**Course Feedback (Spring 2013)**

**[Surveys: 55]**

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

 **Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 47 3 5 85.5**

**Writing 44 7 4 80.0**

**Note-taking 52 1 2 94.5**

**Time management 50 2 3 90.9**

**Interpretation 47 1 7 85.5**

**Historical thinking 51 1 3 92.7**

**Critical analysis 44 4 7 80.0**

**Total Yes = 87%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

Pretty much everything, I really liked how it tied WWII & what was happening in with the Holocaust. I also liked learning about the more recent genocides, some I hadn’t even heard of.

I would keep everything. I like that those who did the work were rewarded both throughout the class and with not having to do the final paper.

I would keep everything, I think everything used in this course was pretty vital to the knowledge we were tested on.

Good explanations in class. I like the bonus opportunities as well. It’s a very interesting course.

I would keep the Holocaust and other genocide videos because they helped me see what I was reading and make a connection.

I would keep the order and structure as well as the daily quizzes. They forced me to review the information before preparing for the exam.

I liked the book. I liked each genocide we studied. Each one was presented well by the instructor and he was very knowledgeable on each of them. I also like how he gave his opinion on each excuse the dictators/gov. gave for the implementation of genocide.

The material is really informative & it forced me to hone my studying skills.

The documentaries and reading/video quizzes because they help understand the content, and the quizzes make it a priority to pay close attention to detail.

I would keep that we cover more genocides than just the Holocaust. It helps to put genocide in the bigger pictures, and see that it isn’t in the past.

I would keep showing documentaries because that is a really informative way to learn about these different genocides.

Even though the homework took time it was very helpful to learn the material. Liked the extra credit to help my grade & the quizzes to help clarify things.

The homework quizzes are a good tool to use to see who is actually doing the homework and who is doing well, and acts as a good review.

I think the things I’d keep about this class are the interesting things I had learned. If I never went to this class there are tons of things I’d NEVER know about the Holocaust.

Note taking from book, videos & documentaries

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

Besides time management, needing to have good notes & organization, I think the most important thing I learned was that genocides are still happening, this course has gotten me very interested in today’s issues & what the govt is doing about them.

That the events go much deeper than I thought—many events happened to lead into it.

I learned better timed-writing skills. It will help me a lot in any future career I pursue.

That genocide is something that may never be prevented.

That ordinary people contributed to and killed in the Holocaust. High school history class has wrong information.

How to develop the historical significance.

Not only did I learn more about the historical events but it really helped me critically think of the material and connect everything back to the big picture.

How to finish homework and good note taking. I also learned many things about history & the Holocaust that I wouldn’t have known if it wasn’t for this class.

The actual reasons why the Holocaust happened and the events that lead up to it and why other genocides keep occurring in other countries.

Time management

Time management

Time management—I have to allow myself enough time to learn the material & get homework done

Time management and how hard work can pay off.

The most important thing I learned was about the Holocaust. There was a lot of information I did not know about the Holocaust.

People can be EVIL ☹

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

Nothing

There isn’t really anything I’d change

I don’t think I would change anything, the only thing that sucked was the amount of homework, but if I could do it in this class, I can do it in any class [Yes! That’s correct and the right attitude.]

I just wish the course was longer so we could put more time into the other genocides like the Rwandan genocide & Darfur

Sometimes I felt over wheeled with homework, but then again this also helped me with time management & not to wait til the last minute [Exactly!]

Tests-not all essay questions [IDs & quotes, the exams are not all essay, and the essays are only 140 points out of 800, that’s less than 20% of your grade] Multiple choice or fill in blank. Better and more clear outlines for notetaking [?? Did you ever ask a question or come see me for help?]

I would change the time limit of the tests to an hour or hour and half. Two hours is a really long time to write constantly is one sitting [and you had to do it twice all semester, that’s not too much]

Maybe take out some of the homework and include a research paper on one of the genocides discussed in class.

