**Course Feedback (Spring 2012)**

**[Surveys: 36]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 26 5 5 72**

**Writing 27 6 3 75**

**Note-taking 35 1 0 97**

**Time management 32 2 2 89**

**Interpretation 33 1 2 92**

**Historical thinking 36 0 0 100**

**Critical analysis 32 1 3 89**

**Total Yes =** 88%

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

Everything. This class was a great class in terms of structure. Though the content is sad, if taught by the right person the information will sink in better which is what you have done as a teacher. This was a great class and I’m glad I took it.

I would keep doing everything, I think this is the ideal college class. A lot of classes & teachers I’ve had are pushovers and that does not prepare me for the future.

Everything about this course is great. Professor Yost does an excellent job teaching this course. Those who don’t stick with the class are missing a great learning opportunity.

I would keep everything I learned because this class has got me more interested in this topic. I loved learning about this and hopefully I can spread my knowledge on.

I really liked having all the homework and bonus points. I’m not a good test taker so that helped a lot.

Everything, I learned a lot about WWII and that’s a majority of what I will keep with me because I feel like I’ve found the truth.

The essay-based exams re-enforce critical thinking and helped to establish the context of the issues that were looked at throughout class.

The time management and note-taking really helped change my study habits in general.

Your teaching style—it’s blunt and gets the point across effectively.

I would keep the links to some of the movies because they were interesting and some of the visual pieces (like the map of Auschwitz). Everything very informative & well rounded class.

The documentaries. It’s one thing to read about the information, but seeing it helps to learn it better. I also liked doing group work.

All of the videos & reading out of the book was helpful. Also the quizzes were so helpful.

The book and the videos. I like the book it was good about before, during, and after WWII.

The quizzes, helps keep me on track, and encourages me to really do all the HW.

Everything was great. It’s a good class to challenge students.

All the reading & videos. You really gain knowledge about what happened during the Holocaust with those.

I actually really liked the textbook we used, it was very insightful.

Content, I really enjoyed learning so much.

Course lesson because it was interesting.

Textbook, definitely. Bonus point system.

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

I learned to really do my work, I won’t receive a good grade unless I do which is how a real college course should be!

Empathy and historical analysis. You must first put yourself in the victims’ shoes, feel their pain and you must know what led up to events & the aftermath to fully understand.

It’s not just enough to politically call something a genocide, but the need to act upon it. We as the people have failed for various reasons in our pledge of “never again.”

What genocide really is and all the prerequisites that lead up to one.

Details about the Holocaust

Historical truths and a new way of studying.

Time management, critical reading and thinking, and being able to transfer ideas onto a paper or into a discussion.

The context and details about how and why the Holocaust occurred. The political and social atmosphere within Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was not an era of time that I had prior knowledge about.

To do the homework and study

That the Holocaust wasn’t the only genocide we should know about

Exactly what, why, & how the Holocaust happened plus generally knowledge about other genocides

The importance of learning history

I learned why things happened, the background story. And I also learned why it’s important to know what happened (aka, Nazi beginnings and how that brought the Holocaust).

I learned a lot of things that I never knew before & I got a good understanding of a horrible event that happened in the past.

That the Holocaust isn’t the only major genocide and that Jews weren’t the only ones who suffered from the Holocaust.

Facts are more important than fiction & time management skills.

That there have been other genocides happening around the world. Hitler wasn’t the only one and learning the facts about each genocide is better than making assumptions.

Time management. I learned to keep things on schedule & not wait until the last minute to do assignments.

What really happened during the Holocaust. I’ve heard a lot of things about it and didn’t know what to believe.

Specifics about Holocaust & other genocides never taught about in high school.

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

Nothing

Nothing

nothing

I wouldn’t change anything because everything we did helped cover all the material.

I honestly wouldn’t change anything

I didn’t think anything needs to be changed. The course is taught very well.

I thought the course was good all around. It had good information & was well organized.

It was really fast pace, but with the amount of content I understand why. I wouldn’t change anything.

Nothing, it’s a good challenge. I’ve been here for three years now and this is the first college level class I’ve felt like I’ve taken.

No essays on tests. [essays will stay for reasons clearly explained in class, they only make up 140 points out of 800 and there were plenty of chances to ask questions or earn bonus points] Identifications, quotes, maybe matching or multiple choice. That’s good enough to challenge the student’s knowledge. [no, it’s really not. Writing a timed essay is in important skill to be practiced; it doesn’t test the same type of knowledge as matching or multiple choice, so essays will stay]

Classroom? Better equipment for less technical difficulties

Add another exam. To much material for them.

The exams [??]

Talking about things we learned about in assignments the very next class time instead of a couple after. I know there was a lot to go over in a short amount of time and this didn’t happen too often but it did confuse me a lot. [?? I would need a specific example to know what this has in mind, always free to ask questions]

More time for the readings. The text we used for the class was exceptional and was filled with so much relevant information that I wish I would have had more time for review between assignments.

Expanding into greater detail on post Holocaust genocides, and the involvement of the UN and the US.

Not having all the assignments only posted on-line & not having so many things that we need to print off. [you don’t need to print everything off, you could read it online and take notes]. Takes a lot of time to look up assignments & a lot of paper for printing. [??]

