

Online Course Evaluation Summary

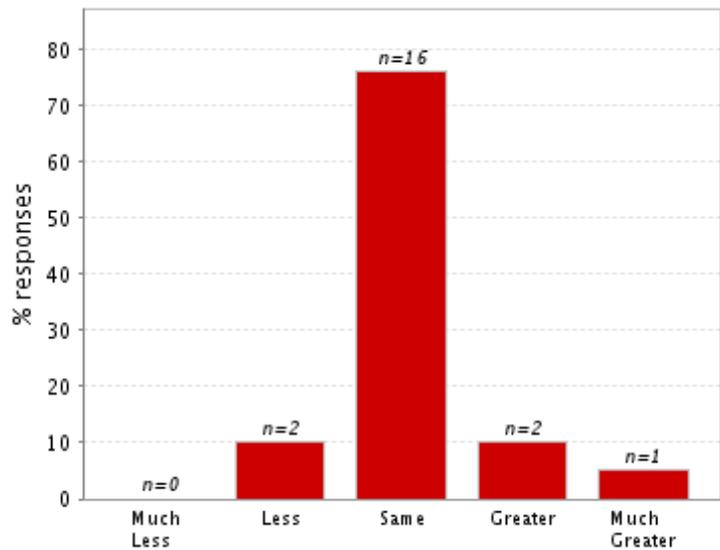
- EVALUATION SUMMARY
- VIEW BY RESPONDENT
- VIEW BY QUESTION
- INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS

LAST 410 01 / GLBL 316 01 / ECON 462 01 / EP&E 228 01

22163	LAST 410 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
22165	GLBL 316 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
22164	ECON 462 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
22166	EP&E 228 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

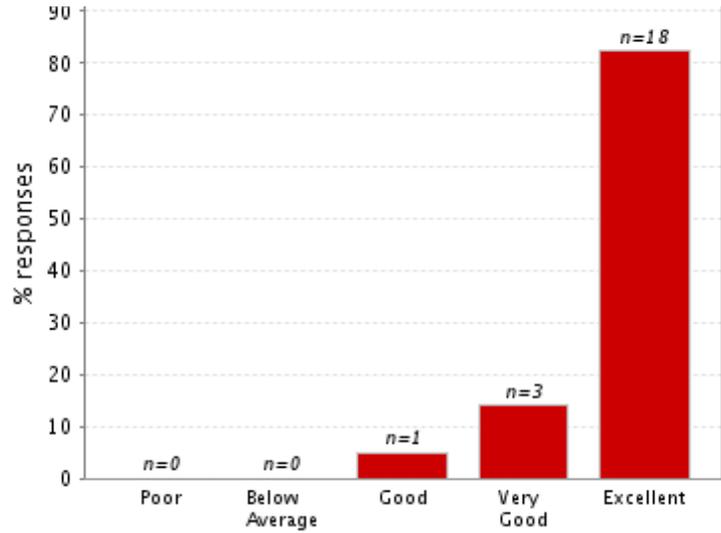
Total number of students:	25	
Evaluations completed:	22	88%
Number of declines	3	12%
Number of non-respondents:	0	0%

Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?

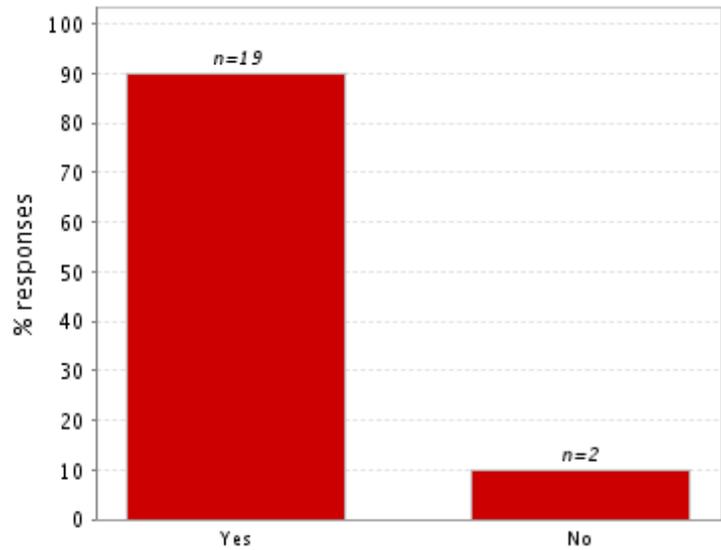


What is your overall assessment of

this course?