Group work—I don’t like working in groups or taking group quizzes because not everyone does all the work [and all semester you were told, “If someone isn’t contributing to the group, then kick them out”]

I would change the amount of material that we need to read outside of class. Sometimes a video and 2-3 readings would pile up with other schoolwork and work.

I understand this is a college course, but there is an overwhelming amount of homework [this isn’t true]. I have other classes and extra-curricular activities. For a class that has nothing to do w/ my major it was just too much. [so you should only have heavy workloads in your major?? Doesn’t make sense] I like you, but I do not have the time to put in to a course run like this when my major is biology [then you were in the wrong course and have the option to drop it, expectations were made very clear from week one]

I think too much homework was given. This isn’t the only class we take this semester and most students have jobs. I was up early and going to bed at 2 am most nights to get readings done & documentarys watched. Yes, this is a college course, but you cant bombard us & expect us to do well [but I can and did] and pay our bills. [??]

We have other classes. It’d be great not to have a whole night’s worth of homework from one course

I would change the amount of homework we are given because much of it is not manageable. I would also like you as the instructor to teach us information instead of the homework teaching us. [?? I welcome any and all questions, did you ever ask one?]

**NOTE: I will NOT be reducing the amount of homework, it is appropriate for a college-level course & was not impossibly difficult (50% earned As-Bs). Workload will stay at the same level. To be successful, develop better time management, ask questions, & get help when needed. Welcome to college!**

**History of Science**

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

Quizzes because it shows who truly studies and who’s not following the course.

The quizzes and the homework, it really pushed me to work and stay on top of it.

The quizzes force you to do the work or fall behind.

The quizzes and work load were enough for the class to be challenging and the quizzed hold you accountable to do the work.

I really liked the quizzes because it made you do the readings and the bonus points were very helpful.

I would keep the essay tests and practice writings because I believe that is the best way to test knowledge of the reading as well it is the best way for the student to display what they have learned.

Keep doing exactly what you are doing, great class

The constant quizzes and writing assignments. This forced you to keep up on the readings. It also gave people lots of little low-pressure chances for points.

Daily quizzes—you have the opportunity to increase your grade daily and there’s also bonus points which are very helpful.

I would keep the videos because I thought that I retained the most information from them.

The evolution part since it informed me that Darwin was not only one who discovered evolution. It helped get rid of some of the false myths.

Well mostly the knowledge because I plan to be a researcher so it good that I learn about these other scientists.

The material covered, I really enjoyed what we covered

I would keep everything about this course because everything that we did is useful in one way or the other and not only for this class, but for other classes as well. This course helped improve the reading, writing and critical analysis along with time management skill.

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

Note taking & time management

The importance of context in explaining any event is one of the most important things I learned. Also, the skill to correctly interpret the history and events was equally important. Class writing, within 7-8 minutes, was important learning for doing better in exams.

How the understanding of the course work is proportionate to the success or failure I have within the class, that college-level work is more than bubble answers.

To do the work and manage your time. Also it taught me how to take good clear notes.

Probably time management. This course is set up so you can’t fake your way through it, which I really like.

How to read critically and take good notes from readings.

The people and context of science are important to understanding science fully

Study regularly.

Perception/relativity

Time management and historical thinking changed my view of history.

How to take better notes and how to better prepare myself for essay tests.

Take good notes over everything you read in and outside of class.

Learned a lot about evolution and how it evolved through multiple different theories. I also learned a lot about how physics evolved through 18th century to modern physics.

Well I learned how science evolved from the ancient times to the modern times.

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

Nothing

I’m not sure

I would change nothing

Nothing that I can think of

I wouldn’t change anything about this course because I found it not only interesting but also extremely well organized and appropriately challenging. Thank you!

Nothing as such. The content of the course was so perfect and it was the maximum we could learn in a period of four months. The videos, the handouts, everything was of real help to understand the course even better

Unable to find anything that I would change

Nothing, the course challenged me

The lazy people drop out sooner so we can get right to business

Continued practice writings, we did a lot in the beginning then slowed down quiet a bit. Do many of these helps with the exams.

