

Student Evaluation Summary

Course: FWS 1104 – *Rewriting the Past: How History Gets Made*

Semester: Fall, 2022

Institution: Cornell University

Number of Students: 17

Most Common Positive Comments:

- Class discussions were dynamic and fruitful
- Course helped students become more critical of historical arguments
- Instructor was engaged, informed, and approachable

Most Common Suggestions / Complaints:

- Grading was slow, and students did not receive feedback
 - This was a specific technical issue I only discovered at the end of the semester. The course LMS did not show students their feedback.
- Organization could have been better
- Some materials were boring / confusing

Excerpts of Student Feedback:

- “This course taught me to approach history in ways I never had before. Course material is interesting and engaging. Also, the importance placed on class discussion in this course was very engaging. I feel that I thought way more critically about the material because of this.”
- “Sometimes the texts we read were repetitive, but nothing was useless to read.”
- I have learned a lot from this course but one thing that has stuck with me is how to take part in class discussions around important and often controversial topics with such a diverse group of people. Sometimes these conversations are uncomfortable or hard to have, but it's these types of conversations that create progress.
- Professor Greenlee is clearly very passionate and knowledgeable about the material he teaches. He used this in class to make sure everyone was engaged with the material. He understands the need for students to figure out course material amongst themselves, but was also an important guide in conversations. As a person, Professor Greenlee is extremely kind, inviting, and understanding. I never felt uncomfortable in his class.
- The discussions were very in-depth and nuanced. They made me think hard about my positions and the positions of others.

Course Evaluation:
MEDVL 1104: Rewriting the Past
 Fall, 2022
 Dr. John Wyatt Greenlee

Overall Course Evaluation

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1. How would you rate the course overall?	13	2				
2. How would you rate the organization of the course?	10	3	2			
3. How would you rate the course content?	11	3	1			
4. How would you rate the relevance of the course and course content?	13	1	1			
5. How would you rate your own engagement with this course?	8	4	3			

6. What do you consider the strengths of the course?
- I love how we are able to connect history to contemporary issues. I especially enjoyed the Trouillot readings.
- I think that my participation in discussions and engagement during class were a strength in the course. I was really able to foster a strong relationship with my peers in the course.
- The books we read were very relevant to the topic of the class, and I learned a lot about how the idea of what history should be and what it is is a controversial topic.
- Learning about the past, debating on it and actually considering the past from different perspectives
- This course taught me to approach history in ways I never had before. Course material is interesting and engaging. Also, the importance placed on class discussion in this course was very engaging. I feel that I thought way more critically about the material because of this.
- The class discussions were very interesting and I really enjoyed the topics that we spoke about. I really learned a lot from this course and I feel like I really strived and did well throughout the semester due to the Professor's assistance and attention that he gave to me as well as everyone else.
- The class discussions- everyone was engaged and contributed to the conversations we had. The material was very interesting, and I liked the essay prompts. I also liked the smaller class size.
- I think the main strength of this course is the continuity in the concepts discussed, so that by the end I feel like I've developed a better general framework for thinking about history instead of scattered principles.
- The course is well taught and is very relevant to today. The class is very engaging and everyone had a voice.
- The discussions were very in-depth and nuanced. They made me think hard about my positions and the positions of others.

I think that the in-class discussions were very engaging and promoted an environment in which every student could share their opinions and thoughts to the class. Personally, I feel that I learned a lot from our discussions, and the content of the course broadened my understanding of the historical field as a whole.

It makes me aware of the past but be able to interpret the past in a way that benefit the society.

The discussions in class are among what I consider to be the strengths of this course. Having the opportunity to hear the ideas of others and exchange words with them was helpful to increasing my knowledge.

The readings were also enriching.

One thing that I really liked about this course was how applicable the content was to contemporary issues. I also really liked the structure of the class as I felt that the homework set me up well for engaging class discussions.

Thoughtful subject matter, always interesting and engaging. Readings were always interesting and never overwhelming.