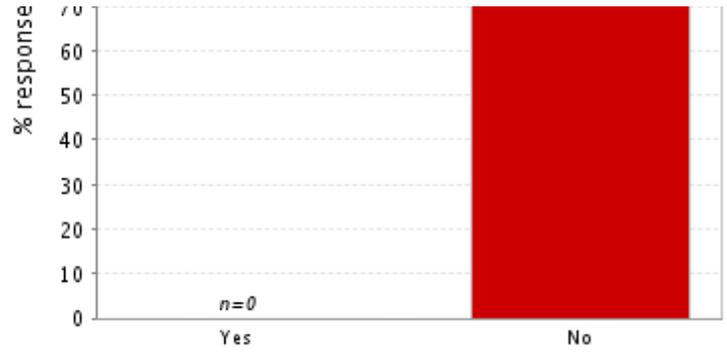


Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program?



Do you expect to use this class for credit toward the Yale College distributional requirements?





Yale Online Course Evaluation
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Looking back on Latin American Studies 410 01 / Global Affairs 316 01 / Economics 462 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 228 01, what is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might it be improved?

Response 1

Incredible class. One of those rare seminars at Yale where the professor encourages understanding of topics, and probably the only class at Yale that actually *teaches* you to read the academic studies we're assigned so often to read. You won't skip the methodology section anymore after this year, so if you can take it as a junior then do it. Especially if you're an econ major; he makes you come up with an original research proposal as a part of the course (you work on it throughout so you can't put it off) so you can possibly turn it into your thesis. Also one opportunity to take a class with Professor McKee- the rare econ professor who prioritizes things like teaching, writing and conversation. Take it and invest some time in it! The workload isn't overpowering so that shouldn't be too much of a problem. The course goes over all these really cool policy experiments in Latin America, where they actually try out all the ideas that get shopped around in America but never tried. A relevant course for anyone interested in going into policy as well as research. There are times when the class presentations seem to be useless if you've spent the time on the reading that you should've, but I think there's a possibility that this will change next year due to structural changes in the course.

Response 2

WONDERFUL. I cannot think of a way to improve the course, except for besides capping presentations.

Response 3

It was a great class for getting exposure to academic economics papers, and for understanding the kinds of econometric methods used in these papers. However, I didn't enjoy the lecture format as much - the class was a bit too big to truly feel like a seminar.

Response 4

I learned a TON in this class. What was really great was that it was not just learning about the Latin American programs; it really was learning about economics and econometrics in a HCLA framework. I would have liked a little more help along the way with econometrics, as I feel that the Yale econometrics program is really terrible. It also would have been nice to do more basic economic modeling, but overall I could not have asked for a more beneficial senior class.

Response 5

Economics of Human Capital in Latin America is without a doubt one of the best courses I have taken at Yale. Its main strengths are that it introduces students to economic literature on education, health, nutrition, etc. in a developing world context. Unlike an econometrics course, Econ of HCLA focuses on giving students a survey of research on economic and social phenomena, as well as policy relating to human capital. My one complaint is that it would be nice to spend a little more time on reviewing methodology.