I would make the exams just a little less writing heavy. I that that writing really show if you know the material or not but it would be nice if a little more question/answer sections would be nice.

Maybe slightly less reading. Can be hard to complete every single time.

Well mostly the note-taking cause I couldn’t understand most of it

Sometimes the flow of topics jumps around, especially chronologically, a little too much

**Other comments**:

Great course; wish I wasn’t lazy at the beginning of the semester because it killed my grade. Real Madrid > Cardiff City

Thanks for the wonderful class!

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

Everything

Everything, great class & it is very interesting.

I’d keep everything the same, this course does a great job teaching those who have not had a college level course how it will be more challenging.

Everything. This course was a college-level course that helped develop skills that will help in the future for other classes and work. If people couldn’t handle the class, they shouldn’t be taking up space in colleges or universities. The positive reinforcement of the extra credit is already enough reason to do the readings and watch the videos.

Quiz/class period, allowed me to regularly take notes, and place events w/in their historical context.

Extra things we watch and read. Usually very interesting.

I would keep the course the same. It was challenging and made students accountable.

As long as you show up for class & do your work, it’s hard to fail.

I would keep the amount of reading because I think that historical knowledge is best transmitted through reading.

The quizzes were helpful to boost my grade and made me focus on note taking more than I would have otherwise.

I would keep the essay questions, because they were very challenging, but if prepared were no problem. And the bonus points!

The course is well constructed. No changes need to be made.

The quizzes definitely motivated me to study and work hard.

I would keep everything the same, it helps enhance every skill listed above because it tests students to do the work and understand the material.

Time management and note taking skills. History helps us to better understand the past. Keep everything, everything was important historical information.

I will keep everything from this course, my notes, my book simply because I enjoy history.

I enjoyed the class and thought that it was well structured. If I had to restructure the class, I would keep it as is.

Daily quizzes, they were easy points if you did the work. I also liked the amount of papers. They weren’t too difficult and I felt chalanged enough with reading and writing.

Reading and video quizzes because I felt I had a better chance of a good grade with those. Keep bonus points as well.

The extra credit it’s a nice balance with all the work

The reading quizzes because it made me come to class and do the homework.

The material, some of the material was very interesting & knowledgeable.

The extra credit is very helpful. Most people have other classes that need their attention as well so if you have an off day or test that comes in handy

The notes because it helps you retain information

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

That when I care, I do well.

Note taking and the class was pretty interesting. I didn’t like all the work, but you made a good point about it being a college class!

How to study, and the importance of good notes.

Critical critique/analysis of historical accounts.

How to do well if you apply yourself.

Do all the work and take all the quizzes.

How to write an effective essay for a test with open notes.

If you do the work, you will succeed but you actually have to commit to it.

The importance of taking notes!!

Looking at the bigger picture.

Note taking.

How to manage time, I can use this through life.

Enhancing my historical context analysis. The course overall teaches numerous of important things like note-taking, time management, interpretation, and historical thinking.

Note taking is key

The whole idea of religion. Islam, Protestantism, Catholics. I know background info on how the Bible was created, and how many times it’s been edited in the past.

The origin of Christianity and how one man could affect a universe in the way that he did.

The wide overview of history from the Romans onward gives me a greater historical understanding.

The history of Christianity and the church was most interesting and important to know.

How everything in history all leads up to this. Without the past we wouldn’t be here today

The middle ages influenced many different aspect of society today

Religions, how they began. Religions are still around and important. Religion and politics are and always will be connected.

There are too many important things, but I would have to say the truth of Christopher Columbus.

The decline of the Roman Empire and it’s split into two separate entities.

Where Christianity, Muslim, and Protestants started.

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

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing at all. I felt that the course was challenging and I think that it should be.

Nothing, overall an enjoyable class

The course was fine I found no problems with the material or methods implemented.

This course is well constructed. No changes need to be made.

