**Course Feedback (Spring 2014)**

**[Surveys: 38]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 34 2 2 89.5**

**Writing 30 4 4 78.9**

**Note-taking 36 0 2 94.7**

**Time management 31 1 6 81.6**

**Interpretation 34 1 3 89.5**

**Historical thinking 38 0 0 100**

**Critical analysis 33 0 5 86.8**

**Total Yes = 88.72%**

**NOTE: I will NOT be reducing the amount of homework (or level of challenge or rigor), it is appropriate for college-level courses & was not impossibly difficult (about 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!**

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

Everything, it worked for me & I learned topics much more than an average class.

I liked the fact that there were daily quizzes over the previous night’s reading because it gave me the extra push I needed to stay on top of my work.

The reading, note-taking, exams, & videos. They really helped me to manage my time and stay on top of my homework

Weekly quizzes force you to read but I would not keep the videos, they do not seem to provide much more information.

Reading and note taking.

I do like the amount of reading and activity that is needed in this class. There should be more of this type of effort needed among many other classes.

The overall structure of this is fine, while there is a mass of information and can be overwhelming, it helps the student sort out what are the key issues that impact the course of history, whether social, economic or gov. I would say, stay the course.

Quizzes, they give feedback on what needs work.

I like how the quizzes have bonus points, because if you work hard and do your homework you get a little reward. It gives motivation to do HW.

I do like the quizzes and in class writings b/c this goes to show form the people that did their homework and who didn’t.

I would keep the idea about quizzes every day it’s nice for keeping a decent grade.

The amount of homework helped keep me focused on making sure that I did good. The bonus points.

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

Most importantly how to analyze historical content, and approach with open mind. To be able to sort out key themes and the relevance to the historical context.

Time management and preparing for class. Also doing all of my reading.

How difficult taking a class should/could be

Do the work

I learned not to take everything that is commonly perceived about history at face value, or believe everything I hear.

You need to look not only @ what a source says, but who wrote it, when they wrote it, etc in order to determine if it is a reliable source.

Time management and organization. Organize your thoughts and think about them more b/c this will take less time for one question response and you’ll have more time to get to the other questions.

How much history and peoples thought about it have changed.

The idea of what’s expected in future classes @ a university.

The importance of time management.

Time management & Middle Ages history

How religion impacted in Eastern world (Europe).

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

Nothing. I was happy with the course. I feel like a learned a lot.

I would honestly change nothing, while challenging, it works.

Nothing

How much HW, because mixed with other classes & activities it was very stressful & took a toll on me [welcome to college!]

The wording of some of the questions on the multiple choice tests were a little confusing. But other than that, I have no complaints.

I didn’t really care for the long videos. I’m not saying get rid of them, but some of them were very long. Maybe if there was a way to split them up more. So the 50 min + videos split up so it doesn’t seem so long. [no assigned video was over 50-55 minutes; in addition, because of Angel you could split up the videos yourself because you could watch 30 minutes then stop and come back to it later]

Explore the quotes more or take them out either one. I always felt that they were not very emphasized.

Less handouts, they are a little redundant. [??]

I would add more practice IDs and quotes throughout semester. More time on the written exam also. [the time limit is part of the exam, we only have 55 minutes, no more. So the keys are practice and preparation, NOT more time]

I would change the schedule time if anything I’d rather have it in a two hour increment.

Possibly having when the homework is released a class period earlier because of work it made it hard to always get it done. Like announcing homework that is due Friday on Monday instead of Wednesday because with work it is hard to get it all done.

Maybe some hands on stuff would help some people learn more.

**Other comments**:

Possibly have a plan for each day of the semester in the syllabus [there would be no point to mapping out each day, because it would inevitably change during the semester. My classes are not mapped out each day to the every detail, sorry!]

