**Course Feedback (Summer 2013)**

**[Surveys: 11]**

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

**Yes No Not sure % Yes**

**Reading 10 1 0 90.9**

**Writing 9 1 1 81.8**

**Note-taking 10 1 0 90.9**

**Time management 8 2 1 72.7**

**Interpretation 10 0 1 90.9**

**Historical thinking 10 0 1 90.9**

**Critical analysis 10 0 1 90.1**

**Total Yes = 87.01%**

**Ancient Mediterranean World**

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

Learning by reading at home and reviewing in class. The essay-style exam is infinitely more relevant to the critical thinking skills necessary for historical analysis than the note regurgitation that scan-trons encourage. Open-note quizzes discourage rote-memorization, encourage interpretation, and improve note-taking skills.

Essay format & bonus points. Not many classes outside of composition have challenging writing requirements. The bonus points allow students to still keep their grade up.

Exams, I liked the challenge. Daily quizzes—really helps to enforce the readings. Big picture lay-out helped to organize information for the exams. Documentary—VERY interesting and informative.

I would keep the daily quizzes because the bonus points are really helpful and the quizzes are easy if you do the work.

Quizzes, gives reward for homework & also helps keep a good grade if essays aren’t your thing.

All the history of the Greek people. I always wanted to know what it was back then.

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

I learned so much with this course that I appreciate but it brought understanding to why history is so important, but also just how influential Ancient history, especially Greek & Roman shaped our world today. I enjoyed having the blinders removed so I could see the importance of things all around me, and makes you feel a part of something bigger.

Other than developing my writing skills, it was very interesting learning about Roman politics and how much our culture is based off of it.

About the Spartans and Athens, their gods and laws which made them what they were.

Take two sets of notes, one for quizzes, one for big picture for essays. Daily review helps.

How to take notes & figure out what’s important in the textbook reading. Spelling counts!

I learned to better identify unsupported arguments, how to avoid making them, and how to take better notes.

I already knew that it is important to know about history, but I had no idea the extent that these ancient civilizations have impacted us. My high school didn’t make world history available until I was a senior and it was not required, and my American History classes didn’t cover any of this and I think that these things are not only interesting, but also kind of important to know about when learning our history and where we come from.

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

Nothing.

I wouldn’t change anything. I think the class was challenging but that is what I want. I think if you are going to go to college you want to push yourself into something new and you can’t do that if you don’t learn.

I would change how much the essays on the tests are worth because it’s really difficult for me to write an essay in a set amount of time because I can’t organize myself well at all and I think other people would have the same problem too. [difficult shouldn’t mean that you don’t have to do it, you can organize better before the exam by outlining and practicing, don’t fall into trying to bring in other people in making an argument (let them speak for themselves)]

The option to work ahead during 3-day weekends for accelerated summer courses.

Essay exams [what specifically would you change, just no essay at all or no writing at all?]

Reduce points from main essay to 50% of test, give better chance to those who don’t do well writing timed essays [this is what the outrageous amounts of bonus points are for, if I reduce the % of the essay, then I should also reduce the bonus points??]

Long hours of homework every day of the course [no, this won’t change, sorry!]

**Additional Comments:**

Thank you for a very enlightening experience, makes me want to learn more. You might see me again. I really enjoyed this class. Don’t listen to the haters.

One thing I would change would be putting the important terms for videos in order of appearance on the video sheets because it gives students a sense of where they are in the video [??] and if you hear a term that is further down the sheet than where you are you can know that you need to go back and rewatch part of the video again. [?? Think the alphabetized list is more than enough to guide viewing and spelling]

The handout of a well-written essay was really helpful, but it would have been nice to have at the beginning of the semester as an example.

**History of Science**

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

The reading material was very informative and often very interesting. Daily quizzes gave me incentive to complete assignments every day and contributed to learning a lot more. Overall emphasis on context/interpretation this course didn’t simply re-state history or compile important facts🡪 it focused on how those facts were related and why they were so influential

The way the course has students read at home then review in class is a great way to learn. I also found that open-notes forced me to improve note-taking skills. I’m also a big fan of demonstrating deeper understanding, so I prefer the essay to the scan-tron.

The extra points, these help make up for people who are not use to your style of teaching and allows them to keep motivated and push forward.

The bonus points on the quizzes, it helped maintain a good grade as long as classwork and homework assignments were completed.

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

Contextualism (people had good reason to believe the things they did). Also, note-taking skills & greater ability to estimate level of effort to complete assignments & schedule time for them.

Interpretation along w/ the overall historical chronology of esteemed philosophers/scientists of the last 2000 years.

How to read and understand material for significant context and meaning; how to better manage time.

Everything, understanding history allows people to understand the present and look to the future.

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

This is an excellent course, maybe more time and cover more of the textbook. Hard to do in the summer.

Less homework on night before the exam. It was hard to get assignments done and study and organize for the exam.

Give students a breather once or twice during the course [we did have at least once where we got out 1-hour early] in regards to daily assignments (possibly after exams). However, I realize summer classes are an accelerated experience. Simply an idea to avoid information overload, or students getting burned out.

I would be nice to have the option to work ahead a bit on the 3-day weekends for these accelerated summer courses.

**Additional Comments:**

Great course and great professor; be ready to work for it, and you will learn a lot.