly longer time on tests. It’s extremely hard to finish even if you have prepared. [that’s the point, exams are more challenging, more difficult, and hence the bonus points on quizzes]

Quotations. Those were not the best. [??]

The videos, I found myself not paying attention during these times. [then learn to pay attention, concentrate, make the effort to improve]

More clearly defined essay topics or more practice essays [offered in class hints, tips, website prep info, practice outside of class, plenty of support for students who take initiative]

**Additional comments:**

I didn’t like this class at first, but it got better over time & I really did enjoy it. ☺

I just wanted to say I really enjoyed your class. You’re clearly a very dedicated, knowledgeable, teacher and a student could expect or should expect no less. I know I only got a D, but that’s because I’m lazy and bears no reflection on you. I look forward to taking another class with you….

I loved this class in spite of working my butt off ☺

**Europe: Age of Nationalism**

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

The style of having a reading quiz every day pushes students to do the readings and thus they get a better understanding of the material.

The reading quizzes because they really kept me on track with the readings. They also help you keep your grade up if you don’t know exactly how to answer essay tests.

As much work as the course is, it keeps you on track and must do the work to know topics and earn a grade, wouldn’t change!

It’s all good I like that this class weeds out the “weak”

The lecture was by far the most helpful part of this course. The reading was not as in depth or as clear.

The readings and structure. It helps in learning the material and improves note taking.

I think having the bonus points on the reading quiz were good. It was an easy way to earn bonus points if you did the readings.

I liked the course just the way it is. I found it very interesting despite it being the only course I can’t just show up for a grade.

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

This class tells about how the modern day world was formed. Nothing in this class was uninformative and what we learned pertains to life today. How governments have shaped the world is very important.

The most important thing I learned and developed was my time management. This class helped me develop it better.

Time management—how to prepare for tests rather than just looking over notes.

Even though I didn’t do a good job of it, I learned that time management is key.

I need to re-evaluate my time management skills.

That everything in one part of history affects another part.

Do the work and come to class. These simple things will get you far.

I’ve always been interested in why things are the way they are & the actual history lesson I got out of this course is more important to me personally then whether I passed or failed and the class made me work on paying attention also.

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

I wouldn’t change anything I enjoyed the class/course just as is.

There honestly isn’t anything I would change.

Wouldn’t change assignments/reading require you to keep up, and improve your grade.

The VOD was hard for me to sit down and watch due to personal life. But that’s just my experience.

More tests as it might make more of the things we learned stick better.

I would give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 12 more points. [☺]

I would put in a quiz at the end of each chapter in order to keep the material fresh in our heads. By the time the essays came around, some of the material was forgotten from the earlier chapters.

**Additional Comments:**

Excellent class, I enjoyed it. Favorite of the semester.

**History of Science**

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

I would keep all of the material, I’ve learned more in this class than any other class. The material is interesting, it’s pretty much the only class that I talk about & use outside of class. The reading quizzes are a good idea & the study guides help so much.

I like the study guides that accompany the readings. I also like that you actually make students do the readings, unlike other teachers.

The material, the lessons made it interesting & more easily understood.

The study guides pair extremely well with the books.

Allowing notes & handouts to be used on quizzes and exams. Bonus points kept my grade at a “B,” even after getting a “D” on both of the exams.

Reading quizzes. Bonus points are further incentive for reading and effective note taking.

This course has taught me more than any other class, I would keep the books and the assignments that are used.

I would definitely keep the extra credit because it acts as an extra incentive to do all of the reading and to take GOOD notes, makes it easier (takes pressure off) if you don’t do as well as you think on the test.

My understanding of how and why people of the past thought and did things the way they did.

I like that quizzes each class period require students to do the reading.

The historical information relating to science, etc.

All the textbooks, quizzes with the extra credit.

The importance of looking at history in a historic perspective. This means that I am not looking into historical events with a presentist view.

The bonus points on every quiz.

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

In order to fully understand any content area, one must look at its past and development through a contextualist lens that takes into account both internal and external factors.

I learned about the actual history of science, a subject that is avoided to be taught in high school. I also learned to view things from a historical perspective.

What steps history went through for us to be where we are in science today.

Presentism versus contextualism and internalism versus externalism.

It is hard to try and pick just one thing when there has been so much information taught.

The mechanics of E = mc2

How diligent work all through the semester actually pays off (not taking the final).

I learned how not to take a presentist approach when learning about science in the past. I now have a better understanding of how to interpret the issues of the past.

Increased reading comprehension; attention to detail.

Viewing history or anything only from ones self does not project a fair view of people’s ideas/thought.

To question most things with greater analysis.

Learning how past natural philosophers were able to come up with their models of the universe. They did not come up with these models instantly, but by past people and different approaches.

To look at history from their view, allows for better understanding.

It is important to look at history without a presentist view.

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

Nothing, you are very well prepared with materials and classroom activities. If your students do the work, they will succeed in this class.

Nothing, your course is a good way of “weeding out” the people who don’t care from those who want to be here.

Nothing.

I would spend more time working on my reading and writing skills. My reading skills will allow me to attain more information. My writing skills will allow me to interpret and write out what I know in a nice and clear way.

I’d make it later in the day.

Maybe do a step by step test, I never understood, or was able to give, the information you want in the essay.

I think this class needs to meet more often in order to get everything in more nicely.

Add one in-class longer essay to prepare for the test (give 30 minutes to write).

I would cut back on the amount of information that is expected to cover in a short amount of time. [already have cut back….don’t plan on cutting even more]

Not reading the E=mc2 book because it has a lot of filler in it on background info & not all info is necessary for understanding.

I didn’t care for the E=mc2 book [?? Have to be more specific, it’s usually one of the more popular books among students]

Less stringent grading and evaluation of student work.

The tests are pretty different. I felt I always understood the material but the tests couldn’t portray my success because the tests make you focus on one person that you should have studied. I feel its not a good way of testing students. Test over everything, not just a specific term or person. [?? Exam questions didn’t just test over one person, and essays are the best way of testing over a broad area of knowledge]

Sometimes, even though you don’t care that your intimidating you are & it is a learning barrier [if you make it one, I won’t change my personality]. Your want to help us be better students is understandable but you have to be approachable too because sometimes things happen [?? If you never make an effort to approach, then you don’t know if I’m approachable, this is an excuse]

**Additional Comments:**

Thank you, you were the only class I took where I had to try harder than average

Excellent. Best history class I have actually ever taken.

**GRAND TOTALS (2004- 2009)**

**[Surveys: 631]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % (Yes)**

**Reading** 480 87 64 76.01%

**Writing** 465 91 75 73.69%

**Note-taking** 571 37 23 90.49%

**Interpretation** 545 36 50 86.37%

**Historical thinking** 598 15 18 94.77%

**Critical analysis** 527 28 76 83.52%

**Time management** 347 68 65 [480] 72.29%

**Totals: 3533 362 371 82.81%**