**History of Science**

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

I liked the work load, made me feel like I actually was in college and not high school still. Because of the work load and constant quizzes, I actually learned rather than learned for the test. Also, thank you so much for updating us on our grades, it’s so frustrating when my teachers don’t!

Strong, diverse content, course covers the history and context of natural philosophy/science well, by incorporating many fields of work including anatomy, astronomy, physics and evolution.

I would keep the quizzes because they force one to do the reading thoroughly and the bonus points are rewarding as well.

The note-taking quizzes and tips of how to prepare for exams.

The wealth of knowledge, everything. Because you’re good at your job.

ALL OF IT!!! It is an excellent course.

The books, they were very interesting, with a lot of information I found very helpful and informative.

The scope, very interesting to see history from the beginning to present. Learned more in this class than most.

I would keep the last two books that we read because they’re interesting books. I would keep the quiz bonus points, because those are nice to have because if you miss some days and have those bonus points it doesn’t drop your grade as much.

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

I learned how to read and take notes in a proper fashion. This class really showed me how important note taking is when reading important information. It also helped me with picking out the important details in the readings.

That there is more to scientific discoveries than just the science.

How to think historically and how to interpret readings.

I learned a lot of things in this course, the most mind blowing thing, to me, was that the Earth was not believed to be flat. The most important probably is what you emphasized as the point of the class, that science and religion have not always been in conflict.

How to critically analyze history and make complete coherent arguments with facts.

Time management and note taking

I learned several things. There were some misconceptions that I had, such as, people thought the world was flat (in the Middle Ages). They did not have that belief. Aristotle had argued that the world was round.

There was a lot of information taught in this class I found important, like a better understanding of retrograde motion, the correct theory about Darwinism, to Einstein and what E = mc2 really means, I had never put much thought into it before this class.

Science has changed a lot, it is not a linear path, it had many false ideas, and sometime giant leaps.

Historical context of the trial of Galileo, Newton’s work in physics, ect.

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

Nothing

Nothing

Nothing

The amount of reading, there was a lot try stay on top of when you work full-time and go to school full-time.

There was so much reading and different sources hard to always keep them straight when trying to remember them.

More content regarding quantum physics [simply don’t have time, sorry!]

The amount of handouts given out. It was hard to manage the hand out reading along with the text. Although all readings given were relevant and interesting.

Maybe try and have some practice exam essays that are assigned, this way people can prep for the essay exam. [you’re welcome to do this on your own. And I did offer several times to read & comment on any practice writing outside of class.]

I would change the first book, because it was hard to follow cause it save a lot of information at once.

**Other comments**:

This class was challenging, but I liked it very much and glad in the end I took this class, I learned more in this class than any other class I took this semester.

You are my favorite teacher this semester because your class had the most structure… And it made me more excited to be here since you are excited about what you’re teaching (If I couldn’t tell from your voice), I could tell from the correlating t-shirts you occasionally wear. I loved this class.

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

I would keep the overall level of challenge in this course. It has helped me realize the challenges of college that weren’t there in high school. I think this course has better prepared me for transitioning into a four-year university.

There is honestly nothing that I would change about this course. This has been a very straightforward class in which you can only truly succeed if you put in the effort, and that is very much appreciated. Everything was very fair, and you get the grade you deserve as well as gain what you deserve. I would keep everything.

Keep the quizzes that are assigned each class period because I think it keeps students more persistent and making them do the assignments and also good attendance.

I would keep everything, this is a wonderful course.

The amount of time and in-depth discussion on the Holocaust

All the material assigned was well written and very relevant to the next class discussion.

The reading assignments and documentaries because it helps broaden the subject.

I liked the quizzes/in-class writings, b/c it shows you have done your homework or not. I also liked how the lectures weren’t directly out of the book or from powerpoint.

Study skills and note-taking skills

I would keep the documentaries and readings, I also liked the textbook

I think the majority of this course was very beneficial and should stay

The true understanding and meaning of why the Holocaust happened.

