**Course Feedback (Spring 2017) [Surveys: 31]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 27 3 1 87.1**

**Writing 28 1 2 90.3**

**Note-taking 27 2 2 87.1**

**Interpretation 28 1 2 90.3**

**Historical thinking 29 1 1 93.5**

**Critical analysis 28 0 3 90.3**

**Time management 29 2 0 93.5**

**Total Yes = 90.3%**

**Europe: Age of Monarchy**

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

* The frequent essays helped me get a firm grasp on historical thinking and writing; specifically, discerning which details are most important and why they are. Rather than just reading the book, we watched videos, read essays, and read primary sources. These all helped me understand and absorb the materials.
* The way it is taught. I like how the weight is mostly on the students and we aren’t being told what we should know. I think having the responsibility made me learn more.
* I liked how there were many assignments over one topic, so it was easier/better to fully get an idea of what it was about.
* I like the videos that provided in this course, they are awesome and should be kept. The extra materials is cool, and could help us know more on history in more dimension, beside only doing the textbook & source book.
* I would keep the chapter reading pace the same, as well as the videos, and additional readings. Because it’s better to understand the subject from multiple perspectives.
* Keep everything.
* The quizzes with the bonus points because it helps.
* The viewing guides, very helpful with spelling. The quizzes, good grade booster
* Viewing guides with videos, made note taking easier, as well as keeping the big picture in mind.
* The additional videos and reading supplement the course really well, giving different perspectives over the textbook.
* The multiple choice in the exams & the bonus points. The art & pictures you have from throughout history.

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

* Primary sources are invaluable and should always be included to give students better insight. I enjoyed reading them a lot. Also, worthwhile college courses require lots of work on the part of the students. You get out what you put in.
* I learned about history in the way it should have been taught. It helped me interpret things it wasn’t just facts and dates.
* In order to better study history, it is necessary to study in multi-dimensions on different sources.
* The order of things. What trends led to what occurrences afterwards, oppressed Jews leading to Christianity, leading to a Christian Rome, the Goths fleeing the Huns and Vikings invading leading to a crumbling West Rome and a diverse Europe, and a distaste in medieval sensibilities leading to the Renaissance. All these trends that overlap with and lead to each other.
* That history is more than just facts and it changes over time.
* Not to listen to everything you first hear. There are so many opinions out there about the past/history, but that doesn’t tell you what actually happened.
* Analyzing and understanding historical context. I enjoy history & taking your course has helped me with this. I enjoy your lectures, you seem to enjoy what you teach. Please continue to be sarcastic & dry, it makes your class more enjoyable.
* My writing skills need work.
* My own religion, how a lot came from pagans, and how certain conquest and battles shaped the country and religion.
* I learned about the truth of how the Roman Empire slowly broke down and became the Byzantine Empire up until it was finally conquered by the Turkish Muslims.
* I am a sophomore and this is the first course I’ve taken that absolutely requires the homework, I learned so much more through the readings & quizzes.

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

* Nothing
* Nothing. I enjoyed this class very much.
* Longer class time, that way the lecture part of the class is not rushed.
* When we do the practice IDs in class. I felt we could have done more practice quotes. When it came to doing them on exams, I found that part to be the most difficult.
* I think we can have less reading quiz in next semester, sometimes we need so may try to spend on reading on both materials & taking notes, and that really cost time and sometimes we have lesser time to focus on other courses.
* The lectures can get very specific for more than one class on small things [??] like the Battle of Agincourt, though they can expand on them later. [yes, this was stated as the approach at the beginning of the semester.]
* I understand that this course packs a lot of material and we don’t have much time to linger, but I would have liked to discuss the topics with the students giving input. [suggest something specific, I am all ears. ☺]
* The amount of homework. I understand reading is a big part of this class, however, I found myself overwhelmed & not able to enjoy the handouts because of the amount of assigned homework & reading.
* If we are assigned to watch an hour long documentary I don’t think there should be a reading assignment as well.
* I would get rid of the sourcebook entirely. There are enough critical analysis of the specifics on the subject between the main book and the lecture to understand the contributing factors and perspective. [history requires struggling with primary documents, the sourcebook will be staying as in important part of the course content]
* Discuss some pagan Gods before the shift to Christianity and how some relate to Christianity and other religious and festivals

**Additional comments:**

* I have taken three courses with you and it has helped me so much with my note taking, writing, and time management. I like how you put the responsibility on the student. It makes getting a good grade even better because then you know you worked for it. Thank you for showing me that I have what it takes to make it through college if I apply myself!
* I will not be attending Kirkwood anymore & I won’t miss anything [especially the freaking parking lot & amount of Confederate flag stickers I see] however I will miss your lectures & classes, you’ve made my Kirkwood experience more enjoyable…. Thanks for dealing with my terrible handwriting & spelling.
* Sometimes the homework was a little excessive. Taking notes over the textbook is very time consuming (1-2 hours). So assigning a documentary and an extra online reading is too much. Some days I spent 4 hours just on this courses homework. This course is set up very much like a high school course because of all the assigned readings & homework. [??] It would be a great transition course from high school to college. [I won’t be reducing the work load, it’s fine as reflected in the numbers of students earning higher grades]
* In your syllabus please specify how cheap the exam books are [we did in class the first day, 25 cents each]. It otherwise sounds extremely shady selling them for an inflated price or having your grade docked points. [a very strange comment… since there’s nothing shady here: responsible students purchase the exam books in advance at the book store, other students (who don’t pay attention or listen in class) can either buy them for 50 cents or take a point penalty. That’s fair to everyone.]

