**Course Feedback (Spring 2016)**

**[Surveys: 48]**

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

 **Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 43 3 2 89.6**

**Writing 37 5 6 77.1**

**Note-taking 47 0 1 97.9**

**Interpretation 40 0 8 83.3**

**Historical thinking 46 0 2 95.8**

**Critical analysis 39 4 5 81.3**

**Time management 39 7 2 81.3**

**Total Yes = 86.6%**

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

* I liked the quizzes that held us accountable for completing homework. I also liked the bonus points that were offered with these quizzes. The in-class essays were beneficial to test prep too.
* All content should be kept, people need to know about these genocides. Also keep doing the study guides they are very helpful.
* The in-class quizzes & bonus points.
* The open-note tests, notes help and it’s a good way to study.
* Keep all the content! Was an amazing course, I learned so much I didn’t know.
* I thought that the readings we had to do were good for us, because we were able to get the main ideas out of the text.
* I liked the bonus points a lot, because if you do bad on a quiz or have to miss a class the points can help to not let your grade drop.
* The quizzes help cushion the exams which keep us motivated instead of falling behind. The readings, they are all interesting.
* The abundance of extra credit is nice. If we got it, it was because we worked for it by doing the assignment.
* The quizzes and extra credit opportunity because they help if you don’t do well on the overall test.
* In class writings, helped me prepare for the essay part of the test, also helped me manage time because I’m a slow writer.
* I would keep all of the readings as well as the documentaries because they offered more glances and views of what was happening. It was refreshing instead of just using the book.
* Extra credit, chapter review, very helpful for learning & grade, and it helps with thought process and organization.
* The chapter reviews help with quizzes and studying. Extra credit cushion your grade.
* All of the documentaries they helped me understand the info better.
* Because it helps with all of my reading that happened in this class, so what needs to be kept is all of the reading.
* I would keep all the documentaries & videos. They made is more visual and helped put it more in perspective. It’s one thing to cite statistics, but its another to actually see the conditions and footage.
* Definitely keep the documentaries. As a visual learner [reading is also visual learning] those helped the best to connect all that we learned in reading & class discussion.
* I love the opportunities for bonus points because it inspired me to try my best.
* Course ethics & what it teaches, also the structure helped with time management, interpretation, & historical thinking.
* Everything

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

* History is far more than just names and dates. Before this course I have never dived this deep into history before. I am now aware of how important it is to understand history on a larger more in depth scale and to connect it to the 21st century.
* I learned how to actually be a college student. To learn not to procrastinate and get the most out of class work done, any slacking I did reflected my grades. I felt as though I was actually in college.
* I actually learned about the Holocaust. I didn’t realize how much my past history classes kept out until I took this class. It makes me want to take more history classes.
* It’s important not to from a strong hatred or blame to another human(s) and generalize to the whole population.
* Reasoning behind why the genocides happen, & about the genocides in general. I had not heard about any of the other genocides that happened other than the Holocaust.
* I got more of the actual story of what happened instead of the generic “Hitler was bad and killed all the Jews” A lot more went down than just that. It has made me more knowledgeable and respectful of the subject.
* Value your time how much time you study reflects your grade. Time management & study habits improved.
* Learned how to be a better student and just more educated about this topic.
* What the Holocaust was really about, how it started & all the background info.
* The most important thing is all the numbers that you showed us.
* Keep up with your work
* How to take good notes, study ways, and how to look for important messages in the readings.
* Aside from learning the material, the most important thing was learning how to study, and how to take good notes 🡪 was very bad about it before taking this class.
* I learned important facts on what really happened in the Holocaust and what genocide truly means.
* I am able to understand why things happened in the past years due to what we learned and talked about.
* Coming into the class, I thought that Hitler had a plan to kill all of the Jews, but I now know that isn’t true [not until into WWII, at least]. I think this is a big thing people need to understand.
* I cant say any thing was more important than another, but the in-depth knowledge of historical events and the real details are important. My reading and discovering context skills was important to me.
* Hitler’s outlook wasn’t to just destroy all Jews, others were targeted as well. Gas chambers came later on.
* That the Holocaust was not premeditated. There was no set plan. It unfolded how it did because of several factors and does not follow the functionalist [intentionalist?] theory.
* I honestly think everything has been equally important.
* Holocaust was not pre-planned, it was the result of reactionary events that led to “no other option”