Response 6

Wonderful class. I already proposed most of my ideas for improvements during the conversation we had on the last day, but I think they're all very minor. To Prof McKee: One other thing I just thought of might be that I would have liked to see a few more mini-lectures from you. You're really good at explaining econometrics clearly without getting overly technical - I'd encountered several of the concepts from the class in econometrics classes and stats classes before, but I feel like I understand them a lot better now. Because of that, I think the mini-lectures are really helpful for our development as economists, so it'd be cool for them to be a bit longer and more in-depth, and maybe for you to do a few more of them. The problem seemed to be that we were so pressed for time in class because we had so many cool discussion topics that the mini-lectures got cut short. I know this is an extra time commitment for you, but I would definitely have attended an out of class session where you went through some of the econometric techniques in more detail. This wouldn't have to be a regular thing - just once or twice in the semester. I think the way the department teaches econometrics can be a bit confusing, and so it'd be really nice to spend some more time explaining it clearly.

Response 7

Incredible best Econ class I've taken at Yale

Response 8

Great class! I didn't have any specific interest in Latin America, but I found it very interesting and thought I learned a lot about development. Really liked the set up of the final project, thought I learned a lot from it.

Response 9

This was a phenomenal class. McKee is one of the most invested professors I've had at Yale and is easily the best lecturer in Econ. You'll learn a huge amount not only about human capital in Latin America but also really solidify some important econometric skills.

Response 10

It was a solid class and I learned more econometrics in in this class than in Econ 131. It was, however a bit repetitive. The class does not really give you a broad overview of human capital policies in Latin America but just gives you a taste of a few programs that have been implemented in different countries, often times not successfully. Overall a good course but it could benefit more a bit more of variation in terms of the types of readings/weekly assignments we do. Another thing I would change is the way we choose our topics for the final paper. I feel like we choose them way too early in the course without being familiar with what our options could be.

Response 11

It's a great course! It definitely teaches you how to read and analyze primary economics papers. It also teaches you a lot about the methods and the empirical methods! SO valuable if you want to do a senior project.

Response 12

This is one of the best courses at Yale. Not only is the content fascinating - just about every major issue affecting Latin America. Definitely a worthwhile option for the best Econ class at Yale. This is a MUST TAKE if

affecting Latin America - Doug is, in my humble opinion, the best Econ professor at Yale. This is a MUST-TAKE if you have the chance.

Response 13

Fantastic. It does a great job of demonstrating how empirical economics actually works--by reading papers and through very accessible (non-mathy) class discussions about econometric techniques, I think you will come away from the class with a much better understanding of the process behind empirical work in economics. The subject matter in which the discussion is contextualized--human capital in Latin America--is also very compelling. Of course, what makes the class so great is Professor McKee. He is very accessible for questions after class or through email, he puts a lot of work and thought into his teaching, and he brings energy and enthusiasm to each class session.

Response 14

This was a really great econ seminar. Strengths: McKee is an excellent, approachable, and helpful professor; we learned how to read and understand econ papers; it gave a really good overview of human capital in Latin America, and human capital issues in general. Weaknesses: It would have been helpful to devote more time to learning econometric methods (not the actual logistics, but for example -- the short presentations on regression discontinuity and difference in differences was very helpful). The work groups for the paper were also useful at times, but often inefficient and too long.

Response 15

Great class. Can't think of too many improvements off the top of my head.

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Please evaluate each instructor of Latin American Studies 410 01 / Global Affairs 316 01 / Economics 462 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 228 01 . What are the instructor's strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might his or her teaching be improved?

Response 1

Douglas McKee

McKee's emphasis on discussion, teaching, learning, and feedback is welcome in the econ major and at Yale in general. He works tirelessly for his students and I think we definitely notice. I enjoyed being pushed and got a lot of help and engagement from the Professor in return. We need more like him!

Response 2

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is phenomenal. This is the second class I have taken with him, and he never fails to amaze me with his intelligence, his care for his students, his (most of the time) funny jokes. The good thing is, he knows when he makes a bad joke and we still all laugh. Prof. McKee is so caring and dedicated to his students and their pursuits (even if they be outside of class). I hope Yale doesn't lose him.

Response 3

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was amazing at explaining intimidating econometrics methods in a clear way. He was also very approachable and very receptive to questions.

