**Course Feedback (Spring 2011)**

**[Surveys: 60]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 51 5 4 85.0**

**Writing 38 14 8 63.3**

**Note-taking 56 3 1 93.3**

**Time management 45 6 9 75.0**

**Interpretation 50 3 7 83.3**

**Historical thinking 56 0 4 93.3**

**Critical analysis 49 0 11 81.7**

**Total Yes =** 82.14%

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

Everything. Well rounded coverage of the Middle Ages, I like the combination of slides, videos and textbooks, always great not to have the lecture be out of the text!

I would keep EVERYTHING about this course. It was one of the most helpful classes I have ever taken.

I would keep everything that we went over. I thought we spent a good deal of time on each chapter and I thoroughly enjoyed the class.

I learned the most from writing 1 page papers based on an article. Those set up ideas and another way of looking at things that the book didn’t provide.

Daily quizzes over the material we were supposed to read. Reading the textbook is a great way to learn, and without reading it, you will fail the quizzes, and if you fail the quizzes you fail the class. So in a way the quizzes force us to read the book.

The reading and quizzes because they gave you a good understanding and also the videos because if you didn’t understand something in the reading it helped elaborate the questions you may have had.

The various teaching methods are beneficial.

I enjoyed the book and most of the reading and writing assignments. They were interesting and the questions were thought provoking.

The way we do quizzes because it makes me do the reading and get an understanding. And it is more fun and more beneficial to my learning than multiple choice. Also, the papers we write, the questions make me think outside the box and think about explanations of why and how!

Lots of different forms of evidence & sources.

I liked the flow of info. Things in early chapters began to make sense in later chapters as the big picture was created.

The reading and quizzes. They make you read for the important parts in the text and allow the hard working students to excel.

The orientation around details and their various interpretations. It opens the mind on how history is perceived.

All of it, well thought out content.

The amount of writing in depth portrayals along with being able to analyze historical evidence.

I would definitely keep the abundance of reading quizzes and bonus points! Also, keep the tests all essay. It really helps making the big picture connections and engraves the material in the brain.

The reading—the notes I take and being allowed too look back I am able to absorb the material better.

I would keep the daily quizzes because it forces the student to read the material and pay attention to the reading. Plus the points are helpful.

The various reading quizzes, they encourage reading and bonus points are awesome.

The reading quizzes they help with people actually reading which gives you more help on the exams when you have notes.

The readings.

The way the quizzes are with 7 questions each worth 2 points

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

How the bible was written. I didn’t know there were non-canonical gospels and I didn’t know most of the gospels were written centuries after Jesus had died.

How to write critically in a short amount of time, along with how to really absorb information from all aspects of learning—video, textbook, artwork, etc…

Time management for sure! Putting aside the right amount of time each night to take thorough notes.

Religion—I am agnostic and to be able to learn about Christianity really opens my eyes about Christianity.

I liked the first few chapters about the start of Christianity.

That I do enjoy learning about History. ☺ I have always thought it was pointless to learn and it really bored me, but this class opened my eyes that it is more than dates and people and it is actually very interesting and kind of fun ☺

About how Christianity and Islam were created.

How religion has had an effect on history

Within years of Columbus landing in the Caribbean, the indigenous people were wiped out.

How to prepare for essays, note-taking.

How historical opinion differs from past fact. Our last written assignment makes a truly valid point.

To do your work on time & well

How to organize my notes better… How to take better notes overall

How to take notes while reading from textbooks

To take good notes and understand what I’m reading and learning

History changes

I learned a bit on how all the pieces of history fit together

How to look at history critically. Don’t take it at face value anymore.

I learned that history classes don’t have to be about memorizing names and dates. There is much more to it than that

History isn’t just names, dates, facts, and figures, but the interpretations of all these.

There is more to history than random dates, people, and facts.

The origins of my religion (Christianity) and my European ancestors

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

Nada

N/A

Nope.

Nothing

I would change nothing about the course.

Probably nothing. This was a pretty good class.

I can’t think of anything to change.

I really can’t think of any changes to be made to this class

I can’t think of much that needs to be changed… Maybe the VODs, but I think it was my computer creeping out, not the video.

Possibly a pre-requisite for a course on writing with an emphasis on handwriting due to the amount of writing during tests.

More class discussion over the reading because it would have helped better understand & remember what we read. [come get help anytime, ask questions in class]

A little less reading from the book (some parts didn’t seem very important) [??] & less videos & more in class discussion.

The at home video.

I really wish we would have done more out of class video watching. We have that nice website to put videos on, but only used it once or twice.

No multiple choice quizzes.

Have more reading quizzes based on the sourcebook readings. It’s cool to read about the material in the words of those associated with it.

Would change the way we take notes when we watch videos in class… I have a hard time to focus on the questions while I’m trying to understand what happens… Let us take notes with guided questions and have a quiz or paper where we will write our understanding of the video.

Not as many writing assignments at the same time as a lot of reading assignments.

**History of Science**

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

Pretty much everything. Very well set up course.

The style of not just teaching what is in the book. It is more interesting that way.