Almost everything in the course helps the students understand the material. The only thing I seen unnecessary is the sourcebook. If there are excerpts you want the class to know; hand out a hard copy [struggling with primary sources is part of studying history, we’ll be keeping the sourcebook, not just little snippets from it]

Cut back on assignments, can be overwhelming with other homework. I didn’t like all the work, but you made a good point about it being a college class!

For class lecture to go into more detail about the reading we did [?? Did you ever ask any questions?]

The exams. I have a very difficult time formatting my thoughts in essay form, in the time limit, even after extensive preparation [that’s why you need more practice, outside of class, or to come see me with any questions]

Sometimes the amount of work was a little too much with my other classes and work. There was a lot of reading. [for a college-level survey history course there was *less than average* reading assigned]

Take out multiple choice problems. I didn’t like the grades I got on them. [only had 1-2 quizzes that were multiple choice all semester]

The only thing that I might change about this class is more essay writing and less daily quizzes [so fewer bonus points?]

More handouts other than stuff on angel its hard to be up to date with everything we need to print on angel. Be done at X:50 not X:55 take test sooner than X:45 so people have time to use the restroom and make it to there class [?? Angel is a requirement for the course, see syllabus]

Watching videos instead of class because it was hard for me to get the videos to load and take notes on. [Angel videos are a requirement for the course, they can be viewing easily on campus and if you had problems, did you ever come to ask me about it?]

Discuss the sourcebook readings more because these documents are the source of all historical knowledge. I would use different video clips, many of them repeat reading and they are very long [none of the videos was that long, they reinforce the material from reading]

The quotes that need to be matched to one person. Very hard to understand some of them. [did you ever some see me or ask any questions?]

I would change the quotes because simply its not my strong suit but thats me.

I think I’d change how the exams work. Give more IDs and not have it focus on the essay as much [the two essays were less than 20% of the overall grade in the course]

Make-up assignments. You know your class is tough. You don’t need to sugar coat it but if you ever turn something back to us late it should be the same for us. [?? Not clear enough here to know what this means, make-up policy clearly laid out in the syllabus and fair to all students]

More time for lecture. Many times we would only briefly discuss the reading material [that’s correct, because it’s not primarily a lecture format. Did you ever ask any questions in or out of class about the readings? I’m more than willing to address them, but I’m not going to lecture on the textbook readings (I stated this at the beginning of the semester too)]. The book doesn’t always give the clearest explaination [so what should you do then? Ask questions, get help]

**Other comments**:

I really enjoyed this class. At one point I was even correcting my professor in another class because of what I learned. I only wish I would have take myself more seriously at the beginning of the semester.

Very good class. I wish I would have taken it at a later time. I know that sounds a little pathetic but your class was very interesting. I use it in arguments. Thanks. Sorry I wasn’t a better student. When I was here I learned.

Comments about attendence and note-taking can be negative and distracting. If they need to be said please say them when we are not taking a quiz so we can concentrate.

**Europe: Age of Nationalism**

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

All of it

I actually came to appreciate all the note taking, reading, & quizzes you had to take; I actually feel like I learned something in this class; I also like how occasionally we have to watch videos!

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

Time management & note taking

I learned how to take notes and study and what details to look for when reading!

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

I would change the policy about; only letting athletes & military personnel make up quizzes; I think if you have a legitimate excuse and tell the teacher ahead of time you should be able to make up what you missed [and I offered this option to everyone at the beginning of the semester, if they wanted to give up all the bonus points to take make-up quizzes (but it is not going to be make ups and lots of bonus points too)].

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fall ’04 to Spring ‘13****Surveys: 1056** |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes**  | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **815** | **139** | **102** |  |
| **Writing** | **783** | **148** | **125** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **970** | **51** | **34** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **897** | **54** | **104** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **985** | **26** | **45** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **871** | **44** | **144** |  |
| **Time management** |  **687** | **117** | **107** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **6008** | **579** | **661** | **82.89** |
|  |  |  |  |  |