Response 4

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is legitimately amazing at what he does. I have never felt so encouraged and guided through a course. He is somehow able to balance letting the students lead the class while still putting in the necessary commentary to move the class along. I am very thankful to have been able to spend this semester with Professor McKee.

Response 5

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is not simply a brilliant professor, but an excellent TEACHER. Not every professor at Yale is able to translate their own expertise and qualification as a researcher into good teaching, but Professor McKee does. He selects the best and most controversial economic papers for readings and gives guidance on your presentations and final papers. I enjoyed every minute of my interaction with him during this course and highly recommend taking any course with him!

Response 6

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee was the best teacher I've had in the economics department at Yale. He has a rare gift for explaining technical concepts very clearly, and he's incredibly dedicated to collaborating with students on their presentations and papers. I wish you taught the econometrics lecture too, because I think I finally grasped the concepts once you explained them, and I wish I had understood them earlier.

Response 7

Douglas McKee

Amazing professor so engaged

Response 8

Douglas McKee

Overall, amazing. Great readings, and Professor McKee is great at explaining concepts. Only improvement I can think of is more concise paper reviews combined with more discussion/debate.

Response 9

Douglas McKee

McKee is one of my favorite professors at Yale. He is unbelievably willing to meet with students, give thorough feedback and work and overall clearly cares deeply about his students. He also happens to be an extremely clear and thorough teacher.

Response 10

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was great. He always gave you great advice and feedback. He was generally pretty available to meet and clearly cared a lot for the course and the students. He was also GREAT at explaining econometric methods. I would have appreciated him devoting more time to do so every class.

Response 11

Douglas McKee

Great instructor! Very helpful and supportive and laid back.

Response 12

Douglas McKee

Douglas McKee

Doug has no weaknesses. He is engaging, energetic, prepared, and good at explaining complex concepts in simple language. He is a truly amazing Professor, and I think every Econ major at Yale should try to take at least one class with him. Doug is a MUST-TAKE Professor.

Response 13

Douglas McKee

McKee is an excellent professor - very knowledgeable about the subject material, and also very helpful. He let the students handle the main part of their presentations, but knew when to intervene and clarify material. It was great that at the beginning of the year, he would write us emails explaining tricky or difficult parts of the paper; it would have been helpful if these continued throughout the semester.

Response 14

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee is a great professor. He's wonderful at explaining econometric concepts and demonstrating the strengths and weaknesses of scholarly papers. Also very funny and approachable.



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PREV NEXT**Question 4**

How would you summarize Latin American Studies 410 01 / Global Affairs 316 01 / Economics 462 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 228 01 for a fellow student? Would you recommend Latin American Studies 410 01 / Global Affairs 316 01 / Economics 462 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 228 01 to another student? Why or why not?

Response 1

Incredible class. One of those rare seminars at Yale where the professor encourages understanding of topics, and probably the only class at Yale that actually *teaches* you to read the academic studies we're assigned so often to read. You won't skip the methodology section anymore after this year, so if you can take it as a junior then do it. Especially if you're an econ major; he makes you come up with an original research proposal as a part of the course (you work on it throughout so you can't put it off) so you can possibly turn it into your thesis. Also one opportunity to take a class with Professor McKee- the rare econ professor who prioritizes things like teaching, writing and conversation. Take it and invest some time in it! The workload isn't overpowering so that shouldn't be too much of a problem. The course goes over all these really cool policy experiments in Latin America, where they actually try out all the ideas that get shopped around in America but never tried. A relevant course for anyone interested in going into policy as well as research. There are times when the class presentations seem to be useless if you've spent the time on the reading that you should've, but I think there's a possibility that this will change next year due to structural changes in the course.

Response 2

YES. If you can get in, take it. McKee is one of a kind in every single aspect.

Response 3

Even if you don't think you care about the course material, it's very engaging class and Doug is fantastic. You'll look forward to seminar for once.