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

* I would not change anything. I believe the course was structured well and was very fair. I always felt I was provided the resources necessary to be successful in this course.
* Nothing.
* Nothing really, it is a good setup.
* Nothing, as a whole, each component come together to help students because better learners
* Less readings and maybe more films. I learn better from films.
* The way exam are given, not so much writing. Maybe more multiple choice questions short answer. The way the information is taught not so many outside videos.
* Having grades put on talon [anyone could ask about their grade at any time during the semester, also everyone got periodic updates of your grade every few weeks!] so we can better calculate what our grade is. Knowing your grade on everything helps you know what you need to work on.
* More time for quizzes, tests, and in-class writings [working within the time limits is part of the exercise]. I feel as if we are being rushed to do these quizzes, test and writings even when we can use notes. [??]
* I would watch some of the documentaries in class because I like when you explain what is going on as we watch the video. I feel as that I get more out of the video.
* Maybe cut down on the amount of documentaries. It has been difficult sometimes with other class work because often times this class alone has two or three hours of homework. [correct, college courses should have about 2 hours of work outside class for every 1 hour spent in class, that’s a standard expectation.] I would also make the group work optional. Some people work better alone and it is very irritating working with someone who hasn’t read or something like that. [we really didn’t do much group work in this course, especially compared to other classes where EVERYTHING is done in groups including exams]
* In class note taking, felt some information given was not as important, going over readings would be nice some readings were difficult to understand. [open invitation all semester to ask questions in variety of forms: did you ask any questions? E-mail, in-class, in writing, etc.]
* The essay portion of the test because even after preparation & knowing the information, it wasn’t good enough. [I’ll be keeping the essays, practice, outlining, & organization are keys to improvement. Did you ever come in to discuss your essays with me?]
* Learn about different genocides at the beginning of the semester & save the Holocaust for last. Sometimes I got mixed up with what genocide we were on since [??]
* Go more in depth about later genocides and connect relevance to today & the connections to the holocaust.
* See more actual accounts of survivors and talk about what they thought was happening.
* Have review days in class for exams, I think it would help.
* I think something that needs to change is the tests [be specific, I’m not getting rid of the essays though]
* This course had very little in class notes compared to ones taken out of class. I didn’t find myself using what I wrote in class.
* I would have loved to see more identifications and talking more as we went on how everything tied in to the beginning of the genocides.
* I would decrease the amount of homework a bit. Sometimes it gets overwhelming.
* Syllabus & assignments more cut & dry, datewise—it is difficult to just do hours worth of reading with only two days between classes. Would be better if students can work ahead in class.

**Additional Comments:**

* I love that I was given a challenge for this class. I benefitted greatly from it and would highly recommend your classes to others. You’re a great teacher and do very well in not sharing too much bias in each lecture, but rather give sides to each discussion.
* Yost really challenged me in this course. I juggled school, homework, & work when I thought couldn’t anymore even with a lot of lost motivation. I feel more prepared to take on a university now.
* Instructor is very picky and hard, but forms a good student into a great student. I’m so glad I took this course with this instructor, the need for very specific and detailed notes helped me in all my other classes.
* Everyone said you were an asshole and at first I didn’t understand why you taught the way you did. But in seeing the blatant disrespect from classmates, and really diving into the very sad and dark closet of the Nazi rule and genocide in general, I get it. Your class was incredibly insightful. So thank you for how you handle this class.
* It would be nice to hear from you sentence examples you expect on a test [we did give examples in class on handouts of sample answers]. You tell us to elaborate, but many don’t know what exactly you want for an elaboration. When being in class I felt that it was pointless because the information given was pictures, or death tolls. [?? Talked about much more than this in class] Yes we were given facts but it would be nice to bring in information from the articles to help clarify anything that was misread [did you ask any questions? E-mail, writing, in class, office hours, etc.] I felt a lot of my in class notes were pointless. [maybe come and talk to me early in the semester about this??]

**History of Science**

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

* The combination of films and varying texts, quizzes.
* I would keep everything involved in this course. This course had shaped my work ethic and has improved my abilities to focus in other classes.
* Keep the detailed descriptions of assignments on TALON
* The readings from multiple sources. The use of multiple sources keeps the reading from becoming too boring.
* The bonus points. They helped keep my grade up and improved my overall grade as well.
* While I did not like it, the readings then quiz the next day (or class) were very helpful in keeping me on task for the most part.
* I learned a new way to read books and understand them.
* I enjoyed this class, I’d keep it as it is. It’s challenging and I think it makes you better at critical analysis.

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

* Context is key
* Do not procrastinate, put in the work consistently and eventually it becomes second nature.
* How to approach history and viewing that past without judgment.
* Darwin’s discoveries, interesting that he used his children, and most of his research was done in his garden and home.
* History (and science) are not as clear cut and simplistic as popular opinion likes to make it seem. The reality of such things is complicated and is not simple.
* I have learned that time management is important. Every details count. Don’t ever neglect any idea or theory on this earth.
* The beginnings of science, how it was taught and what was important to people in the past.