7. What do you consider the weaknesses of the course, and what suggestions do you have for remedying them?

Perhaps more feedback on the formal writing assignments.

I believe that my attention to the reading discussion posts was a bit flawed towards the end of the class. I kept forgetting about them or saving them until the last minute and was pretty vague with them. The only thing I can suggest is doing prompts for some discussion posts so they don't get repetitive.

Sometimes, the texts we read were slightly repetitive, but nothing was ever useless to read

I saw no weaknesses in this class

I cannot think of any weaknesses in this course.

I overall loved it and I would not change a thing!

There are a couple chapters in Gaddis' The Landscape of History that could possibly be replaced with other readings.

I think the only real weakness is in terms of organization. I think that students should be made more aware of what will happen in the course over the next 2-3 weeks.

The course could use some new history books as some of them are repetitive and non-educational.

Not really that much. If anything could be improved it would be examining more primary source examples of how history has been currently altered rather than reading another historians views on the topic.

I think that at times, it would have been helpful if the course were slightly more structured - especially with regards to our writing assignments.

we didn't have trips and I suggest some trips

Personally, I considered the material boring at times. Perhaps the instructor could choose different readings, but the instructor was not boring to me.

I don't really think there were any weaknesses in this course.

I don't think anything about the course should be changed!

8. What is something that you have learned from this course?

How to think critically when people present historical justifications.

I have learned that history is more complex and subjective than I could have ever imagined. I also learned that historians write in very weird ways.

I learned different ways to analyze historical events through the lens of an actual historian.

Do not believe every historical fact you hear, always think critically about history and other's interpretation of the past

I have gained a deep understanding of the production of history and the challenges that come with it. I've learned to always question the historical narratives presented to me.

I learned a lot about the manner in which people view and write historical narratives. Additionally, I was able to strengthen my analytical and writing skills while responding to very interesting and thought provoking prompts.

I overall learned how to engage with others regarding very prominent polarizing issues in a respectful and informative manner.

I have become much more aware of historical thought and how history is manufactured and interpreted.

I learned that absolute factual accuracy is not the only (or main) goal of historical analysis, which relates more to narrative building.

I have learned much about how history is used as a tool and manipulated at will to support any arguments or to make someones point seem more credible.

The validity of historical claims is something I should examine in more depth when having a conversation with someone. I think sometimes we just accept things that are presented with no criticism.

I learned about the subjectivity of history and the process of historical study, both of which were previously unknown to me.

I learnt writing rules like citing, and interpreting historical arguments.

I've learned about the complexity of history and more about how its created.

I have learned a lot from this course but one thing that has stuck with me is how to take part in class discussions around important and often controversial topics with such a diverse group of people. Sometimes these conversations are uncomfortable or hard to have, but it's these types of conversations that create progress.

A nuanced understanding on the ontology of history and its implications in a broad contemporary context

In-Class Experience

	Always	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Not Usually	Never
9. I felt listened to and valued in class	13	2				
10. I felt listened to and valued in my interactions with the instructor	14	1				
11. I felt that others were listened to and valued in class	12	3				
12. I feel like class discussions improved my understanding of the materials	13	2				
13. Any additional comments about your in-class experience?	<p>Nope! Please keep the class structure the same - it was great.</p> <p>None</p> <p>It was the best history/writing course I ever took!!</p> <p>The in class experience was fantastic. Even on days when everyone showed up tired, the class had good atmosphere and was engaging.</p> <p>The in class experience is great with just enough people in the classroom that a sense of community forms which means everyone gets to know each other and is willing to support or counter someone else's argument.</p> <p>none</p> <p>I loved the way my fellow students were open to talk and share their life experiences through the class discussions</p> <p>Always constructive and interesting. Professor Greenlee has a prowess for facilitating conversation with insightful questions.</p>					