**Holocaust & Genocide**

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

* Everything
* I would leave everything the way you have it because it has taught me information that I am glad I know now so I can help as much as I possibly can.
* The writings were helpful to link the facts together in my mind rather than viewing them as separate fact/events.
* The material that was covered. It opens peoples eyes to what is and what has happened throughout the world & it wasn’t just the Holocaust. It was the hows, whys, whens and not just merely the event.
* I like all the writings and quizzes, but somehow the wording of questions made it difficult to understand and find the correct term to use. [did you ever come in for help with notes or seek out additional tutoring? Average quiz scores do not reflect this difficulty in understanding the questions. So you probably needed to get help early in the semester.]
* Quizzes keep you on your feet & because we can use notes it helps w/ note taking skills. Point system easier to follow and just seemed like a better way to grade!
* Everything because it’s a great course.
* The book, readings & quiz.
* The documentaries because I learned best with the visual aspect.
* I really liked the matching because those are fairly easy and they give you points that help your grade. Bonus points, it helps with your grade.
* Talking about why genocides continue to happen.
* Probably all the in-depth that the course goes into because it does good going in depth.
* The study guides, they gave me a better understanding of the material.
* The information. It’s not too broad but it’s not too small of a focus.

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

* History is repeating itself and there are similarities to Hitler and other horrible leaders.
* Coming into this class I only knew about the holocaust. So learning all this new information makes me think that genocides can be prevented/stopped before it gets really bad.
* The background of the Holocaust. Also, learning about the more updated genocides that we have failed over and over again.
* It gave me a better understanding of Nazi Germany than I already had with history classes. And the one act play I was in about children at Auschwitz last year that went to state speech.
* “Never again” was a b$%#shit promise. Genocide continues to be a problem.
* Hitler wasn’t a mad genius. He was just a fool who had too much power.
* Other people did this to each other, not brain washing or work of the devil. Trump and Hitler are too similar.
* I have to start working on homework in advance, not just the night before or right before class.
* I have learned to read and take notes to rely on, which is something that I never had to do in high school.
* The Holocaust is NOT the most important or biggest genocide that has or is currently happening.
* The true definition of genocide. Events leading up to the Holocaust. I had never heard of any of the other genocides until this class.
* The vulnerability, relatability, and recognizability of genocidal behavior or pre-genocide actions.
* That genocides could still happen.
* Can’t decide. It’s all important.
* That genocides continue to happen and how blinded we are.

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

* Nothing
* Adding to exams—rather than entirely writing some shorter answers or blanks, expands the information one can cover in the time limit. Helps students wrists and quantity of info being tested.
* I don’t think anything should change because everything had its purpose.
* I wouldn’t change a thing. It was hard but I learned a lot. Maybe ease up on spelling and punctuation but then again, we should know that. It’s just hard when you’re trying to make sure your answer explains it all. Better study guides for some stuff. [??]
* Less documentaries, they tend to be dry loose my focus [??]
* Maybe a few articles and replace those with articles that cover an array of different things that we need to know instead of an article for one thing and another for that thing. Condensed article reading. [??]
* Less time consuming homework, watching 1-2 hour videos [no video was ever 2 hours, most were less than 1 hour] out of class took up time that could be used to understand the concepts more. [??]
* I don’t think the readings we read outside of the book were really helpful. [Stalinism? Cambodia? Rwanda? Darfur? There’s no single textbook for all these, and you didn’t have to pay for an additional text either.]
* Less things to do and watch outside class because a lot of us are busy people [everyone is busy] with other things to do. And more chances to collaborate with others because communication is good.
* Give out grades more. Not many people have the time to talk after class or outside of class because of jobs and other classes. [there were almost weekly grade updates, and you could ask me at any time for a grade update if every week wasn’t frequent enough]
* There is a lot of work for the class and with the rest of the classes I am taking makes it difficult to give this information enough time.
* In class discussions?
* Less homework, we have other classes homework too! So many quizzes.

**Additional comments:**

* You are an awesome instructor who teaches an incredibly sad and emotionally draining course. Great job!!
* I have learned more about history than I ever have during my education. I’m glad I know now how serious this is.
* This has been the most challenging class I have taken so far.
* Thank you for being an awesome instructor! What an emotionally draining subject! I don’t know how you do it, but I know Kirkwood is lucky you do! I have learned and retained so much due to your teaching style…

**History of Science**

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

* The subject and sequence of events
* The bonus points help give students, who aren’t as good at essays, a chance to still do well in the class. The content seems to flow well from beginning to end.
* Everything
* The readings and study guides for those readings. The in-class assignments and the matching quotes exercises. The availability for us to put in our own suggestions on tests.

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

* To manage my time well
* History must be studied contextually! It means nothing to study history if you don’t place events in the proper context of how and when they happened.
* I learned that waiting to read assignments the night before class is a terrible idea.
* How to properly think in depth about topics related to science. How to interpret the context.

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

* I don’t know, I would say the reading load but I just hate reading
* I don’t think I would change anything. The course is challenging but students are given many opportunities to succeed.
* Nothing
* Print off more of the readings to be used in class

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| **Fall ’04 to Spring ‘17**  **Surveys: 1437** | |  |  |  |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |  |
| **Reading** | **1130** | **176** | **131** |  |
| **Writing** | **1079** | **193** | **164** |  |
| **Note-taking** | **1326** | **63** | **47** |  |
| **Interpretation** | **1224** | **68** | **144** |  |
| **Historical thinking** | **1348** | **32** | **57** |  |
| **Critical analysis** | **1194** | **59** | **196** |  |
| **Time management** | **963** | **156** | **132** | **% Yes** |
| **TOTALS** | **8264** | **747** | **871** | **83.62** |