Response 4

Great class ! makes all the painful hours of micro finally worth it ! you will learn a lot on how to read and evaluate real economics papers. McKee is the man always very approachable and funny ! Must take as an econ major

Response 5

Overview of the literature on human capital in Latin America - each week is a specific topic with student

Overview of the literature on human capital in Latin America. Each week is a specific topic with student presentations and discussion of 2-3 papers. You'll learn a lot about econometrics methods that are much more advanced than what you learned in 131. Professor McKee is a wonderful teacher who's great at explaining intimidating concepts - recommended!

Response 6

I would absolutely recommend this class to another student. This class is much more about economics research and econometrics, and it just uses Latin American human capital as the framework in which to explore these concepts. In this class you will learn a ton about establishing causality and overall empirical methods. I cannot express how amazing Professor McKee is. I learned more from him in one semester than I have from the rest of the econ department in 3.5 years.

Response 7

I would highly, highly recommend this course for Economics, Global Affairs and Latin American Studies majors that have taken econometrics and/or statistics and have come to the "so what?" point. Having a breather from the nitty gritty proofs and theory behind it all is a great way to understand the applicability of regression analysis and other techniques. You will learn a lot from one of the best professors at Yale.

Response 8

TAKE THIS CLASS! Professor McKee is a phenomenal teacher - even people who weren't originally interested in the subject material had a great time. The workload isn't bad. It's just a few papers a week, and you discuss the methods and results together through student presentations in class. But the topics are super interesting if you like development econ, and the syllabus gives a really good sampling of the economic literature in a wide cross section of development and human capital topics. You also use the papers as a way to study some common econometric techniques, which was really helpful as well. I really liked the Latin American focus, even though I didn't know much about Latin America before taking the class. There's a lot of great data on Latin American poverty alleviation programs, so academics have done a lot of cool work evaluating these initiatives, which makes Latin America a great focus for such a quantitative class. Long story short, if you're excited about the subject material, then you will LOVE this class, and even if you aren't interested in human capital or latin america, I would still recommend taking it just to learn from Professor McKee.

Response 9

Take this as soon as you can great class

Response 10

Would recommend! Great review of some of the challenges facig developing countries and the programs that are being implemented to try to confront them. You learn a lot, and it's knowledge that is useful in general. Definitely take!

Response 11

Econ 462 is a solid course, and professor McKee is great, but it does get a bit repetitive. The class is basically JUST about the papers you read and the specific programs that those papers talk about, don't expect to get a broad overview of theories of human capital or of human capital policies in Latin America. If you are ready to read three econometric papers every single week, do a reading response for each of them and learn a lot about econometric methods during the process, then take it. I would imagine that it would be easier to find motivation for the research proposal if you had the opportunity to use it as a first step of your senior thesis, so it would be better to take this class junior year.

Response 12

This is a great course if you are interested in economic research. Definitely recommend taking this course if you are not

It's a great course if you are interested in economics research. Definitely a must take for juniors if you can get in!!

Response 13

This is one of the best courses at Yale. Not only is the content fascinating - just about every major issue affecting Latin America - Doug is, in my humble opinion, the best Econ professor at Yale. This is a MUST-TAKE if you have the chance.

Response 14

Yes, good seminar for econ majors - you don't actually learn how to run modern econometric methods, but learn what they are and how to interpret the results in econ papers. The class is a manageable amount of work, and McKee is so nice and willing to help on the final research proposal, which is split up into parts throughout the semester so it's not too stressful.

Response 15

I would strongly recommend this course for anyone who is interested in development issues with a focus on human capital (education and health). Professor Mckee has a strong passion for teaching, which makes this course a wonderful experience for everyone. You'll give a presentation on a specific topic (ranging from conditional cash transfer programs to the drug trade) and write a research proposal throughout the semester. Latin America is a perfect region to study social innovation and policy experimentation, but even if you are not familiar with the region, you still get to learn a lot about how to use econometrics tools to implement a research. TAKE IT!

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