The reading assignments were in-depth and gave the class its substance, in its historical context.

I’ll probably keep most of the articles, I like being an informed individual. Being informed is how we overcome the mistakes and keep from making them again.

I would keep the final as it is, also I think the in-class discussions and videos helped me to gain a greater insight

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

Other than the clear understanding of the historical context in this class, which has been more than valuable, this class completely motivated me to a different level and sparked my interest to the point that I completely changed my study habits and have gained so much academically that will help me in future courses.

I learned to manage my time better and that the education I get depends on how much time and effort I put into it. I also learned to look at why things happened in history instead of just dates and facts.

Great study habits OR possibilities of how far humans can really go—both on the very positive and very negative ends of the spectrum.

History is not just facts, knowing this has made this class more interesting.

How to take better notes and also the historical background of the Holocaust and made me more aware of genocides still happening today.

That humans as a whole can be very cruel. That just because someone is different or you don’t agree on something does not mean that you can kill them.

There were more genocides than just the Holocaust by powerful people in the governments and it’s not sure it could be prevented again. I learned about Hitler, Stalin, Khmer Rouge, and more.

That in order to do well you can’t just do half the work. you have to complete the work.

How people not actively getting involved in preventing genocides isn’t terribly different from supporting it in terms of the final outcome.

The usefulness of time management and organization.

Why genocides happened and the reason it did and what it takes to make sure it doesn’t happen again.

There is no way to prevent a genocide.

That many things go into the construction of a genocide and that other nations/countries are not always willing to help stop these genocides

That my study skills have increased as well as the historical content of genocides I was unaware of and the there was a “Never Again” Convention. [??]

I learned so much but I think time management was the most non-related to Holocaust and genocide, and that the Holocaust and other genocides have so much more to them than you think

That genocide is more of a common occurrence and one of mankind’s unfortunate tragedies

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

Nothing

Nothing, I thought the class functioned well in all aspects, the readings, the writing assignments, the videos, etc.

Nothing really, it was a little stressful at first with all the assignments, quizzes, note taking, etc., but I got used to it.

I would not change this course. The level of challenge, the method of teaching, and the topics covered all taught and helped me in many ways.

I wouldn’t change anything because if you managed your time, the course was fine as it suppose to be.

I really wouldn’t change anything, he explains everything well, get to use notes on quizzes and exams which is nice.

As stated above, I would keep everything and change nothing. I have learned more in this class than probably any other class thus far at Kirkwood and have been very impressed. I would take this class again in a heartbeat.

It was pretty explanatory. The only thing I would change is something about myself, should have asked more questions [YES!] & truly taken advantage of e-mail options before exams. [YES!]

The only thing I would change about this course would be how rigorous it is, but I also don’t think I would have learned as much. [exactly, that’s why it’s staying rigorous!]

I didn’t care too much for the long video assignments followed by reading assignments. Maybe you could assign the videos on the day reading isn’t assigned. [videos and reading reinforce each other, not to be seen as separate entities]

Maybe spend some more time on the recent genocides.

I would give only one or two smallish assignments on days with only one day between classes. I felt overwhelmed sometimes, often. [??]

The amount of assigned work was a little much at some points requiring multiple hours of work to complete the task, keeping it at a uniformed minimum would have been nice. [??]

I would change the amount of quizzes we have. It just seemed like we spent a lot of time on those versus talking about the situations in different genocides. [quizzes are meant to generate questions and discussion, but students have to ask questions first for that to happen]

I would change up instead of always doing quizzes different activities

More time on Stalin

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fall ’04 to Spring ‘14**  **Surveys: 1149** | |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **897** | **148** | **104** |  |
| **Writing** | **853** | **161** | **134** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1056** | **55** | **37** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **978** | **59** | **111** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1076** | **26** | **47** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **950** | **48** | **164** |  |
| **Time management** | **760** | **128** | **116** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **6570** | **625** | **713** | **83.08** |