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

* The exams. I would consider setting up in a computer lab or creating a kind of pre-test to give students more opportunity to improve on exam.
* I would change nothing….
* Typed written assignments [??]
* More time of lecturing and discussion
* Primary source didn’t improve my critical thinking and are not worth the points for this class. [??]
* At times it became difficult to keep track of information if we did not go over a certain reading in the class it was assigned for, but the one after. If possible, it would be quite useful for each reading and class period to coincide more often.
* I would change the amount of pages to read because if your major is engineering you course, you struggle to major your other classes, if you have to read 15 pages every day. [??]

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

* The Vikings and the Roman Empire. Was most interesting to me.
* I found that the extra credit each quiz was very helpful and well built in to accommodate missed classes.
* The daily—or almost daily—in-class writings, I believe are a good exercise. Not only do they proved the opportunity to practice for the written portion of the exams, but they also are a good way to get students thinking about the material.
* I like the in-class learning, quizzes, and the content of the class.
* Yes, I am a better student overall because of this course.
* I would keep everything, because everything we learned was really great to learn about
* I would keep the use of bonus points.
* Everything, work hard and it will
* Note taking for HW, big picture in class

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

* The huge context and how everything leads up to how we live today. Show up to class! (lost many points)
* I was not previously used to reading the textbooks and taking notes for my previous classes and so I found that the daily quizzes and required readings got me in a positive habit of note taking. I found myself more prepared and understanding for class.
* This isn’t time period I knew anything about whatsoever so I would have to say the material itself—but this class although it doesn’t necessarily entail more reading than other classes forces you to take good notes in a way that others do not.
* I learned how to study/note taking. I am able to pick out important facts compared to just things that are unnecessary.
* I am responsible for how I do in this class. My grade reflects my work/notes.
* The most important thing I learned was note taking. I learned quick that I would need to take a lot of notes for this class. In high school we don’t take a lot of notes so I had to find my own way to get the most important pieces of information.
* Keep up with the reading.
* How to hone my skills in note-taking & organization.
* How to be a better student in college.

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

* I realize the religion plays a big role, but I wish that it wasn’t so emphasized in the course, maybe about other big things going on?
* Nothing, I feel this class is necessary in order to teach students accountable and organizational skills.
* The book. It was very difficult for me to read the book, I did it still but it was very difficult.
* More group work/interaction with other students to discuss ideas.
* Maybe a little guideline for notes. [note-taking advice was offered several times in several forms at the beginning of the course]
* The one thing I would change is how much time we spent on the explorers, I thought that was really interesting and we didn’t spend a lot of time on it.
* I would change the use of documentaries as homework because it was time consuming and hard to balance with other classes and work. [welcome to college!]

**Europe: Age of Nationalism**

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

* I would keep the quizzes. They give the student plenty of opportunities to get points and bonus points.
* The reading, and the writings are very good. They help to understand the material better and more in depth.
* The bonus points on quizzes
* The lectures and reading quizzes
* The video in class
* The order and almost everything because you can’t understand a topic later unless you know the history behind it.
* The reading and note-taking, helps people learn what real college workloads are. You really have to know the information in the chapter and the notes help us on quizzes and tests.
* The stuff about both World Wars, the Cold War, the actions of King Leopold

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

* How to take the necessary notes that translate to what the section or chapter was about
* I learned how to take good notes, and manage my time easier but most importantly that WWI is the cause of everything. Also, Nationalism can do a whole lot. Good and bad.
* Better time management & learning more about the early 1900s
* Outcomes of WWI and how they led to WWII and the Cold War
* Critical reading, reading skills
* I learned time management skills, especially when it comes to note taking
* Learned to take better notes and to read everything in the assigned readings
* The stuff about King Leopold II’s crimes in the Congo because I knew nothing about them before.

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

* Nothing [2X]
* I really have no complaints about it. I was happy with all of it.
* The amount of pages to take notes over a single night or day.
* Spend a little more time on the social changes of the time period.
* You’ll ask a question then answer it yourself, maybe try to let students answer, other than that nothing.
* Try to stretch out the Cold War sections. The first few weeks of the class were focusing on things that didn’t have much interest (ex. Crimean War) or connection to Nationalism. [?? Crimean War is connected to nationalism, can’t tailor everything in the course to personal interests of individual students]

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| **Fall ’04 to Spring ‘16****Surveys: 1364** |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes**  | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **1071** | **168** | **125** |  |
| **Writing** | **1015** | **190** | **158** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1260** | **60** | **43** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **1159** | **66** | **138** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1280** | **31** | **53** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **1131** | **59** | **186** |  |
| **Time management** |  **934** | **154** | **132** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **7850** | **728** |  **835** | **83.39** |