

Excerpts from Student Self Evaluations June '12

RA, June 2012

I leave this class with a sense of hope that humans can try and understand the world. I understand that it's okay to not understand everything. But most of all, I leave with the idea that learning can be the most engaging, challenging, and exhilarating experience there is. And I'm so thankful for that.

BA, June, '12

As I walk away from this class I will definitely take a lot of its lessons with me. It has taught me that I am an individual and that I am able to think for myself and develop my own opinions on issues in the world today.

DT, June'12:

I have walked away from this class with more confidence in my work and in myself. So, as I learn I also want to learn that much more. This class has made a major impact on the way that I view things, and the way I learn and continue to discover more about myself. I know I can handle challenges that I couldn't before going into this class. I feel ready for almost anything. Plus I will leave this class with so many great memories to hold on to forever

JB, June '12:

This course has taught me a lot, but I think one of the most important things I learned was to synthesize my own ideas and to think critically.

This cycle has also made me realize the limits to my understanding. I feel that it is my role, as a student of history, to not understand everything at a minute level, but to recognize certain biases and assess information with them in mind. I think that this is one of the most important lessons that I've learned while taking this class. With the internet being so fast and easy, I can get as much information that I want about a certain subject, but I still have to use my brain to analyze the information and create my own ideas from that knowledge.

EG, June '12:

I've learned to examine things from different perspectives, and to think about the manner in which I receive information, and I have synthesized and developed my own ideas. I will walk away with a lot. Definitely an elevated passion for knowledge, and also with the comfort that school can be interesting,

GK, June '12:

I have also learned so much about the world that I would never have been interested in learning about had it not been for this class. My strength in this class was perseverance--sticking with something when I never

thought I was going to come out alive. Overall, this class has been a life experience that I know I'll remember forever, and all I can say is that I couldn't be more glad that I stuck with it until the end.

NL, June '12:

The ability to do a several page annotated bibliography, to analyze sources for credibility and bias, and to understand historical and current events from multiple perspectives and points of view. These are important skills that will help me later on in my life. Most importantly, I think that I will walk away with a better ability to learn, and this, in my opinion, is the most important skill of all.

EL, June '12:

As I got to the last sentence while I was proof reading I could feel this weight lifted off my shoulders. I was finally done with probably the hardest, most stressful, but most meaningful, important class I had ever taken. This class at times was complete hell for me, but I always wanted to get the work done because I knew that it meant something. This course has taught me that even when I think I am done and it is the best piece of work I could produce, there's always something to add.

This class has taught me not to just take what the teacher said and think its completely right. Its taught me to second guess and ask why and dig deeper because there's always two sides to every story.

the most important thing I learned is that I will never ever truly understand everything and there's always something more. We are always learning. We are lifetime learners and must always remember that.

SN, June '12:

I think one of the most important things that I learned in this class was how much I don't know, and how important it is to understand that. Assuming you can easily understand something can be as bad as misunderstanding it, because you simplify it and in doing so dismiss its complexity and depth.

VN, June '12":

I know that anything I learn from now on is going to be absorbed and it's going to help shape who I become as an adult. I also learned that in order to fully understand an event, one has to understand it's context and the reaction of the people who participated

I'm able to walk away knowing that nothing is impossible, no matter how hard it's said to be. I've also learned that it's okay not to be the best at everything, but it doesn't mean I will stop trying.

RP, June '12:

I learned ways to better understand perspectives of people from different cultures and backgrounds, and in doing so I learned to better understand my own biases and prejudices, and work on overcoming them.

CR, June '12:

This class was amazing. It really challenged me and taught me that procrastination was not an option. I have heard how notoriously hard and difficult this class is, and honestly it's not, but it is a lot of work. You have to want to do well to do well in this class, it's all about priorities and choices. YOUR choices.

GS, June '12

This course has tough me so many things. but I think one of the more important is the fact that it teaches you how to identify the bias that each idea you see or hear or read has in order to make a clear and original opinion by yourself.

GS, June, '12

This course gave me endless curiosity about the world, a more clear understanding of how the world works, and a deepened sense of where I fit in the world.

This class made me want to go out into the world and make a real difference, it taught me lessons that I can't just turn away from but that I have to do something with. I learned how to be aware of the rapidly changing world I live in and how to handle myself in it.

JS, June, '12:

This class provides opportunities to synthesis ideas in so many different ways. In doing so, it has taught me so many profound things; about history, about media, about myself, about culture and about the world. There are things that I've learned that I will never be able to recognize. One thing I know for sure is that this class has changed who I am. It taught me to recognize what I know, what I don't know, and what I have yet to learn.

JWS, June'12:

In this class I have learned to look at what I am learning, reading, hearing, and try to understand its bias. Who was it written by? What was going on internationally at the time? Domestically? It is this analysis, skepticism, critical thinking, name it what you will, that I have found the single most valuable thing to come out of this class for me.

IW, June '12:

This year I taught myself to be a self-learner for life. I learned about human behavior and what we are able to do together and alone. This class will be applied to my everyday life everyday because of the things that I have learned about myself and about media.

RZ, June, '12:

I will walk away with so much from this class. I took a risk and I stuck with it. I wanted to overcome my fear of public speaking and I did. Looking back at the first day of class I would have never imagined myself having the knowledge and lessons that I have today. I now actually want to take chances, I want to push myself and see how far I can go. This class has changed my life for the better.