Keep most everything.

Unit on evolution because I just like the subject a lot.

I would keep everything that we went over in class.

Quizzes & bonus points were very helpful, because they ensured that I would come to class & that I was prepared.

My reading and note-taking skills will do me the greatest good.

Taking quiz, becoz it helps me to reading materials and also helps to improve note-taking.

I liked learning. I liked the reading because you opened my eyes to other ways of thinking. Helped me to look at things historically.

I would keep most everything except…

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

That scientific theories develop in a specific historical context and to understand them you must look at “the big picture.”

Better study habits and that science is not an exact science [??]

Complete all the reading assignments and you will do just fine.

Historical thinking (besides also note-taking and reading).

Self discipline, contextual thinking, historical relevance of today’s modern sciences.

I learned that evolution didn’t just pop into Darwin’s head during the Beagle trip around the world, but rather several years after the trip. I also learned that natural selection is what is controversial among scientists and not evolution itself.

That a lot of things I thought I knew about history aren’t true. Also how to think contextually.

How important context is to science, and how science is affected by many different factors.

That past science can’t be judged on modern standards.

I learned to be patient.

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

I would change nothing, this class was really hard, but very informative and interesting.

I would want to go over Evolution and E=mc2 more because I found those two subjects very interesting.

Nothing. If anything, I would like to have talked about the discovery of DNA and how that impacted the biological sciences.

Nothing, everything seemed to work well.

Nothing.

Nothing.

Some of the readings or/and documentaries seemed redundent in some areas. Like I read about the same thing over and over [??] and it was hard to focus on the new information (especially with Aristotle and elements, etc.).

More relevant homework [??] Great subjects but to only study [?? not clear what this means] for a timed quiz I did not think was good.

I would have a few graded note taking assignments at the beginning of the semester to force people to get into the habit of taking notes.

Would add more about the history of anatomy, go deeper into the physics and clasical sciences.

**Additional Comments:**

I loved this class!

The homework is very time consuming juggling hmwk for this class and my 3 other classes is very stressful.

I would prefer the normal test structure even if it is not as effective. I struggled with tests in that format over multiple chapters. [?? Struggling is part of education, so you can get better]

Do not be swayed by senseless technology, keep it simple. [??]

**Additional comments:**

You have been a great educator!

This is a challenging but manageable class. This instructor is always excited to teach and really knows the material inside and out.

This was one of the best classes I have taken. I have never enjoyed history, but I actually learned a lot of interesting things in this course. Everything in the class helped me develop my reading, writing, and note-taking skills.

**Europe: Age of Nationalism**

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

The amount of homework with its repetition, it really keeps you on your toes.

The structure is good however I wish I could compare it to another history class because it was difficult.

The reading assignments because since it’s a history course you have to have reading involved.

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

It’s important to take helpful notes that I understand and important to attend class.

The impact of rulers during the time period covered and how people/countries were influenced by nationalism. I learned a lot from this course & I understand today’s times better because of it.

Important thing I learned about this course is to do the assignments, take notes and attend class.

I learned a lot it’s hard to pinpoint one thing. Most importantly I learned a lot about why things are the way they are in the world today.

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

I would change the way the course syllabus goes since we didn’t get to chapter 28. [?? We did get to part of it, but this was explained clearly in class several times]

Add more video watchings, these are more educational than reading a bunch of random facts pasted in a book. [?? The textbook is not random facts, as was discussed many times in class. Also, students didn’t do well on the video-related assignments including straight-forward quizzes]

The exams are very difficult you tell us to think “big picture” but you want specific answers. [yes, these two go together] I feel this makes matters very difficult. I’ve learned a lot however my grade does not measure up to what I’ve learned. [?? You have to demonstrate what you’ve learned in different ways, some which you haven’t done before so you have to practice, ask for help, and get better]

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

The way you write your tests should stay. Not only do they make students use more critical thinking tools, they help for essay questions we have in other classes as well.

Essay tests, no multiple choice, reading supplemented w/videos, no final if you like your grade.

The essay part of the exam. Better than multiple choice, shows better understanding.

The extra points.

Everything. All that you did in this class and made us do helped understand the material.

I loved the assigned textbook, it was easy to read and very informative.

The VOD mixed with readings, getting a look at both helps understanding the material.

The documentaries were very tough to take but a necessary part of truly understanding what happened.

The VODs. I would say this only because I like more visual examples of what happened rather than just reading from a book or website.

The Holocaust book was good material.

The one hour cutback of class to watch the assigned video.

The 2 hours a week instead of 3 is really nice and I like the way homework is done also group work is awesome.

I enjoyed the VOD portions. It was a good way to get information from people that actually lived through the events.

VOD provides good insight.

The fact that you allowed us to use open notes.

The quizzes every day. They help understand key points & summarize better.

The one class a week.

The videos helped understand what I’m reading.

The format of the class, two hour classes with one hour of video to watch on our own was good. Being a night class, I would probably fall asleep watching a video at 8pm. This helps me learn more from the video.

Videos because I like a visual of what happened.

If I didn’t stay with it I would have to pay for the class. [??]

