**Course Feedback (Spring 2015)**

**[Surveys: 57]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 49 2 6 85.9**

**Writing 44 8 5 77.2**

**Note-taking 55 1 1 96.5**

**Interpretation 52 3 2 91.2**

**Historical thinking 55 1 1 96.5**

**Critical analysis 49 1 7 85.9**

**Time management 48 7 2 84.2**

**Total Yes = 88.2%**

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

I like how homework isn’t graded and how it’s all based on notes.

I liked the weekly quizzes & chance at bonus points. It’s nice to be in a course that teaches you about the big picture instead of just the facts.

Textbook readings, video, note-taking all because it’s a good mix and develops many different skills.

When we learned about what the Romans/Greeks did in the past and how it fits in our lives. Makes the content seem real.

I would keep the quizzes and the bonus points because it really helped my grade.

I would definitely keep and improve upon the study habits promoted by this course. They would ensure my future academic success.

To look at things with a scholarly mind.

Everything. This course not only teaches you about history, but your grade directly correlates with how much work you do.

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

I learned how to accurately identify people and places and explain their historical significance.

Note-taking & trying to tie things in with the bigger picture really help you understand the material.

It helped teach me to connect information and to find meaning behind it.

How & why of history. Also developed good note-taking and the importance of time management. It was a challenge.

The most important thing I learned was time management, note-taking, and explaining myself in IDs or essays.

It further enforced my preexisting belief of the importance and relevance of history regardless of what career choice one has. It also improved my notion of what history is and improved by critical thinking skills.

Never take ancient text too literal in meaning.

Understanding history is essential to developing as a person.

I learned more about how I want to teach my sister and my future students.

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

Nothing.

Nothing.

Nothing, the course as it is kept me on track

I can’t think of anything that needs changing.

I would change the multiple choice on exams to Scan trons I know I do better on scantrons than on Angel from other classes.

I’m not sure I would change anything, I think you do a really nice job with how you set up your courses.

More depth study guides for exams.

The atmosphere—it’s either one way or your wrong. [?? not clear what this means]

**Additional Comments:**

I’ve really enjoyed taking both this course, and History of Science. You do a great job with the material, & I feel I really got something from the course. Have a great summer!

Don’t go changing.

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

I would the course relatively the same. The course isn’t hard if you do the readings. I would keep the daily quizzes because they’re easy points and it’s also a good way to see if people did the work. The EC helps too.

The emphasis on thinking critically about the context behind events. It’s important to understand why events both past and current occur.

I would keep all the reading (textbook/sourcebook/online) since that was where all of the information came from.

What I would keep about this course is all the skills I’ve helped develop and strengthen.

The fast-paced nature of the course, allows for more information covered in a shorter time. The way assignments, exams, and readings were laid out were really good and helpful with covering the information.

I really enjoyed the documentaries. I felt they were very helpful b/c I learn better by listening over reading. And it would help me visualize what is going on as well.

I would keep the daily notes and quizzes.

I think the documentaries are a good part of this course. They are very interesting and helpful.

The quizzes help keep the information we learn fresher and so they are useful as a learning tool.

Good note-taking and some facts I never knew about.

Open notes because there is a lot of information & without them it would be impossible to remember enough.

Everything except… because I felt all of the methods helped me learn. Not pass, but learn.

I am not certain, the course material was very good and elaborated in great detail the information.

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

How to interpret historical documents.

Good note-taking.

How to manage time and take effective notes and properly interpret historical events.

Note-taking is very important.

I learned how to effectively analyze the past and how to effectively write about a topic.

Note taking actually. It was a good reminder of how to take good notes.

The most important thing I learned in this course would probably be time management. I had to learn to actually take time out of every night to try and make sure I did the notes. I didn’t always do it but it definitely helped.

I learned many very interesting and important things in this course, it is hard to say which is most important.

I learned how to not just believe everything of the far-past to be true.

Critically analyzing which was developed through the practice quotes and IDs.

I would get rid of the sourcebook. We never talk about any of the readings from it. Also allow for more class participation in discussions.

Taking this class has shown me that notes are vital for passing your courses in college.

History of the Catholic Church.

Religious Reform/Progression. Judaism 🡪 Christianity 🡪 Orthodox/Catholic 🡪 Protestant 🡪 etc.

I learned most of the information at home because a lot of the material was not talked about in class. The teacher did not seem to know the information he was teaching. [???]

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

Not sure

I don’t know, nothing.

This course was challenging at times but that’s a good thing because my skills were strengthened so therefore I wouldn’t change anything about this course.