Instructor Evaluation

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
14. How would you rate the instructor's effectiveness?	12	2	1			
15. How would you rate instructor's contribution to the course?	12	3				
16. How would you rate the instructor's enthusiasm?	14	1				
17. How would you rate the instructor's interest in student learning?	15					
18. How would you rate the instructor's use of class time?	12	3				

	Yes	No
19. Would you take another course from this instructor?	15	
20. What do you consider to be the strengths of this instructor?	<p>He is great at facilitating discussion and truly listens to each student.</p> <p>Professor Greenlee is the perfect FWS teacher because he understands that we are adjusting to college and is very receptive. Also, he is so flexible.</p> <p>When our class discussions are strong and multiple people are talking, he extends the discussion until the end of class allowing us to share our thoughts and ideas.</p> <p>Prof. Greenlee runs the class so well, and really helps us understand what the point of a historian's job is and what history entails in this day and age.</p> <p>Not only is Professor Greenlee an educated teacher (very good in the academic field), but also very supportive, open and enthusiastic about the class. You can tell that he does care about both the presentation of the course material and students themselves.</p> <p>Professor Greenlee is clearly very passionate and knowledgeable about the material he teaches. He used this in class to make sure everyone was engaged with the material. He understands the need for students to figure out course material amongst themselves, but was also an important guide in conversations. As a person, Professor Greenlee is extremely kind, inviting, and understanding. I never felt uncomfortable in his class.</p> <p>The instructor always directed the class discussions very well and asked thought provoking questions in order to engage with everyone in the class. He was also very understanding and really cared about each individual in the class.</p> <p>Great facilitator, knowledgeable, approachable</p> <p>I think the instructor is very good at guiding but not forcing conversation, encouraging students to exchange ideas between each other.</p> <p>The instructor is very passionate about the course and is happy to lead a conversation or leave it to the students, it makes the class very enjoyable.</p> <p>Facilitates conversation very well in class by asking questions and pushing students to think more about what they believe. He gives a very manageable workload that makes everything quite doable.</p> <p>I think that Prof. Greenlee was especially adept at making his students feel valued and heard. He is a very approachable professor, and his instruction of the course made it easy for students to ask for help. In addition, his approachability made class time enjoyable and thereby fostered my interest in the subject matter.</p> <p>He is a good listener, kind and well informed about History and the world in general</p> <p>He's a caring and thoughtful instructor who I believe is genuinely passionate about the subject they teach.</p> <p>I thought that Dr. Greenlee was a great professor because he truly cared about each and every student in our class both as a person and as a student. I also thought that he did a great job helping our class engage in meaningful discussions during each and every class. Finally, I thought that all of his assignments were extremely fair and that</p>	

he chose interesting prompts for us to write on. I would 100% take another class with him if I could.

Conversational, respectful to all opinions, friendly, and, of course, very well-informed on all things history.

21. What do you consider to be the weaknesses of the instructor, and what suggestions do you have for remedying them?

Honestly, no weaknesses observed again

I cannot think of any.

I don't think he has any particular weakness.

The only weakness might be time management, but I feel that even then it is dubious.

The only weakness with the instructor is that they didn't give any way to contact them outside of class until very late into the course by providing an email, essentially this weakness has been fixed.

I don't think there were any weaknesses I can think of.

I sometimes felt that Prof. Greenlee was a bit too easygoing - that is, expectations weren't made entirely clear. I think it would have been helpful if more clear requirements were laid out in terms of our syllabus and grading criteria.

I don't have any weaknesses in mind.

The only thing I would change about this course is that I wish our grades had been released on Canvas throughout the semester.

N/A

22. Additional Comments:

Can I get into his class next semester??? Please...

Even though I did not come into this class intending to pour my soul into it, I feel that I got a lot out of it and really enjoyed myself.

N/A

none

I would like to appreciate you for being such a caring professor, every time I needed help you were there and I loved the way you care about everyone in the class

I was fortunate to have taken your FWS. Thank you for teaching me.

I have recommended Prof. Greenlee to many friends and enjoyed every minute of his course.