Maybe having the tests have some more multiple choice questions because I like being able to find the answers in the stories and films we watch. [as explained in class, that’s what the frequent quizzes are for, not the written exams]

**History of Science**

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

The information learned through the course, because it is a very interesting and well-run class. Class structure engaging

I would keep the entire structure of the course, the books, readings, notes, quizzes, tests, and in-class activities.

All of it, very good flow. Quizzes are great.

The quizzes were my lifesaver, for some reason, I can’t get the arguments right.

Keep the structured study guides and class quizzes/assignments.

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

The information learned in the course.

How to approach history, not a presentist, but taking in all the facts of the age, then understand how it all ties back together.

Historical context with regards to science

Timed writing, and time management

Good note taking and interpretive reading skills

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

I like the idea behind your quizzes and the bonus points, but I think you could see better results keeping to 1 quiz a day, not 2 or 3 (some days). [?? Not sure what this means, we didn’t have 3 quizzes and the course met almost 2 hours on Thursdays so it’s not unreasonable to have 2 quizzes over material on those days]

Change the grading scale for tests, I feel like in most tests a C is general understanding, and grading normally goes from there (General understanding along with being correct of course). [??]

I’d spend more time on the E = mc2 book, and explain in depth the transition from Newtonian physics to Einstein’s relativity, and elaborate on the experiments that brought about the change. [that would be nice if we had time, but we don’t in a single semester]

Maybe try to find a different book for first part was a little choppy

Not much you can change, he does what he can to help

Allow a little more time for readings to be done or assign less in between classes. Hard to fit everything in between Tuesday & Thursday class.

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

Everything, course is very well comprised covers all topics and goes into details in key areas

I would keep the daily reading quizzes—they really made sure you did the readings

I would keep the reading and writing papers, it is very important for the test.

I like that this course is difficult and pushes you. Now at the end of this class, I can really look back and appreciate that.

The emphasis on learning facts as well as the ability to interpret and explain them

I like the structure of the course and it works if one lets it, so I feel it should be kept generally the same.

Quizzes, they force the student to take good notes

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

Historical thinking. Out of my family I’ve never been as interested in history as my siblings. But after taking this class, I look at it differently and appreciate it more.

Never trust people who say “God wills it”

History, as a subject, is a broad and debatable topic, and it’s student is not a matter of memorizing certain names/dates/events etc.

How to look at the historical Big Picture

Critical writing skills & thinking

Note taking and applying facts into a bigger context

It was useful to take some detailed notes and my note taking skills have gotten better.

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

Nothing, very well done

Exams not totally devoted to timed essays

I would change the note taking, it took me 3 to 4 hours to take enough detailed notes to do the quizzes. I had other homework to do. [needed to get help on notes then, as repeatedly advised in class and through several handouts about taking effective notes]

Explanations on sudden obsession w/ locations, i.e., Iceland

I would have liked more time to write papers than always having them due at the next class period [we didn’t have any papers longer than 2-3 pages, most were 1-1.5 pages]

I wish that we reviewed more in class. It would help reinforce the assigned readings. [how many times did you ask questions in class or come from help]

Not have quite as many quizzes and engage the class in discussion. Many time [sic] you ask a question, and answer it. If you ask and we don’t know you just refer us to find it in the book on our own time. At which point its more difficult to connect it with what you were discussing [so without having done the reading, you want discussion of the readings? Not really clear what this means, it seems contradictory and unclear]

**Europe: Age of Nationalism**

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

Everything. It’s a lot of information to cover but it all interconnects. The information on the Congo & Belgium occupation of the Congo was an eye opener.

I would keep everything about this class, because it helps strengthen note taking and writing.

I would keep giving out videos. They help give a better picture of the readings we have. I would also keep giving out smaller writing assignments, these help prepare for the essays on the test.

The emphasis on the Big Picture helped me to remember the factors and events the course presented fare better than just learning about the events alone.

The knowledge gained about such an important period in history.

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

To look at the big picture, that you can’t understand history without looking and understanding its context.

I learned to improve with my writing on papers in this course.

Too much to decide

The imperialism spread of European countries opened my eyes. The horror of what people do to get more money and resources.

Beside the historical side is better note taking and time management. It has helped me plan a specific time to do my homework

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

n/a

I wouldn’t change a thing, because nothing needs to be changed

I wouldn’t change anything, my issues with the course come from my own laziness and not from the course itself.

Spend more time in class going over and discussing reading.

One thing I would change would be videos without subtitles. It is hard to get the spellings correct and makes trying to spell them right on the quizzes hard [most videos had viewing guides with the names spelled on them for you, not all documentaries have subtitles but those that do are usually on]

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| **Fall 2004 to Spring 2012** | |  |  |  |
| **Surveys: 932** |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** | % (Yes) |
| **Reading** | **715** | **125** | **92** | **76.72** |
| **Writing** | **681** | **135** | **116** | **73.07** |
| **Note-taking** | **854** | **47** | **31** | **91.63** |
| **Interpretation** | **792** | **51** | **88** | **84.98** |
| **Historical thinking** | **870** | **23** | **39** | **93.35** |
| **Critical analysis** | **768** | **38** | **126** | **82.40** |
| **Time management** | **574** | **107** | **100** | **73.50** |
|  | **5254** | **526** | **592** | **82.45** |