I would not change anything about the course.

There really isn’t anything that needs changed in this course.

One thing I didn’t like was how much content was covered, I don’t think this is something that can really be changed but I found it more challenging b/c I couldn’t focus in as much on specific topics.

The amount of quizzes every class make obtaining points to easy or the quizzes in general didn’t help with covering the material. [??]

I would lose some of the videos. Some of them ran too long to keep interest [none was longer than 55 minutes] and often repeated information that I had either just read or already know.

What I would change is that sometimes you have 3 or 4 different assignments [very rarely did we have 4 assignments, go back and check in Angel] for one night to do for the next class and that is a lot of work. Notes and watching videos are long processes already, so when you have 4 different it’s a full days work of homework and reading. I would say get rid of the sourcebook readings.

The sourcebook was too difficult for me to interpret on my own sometimes [did you come in for help or ask any questions?]. The way it was written using documents made it difficult to read occasinally.

I would like to see small note guides for the readings. Like 3-5 bullet points just to keep note-taking on track.

I would just change the professor. Very seldomly was he able to answer questions from students if he would answer them. Showed up after class was intended to begin multiple times. [?? Class began @9:05 am, maybe your were confused about the schedule? Also, need a specific about what questions I didn’t answer. Maybe your remembering the wrong class?? Counseling perhaps would be a good idea.]

**Additional Comments:**

I enjoyed this class and others that you have taught. I don’t believe your classes are too hard, they are a good way to learn history.

I deeply regret my great loss of effort at the middle of the semester. This was a great class and I was proud of being in the top for so long. Many of the points I learned of, I was able to use in other situations.

For the online assignments, it was often a little unclear what the assignment was…. [this could easily be clarified by asking me either in person or via e-mail]. Otherwise, I enjoyed this class, definitely would recommend, very knowledgeable about very topic covered.

**History of Science**

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

I would keep it the same because if you do the work in this class and take your time, this class will make you a better student in all aspects of being a student.

As big a pain [as] they were, I would keep the essay tests. It allowed me to spell out everything I had learned and made me think about things with the goal of understanding them, instead of just memorizing.

All of it.

The quizzes are a good aspect of this class, they keep the information fresher.

I would keep all the readings that you give out, it will help people with time management and note taking skills.

I like how the quizzes create a solid point build up so that even if you don’t do that well on the tests, you can still do well in the class.

I would keep the knowledge about all the people that had a part in developing in E =mc2. Since, I really felt that it should be important to keep in mind.

The daily quizzes and bonus points because they really help out.

All of the readings from different sources helped create a broader picture of the subjects.

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

The most important thing I learned was in order to be a better student you have to put in the time and make time to do your work.

That understanding the time and the place of an event is the most crucial thing you can do when trying to understand the past.

How science has come to be to where it is today, and how to put everything into context with the time and place. I think I learned the most about the early astronomers and thought that was really interesting.

The background of things that are considered common knowledge like evolution or how the earth revolves around the sun.

Application of scientific ideas in the real world.

The most important thing I learned was how the subject of science and math came to be. From the times of Aristotle.

I actually learned that note-taking and time management are key to the success in many things.

To not view history in a presentism view.

General relativity.

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

Nothing.

Maybe doing more papers, will make student apply what they learn in greater detail and enhance their writting skills.

The amount of reading and assignments tend to be overwhelming at times, spacing them out a little more could help.

Just not having to buy multiple books through the term. It was just hard from me keeping track of the books I’m not using.

A lot of web readings which needed to be printed out, because it was a difficulty. [??]

Not a change but, to somehow, explain how trying to do the readings and score well on the quizzes will only work if you have a perfect memory [everything is open notes]. Using the study guide is a requirement.

I would have the handout readings be a little lighter so that the students have time to better comprend the reading.

I would change the long excerpts by telling the students a main point and let them go from there on their note-taking. That way the students notes aren’t everywhere and your point gets across. [majority of readings had structured note-taking guides provided].

Possibly more organized in class lectures, I found it difficult to take organized notes over in-class discussions. [did you ever ask any questions in class or in writing for clarification?]

**Additional Comments:**

This was the most difficult class I have taken by far. It was more work than all my other classes combined. However, I can say without a doubt that I have learned more in this class than any other. Thank you.

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

Everything. The information is dense, but it’s taught perfectly fine. Course work was as expected.

Video/reading study guides; essays help students improve writing skills for other classes & the future

I think you are a great teacher who knows what he is talking about. Your course work and study materials all fit in perfectly for your class and have taught us all a lot.