The War & Genocide book we used. It was interesting and worth reading.

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

The being prejudiced says more about the person who is prejudiced than the people who the prejudice is about.

Man’s inhumanity to man is boundless, beware of political ideologues, of every stripe.

That it’s hard to learn about, but it makes me feel like a better person for forcing myself to know about it.

I learned that everything I already knew about this course material only touched the surface of what really happened.

Not sure. I think learning about the lesser known genocides was probably the most helpful to me (Armenian, “democide”, Cambodia). Also learning about the definition of genocide and the ties that come along with it.

The Holocaust didn’t just up and happen it was brought on by the preconditions.

More elements to the Holocaust than most people know & what we learned in high school about the Holocaust.

Learned in great detail the historical context of the Holocaust.

Besides the Holocaust, there are a lot of different forms of genocide. Did not know about the Armenian genocide and the more recent ones until this class.

Holocaust was not just Hitler, interesting to hear the behind the scenes of Nazi Germany.

All of the information in general about the Holocaust and the other genocides in the past century. I learned a lot of stuff I didn’t know before this class.

There are things going on in the world that need to be shown and that people do need our help.

Jewish Holocaust was the most important and where I felt I learned the most.

Much important history along with how and why they happened. The ideologies of groups who committed the acts was very interesting.

Genocide is a human problem, have to change human nature to cure genocide.

You have to do the work and talk to the professor.

That the Holocaust was not only Jews because that was the basis of what I learned in high school. It didn’t go into much detail.

A more specific and clear understanding of WWI, WWII, and other events we learned about.

What happened before the Holocaust is why the Holocaust happen.

There was more than just one genocide.

That the Jews were NOT the only victims in the Holocaust.

I think it was important to learn about genocides that I had never heard of before like the Armenian genocide or the Ukrainian famine.

Learning the significance and real defiance of the Holocaust. Also other genocides that are blinded yet so important.

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

I think you could just study the Holocaust & no other genocides during a semester time period [true, but the course is broader because it’s taught at a community college]. Also, I probably would have done a paper if I could have chosen my own topic.

More videos in class.

Sometimes the amount to do for each time is a lot but it’s not too bad when you get into the hang of it.

I would have more papers because I thought when we had to write papers it helped me further understand the material.

More time on the essays as a whole.

I would not show the graphic parts in class, I’d rather be in the privacy of my own home for that.

The only thing I would change would be extending the amount of time, if possible, in class that we discuss each genocide.

A lot of material to read and watch for each class. Also notes have to be incredibly specific to cover anything that’d be on the quiz. [provided study guides illustrate what to look for]

Maybe lighten up the reading load.

Less reading. It was overwhelming at times when there are other things in other classes & for people in extra curriculars [reading load is explained and appropriate for a college-level night class]

More in class note taking.

I understand that you teach a wide range of students, some focused, some without computer knowledge. The amount of time we spent on how to get to computer related items was too long. [?? Not really, we didn’t spend any more than 5-10 minutes on this at the very beginning of the semester]

Personally, I thought I learned more by watching videos. So I would suggest more videos and less reading. [?? This is in conflict with the evidence, which shows that students learn as much or more from reading and notes as they do from videos]

More writings over readings like source analysis.

Get rid of the few irrelevant questions concerning people’s names who don’t have any relevance to the Holocaust and genocide in general [?? Would need an example here]

Wish we would have watch a movie in class🡪 like a full movie, more class interaction.

How class time is used. I wish that we spent more class time going over most recent material to help clear things up and increase understanding, rather than going over old material for an hour. [?? Ask questions then, plenty of chances to ask them]

More class interaction so that we can be involved in class, instead of just lecture. [?? Very little straight lecturing during the semester]

I think it was nice that you challenged us to try harder, after all this is a college course. However, I believe you ask us to be WAY to specific. I took good notes & still had (spec., elab,. Sig.) written everywhere. [then come ask for help, did you?] You can only be so specific when writing an essay. I also think you base answers on your own opinions [?? Such as, give an example]. Tone it down a little.

Less of the VOD watching requirements.

Towards the end of the semester I felt like we jumped around a lot between Stalin, Cambodia, Rwanda, & Darfur. It was hard for me to focus in on those certain genocides. [?? Not clear since we examined each one chronologically]

**Additional Comments:**

Learned more than I have in any other class. I enjoyed this course.

I absolutely loved this class. It helped me learn so much I never knew about the Holocaust and other genocides. This is a very difficult class but VERY knowledge filled and I feel very student should take this class because this is very important to know and understand. Great job teaching and thanks so much for all you have taught me!

**GRAND TOTALS (2004- 2011)**

**[Surveys: 817]**

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

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

**Reading** 630 107 80 77.11%

**Writing** 596 118 103 72.94%

**Note-taking** 745 45 27 91.18%

**Interpretation** 698 45 74 85.43%

**Historical thinking** 766 18 33 93.75%

**Critical analysis** 674 34 109 82.49%

**Time management** 484 91 91 [666] 72.67%

**Totals: 4593 458 517 82.49%**