I would keep the work load. It helps students understand what college really is. Kirkwood may be overall easy, but students are not ready for what to expect at a 4-year school.

I would keep the documentaries because they’re very interesting and the book/note taking method because that’s one of the best ways to remember facts.

Reading assignments, regular quizzes (good motivation to be ready every class), bonus points (who doesn’t love bonus points?)

The essays & in class writings are good—even if they aren’t easy—and they are better test of knowledge & understanding than multiple choice questions. Fill in the blank are always a good idea as they necessitate good or at least adequate note taking, which is more than is required in a lot of classes.

The bonus points, because I would have failed without them. Also the optional final paper gives a reward to those who work hard and an opportunity for those who are struggling.

Reading quizzes, bonus points. Documentaries, matching quotes.

Reading quizzes, really liked the book that was assigned for this class.

Keep the reading and quizzes with extra points.

I would keep the reading quizzes because they are a good opportunity to refresh my memory on videos, readings, etc. They’re also nice because of the bonus points.

Bonus points, reading, videos, essays matching quotes.

Reading and video quiz.

The bonus points, the last exam.

I would keep the bonus point & quizzes because it helped my grade. Also I like the writings to keep with the essay & ID in the exam.

The extra credit was encouraging.

Keep the textbook used, it was very interesting, and the reading quizzes provided excellent motivation to read & read well. The course was set up in a way that made doing the homework very valuable. Keep putting smiley faces on successful quizzes, too! It’s motivational!

Quizzes & bonus points.

Bonus, short quizzes, group short in-class writings.

I would keep the bonus points and reading quizzes because they are very easy but still require the previous work and notes to be done in order to do a good job on them.

The bonus points, the practice writing in class activities, the lectures, the examples, the pictures, the in-class video clips, the slide shows.

Bonus points, everyday quizzes, optional paper at the end, practice writing during class.

Reading quiz, it gives you points for doing HW

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

I learned to become an actual reader! In this class you cannot skim the reading, so I learned to read slowly and actually pay attention to the readings.

The investigation into the reasons people participate in killings even when they don’t have an ideology that supports those murders.

How everything connects together in history and how much the details matter that so many people overlook.

I learned a lot about a subject that has happened and continues to happen, it’s taught me to study history more in depth, because there is so much to learn.

Ordinary people can do both extraordinarily terrible things. Ordinary people can also do extraordinarily amazing and heroic things.

That there were more complex reasons of how the Holocaust happened versus what most of us were previously taught. Also all the underlying causes/reasons behind every genocide we learned about.

I learned a great deal about the Holocaust and why it happened—far beyond what I’d previously known. I’m very grateful for that.

The entire context of the Holocaust. I came into this course thinking I knew a lot on the subject. In reality, I did not.

Time management

How to manage my time in a challenging class with a heavy work load.

Study habits & an issue of persistent concern & the causes for it.

I have learned there are a lot more genocides than I originally realized. Obviously, I knew about the Holocaust, Rwanda, & Darfur, but the Armenian Genocide is not widely known about, for example, and I think that is sad.

That history repeats itself, even though we have seen it in the past.

Everything we discussed is important. I think understanding just in general what genocide is and how it had impacted the world. An understanding of genocide is highly important to understand parts of history.

Why genocides have been allowed to happen after the Holocaust.

Is that genocide continues to happen and needs to be prevented.

That fact that history repeats itself and genocides continue to happen and they will continue to happen.

The names of some of the victims & heroes of the genocides & Holocaust. In my opinion learning and remembering the innocent victims & those who selflessly tried to help are more important than remembering the names of the evil people who caused such horror in history.

How there was more to the Holocaust & how it changed my view on genocide in general.

I think everything I learned was very important!

You need to understand the past leading up to an event to understand the event.

I learned about the Holocaust and what lead up to it. I also learned about genocides that I didn’t even know about and I’m glad I did.

Recognizing the steps leading to genocide, literal meaning of genocide.

You need to know a lot of stuff that has happened before and after historical events.

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

Nothing [2X]

Nothing, everything was helpful in learning the material.

I don’t think I’d change anything. Maybe the consistent workload, but it was all very useful and now that it’s over I’m happy that the workload was challenging.

I wouldn’t really change anything because I think it’s good to be challenged and it’s college so it should be challenging.

I would change absolutely nothing because it helps students prepare for the future and gain critical analysis about history.

I’m struggling to think of something you should change. I think this is a very well taught & structured class. I personally would’ve liked to learn more about some pre-20th century genocides, but time is a factor.

I would change the reading load, but I know that won’t happen.

More PowerPoint photos from you trip to Germany! More current events in the news—extreme eye opener! (for me)

More writing assignments throughout the semester, like the two we did in the last week of class. They were very helpful in understanding the material.

I understand the reasons for it, but the repetition in the first 2 weeks about bad student habits was frustrating. The course was more engaging after that. [Repetition is necessary to make sure all students know the expectations, and it’s no coincidence that most of the drops are in weeks 1-3. Many don’t want to put in the work, others are not ready for the class yet.]

The only thing I would change about this course is possibly adding some different types of questions on the tests. I think the essays on the test are a great way of showing that you know the information, but a selection would be nice to add to them.

Have a couple more 2-5 page paper for points. Allows students to express what they learned, what they think, and allow them to develop there writing skills with history topic. Allow more time on quizzes, feels almost to rushed, lowers performance.

I would say talk more about the Khmer Rouge, I find that section very interesting but I do not think it was covered enough (I know time restrictions cause this).

I would like to spend more time learning about what’s happened in Darfur, and recent genocides. Learning more about Stalin’s rule in detail would’ve also been nice (though I understand we ran out of time).

Add MC to the test—to take a break from writing and questions to MC questions give you more info & can make the writing better.

I think you should do more activities with the students, you come off as a bit intimidating and I think if you did activities with them it would help take that away.

The only thing I might change is the documentaries and videos on Angel. I just say this because my Wifi has a horrible time loading them. If there’s another format to upload them that may help, plus Talon may change this. I have had issues like this in other classes as well.

Get the class more involved with discussions so the material can be understood a little more thoroughly in class instead of trying to figure out some misunderstood information at home. [did you ask any questions in class or outside of class? How many times did you e-mail any questions or write them down on a piece of paper to hand in?] More open to discussion class enviornment.

If we didn’t get to a reading quiz over a pdf, I didn’t like how it would be assigned for the next class [it’s not new work, it’s reviewing work you’ve already done]. The test usually took me 3.5 hours it was hard to focus the entire time. [??]

Possibly more outside papers, it makes me feel like I grasp the information better. Also, possibly more info on how Europe/USA helped post-WWII with Holocaust survivors.

Ask the class if they have questions [I did over and over again for weeks] more class involvement/interaction.

Have more essays. Maybe ask the students if they have ever gone to a concentration/death camp before.

**Additional Comments:**

Thank you for teaching this course.

I think everyone should take this class. Very eye-opening. Great class!

Taking this course showed me I have the ability to keep a strong grade in a challenging course, as I was initially worried that I would fall behind because I started off poorly. I think the class should be taught exactly the same, it taught me responsibly and good study habits. Thank you!

I would recommend a friend to take this class & learn more about genocide. I truly learned a lot & my mind has been opened. Even though there was a lot of homework & time consumption, I really enjoyed your class.

I enjoyed this course because I learned a lot in one semester and I’m happy that I got to learn about WWII and the Holocaust because I knew very little about it. I think everyone should take this class.

I have learned so much in this class, not just history, but in general—thank you! ☺

I am very glad that I chose to take this course. This class has taught me so much about the history of genocide and specifically the Holocaust. However, not only have I learned an abundance of new information about the history of genocide, but I have also become a better student because of this class. This class really challenged me and it’s only been for the better.

Thank you for teaching this class, I’ve learned so much and understand so much more. This class has been informative class I’ve had and I am grateful you were my teacher. Best of luck to you in the future.

I was terrified to take this class because I had listened to the stories of how “awful” and “terrible” the professor was. I have never had such a challenging class that taught me so much. This class is difficult but for good reason. This has become the best class I have taken, and with one of the best professors. This class has taught me more than the things I need to know in the classroom. Thank you.

I greatly enjoyed this class in both content & lecture. The content itself was hugely interesting, and the professor clearly understood & cared about the material. I’m glad to have taken this course, and had to put in real work to earn my grade for once. The challenge that this class offered was both refreshing & motivating. Thank you for that. ☺

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| **Fall ’04 to Spring ‘15**  **Surveys: 1255** | |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **983** | **156** | **116** |  |
| **Writing** | **932** | **177** | **145** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1157** | **59** | **38** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **1066** | **65** | **123** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1178** | **27** | **50** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **1040** | **51** | **176** |  |
| **Time management** | **846** | **141** | **124** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **7202** | **677** | **772** | **83.25** |