

Online Course Evaluation Summary

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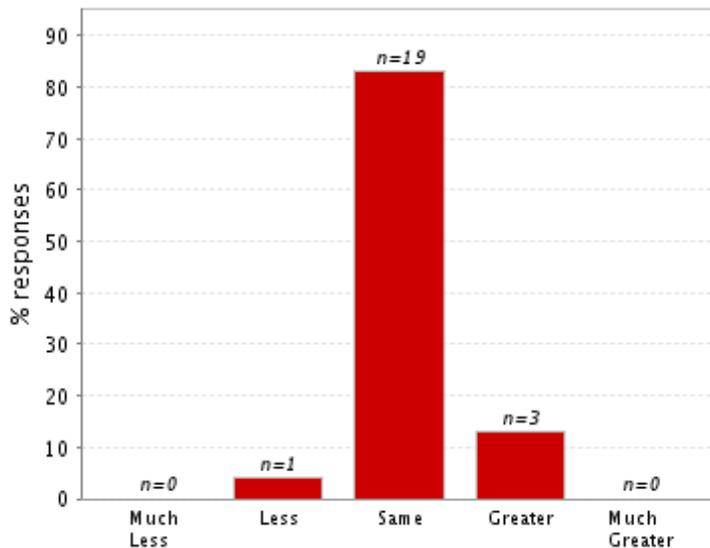
ECON 466 01 / EP&E 448 01

12303 ECON 466 01 Economics of Aging

12304 EP&E 448 01 Economics of Aging

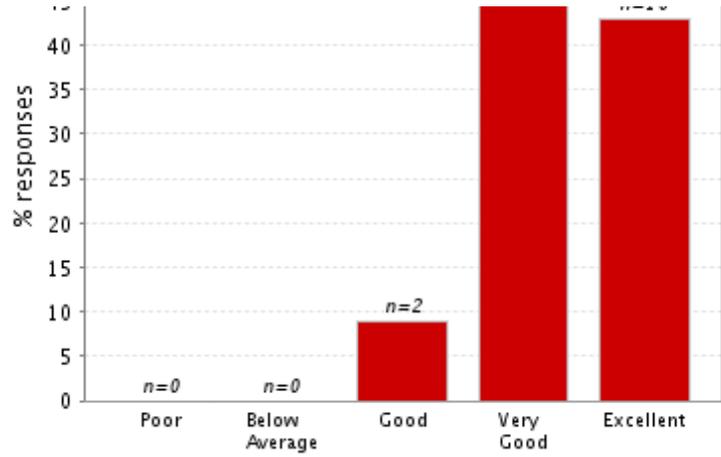
Total number of students:	23	
Evaluations completed:	23	100%
Number of declines	1	4%
Number of non-respondents:	-1	0%

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

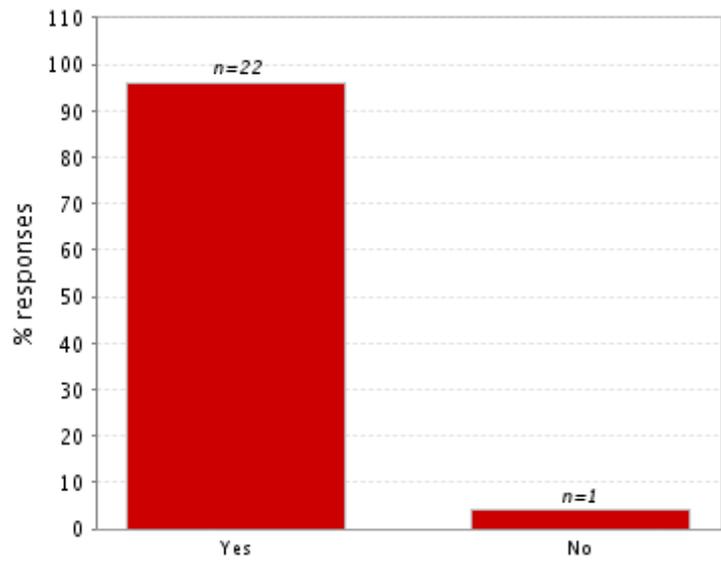


What is your overall assessment of this course?



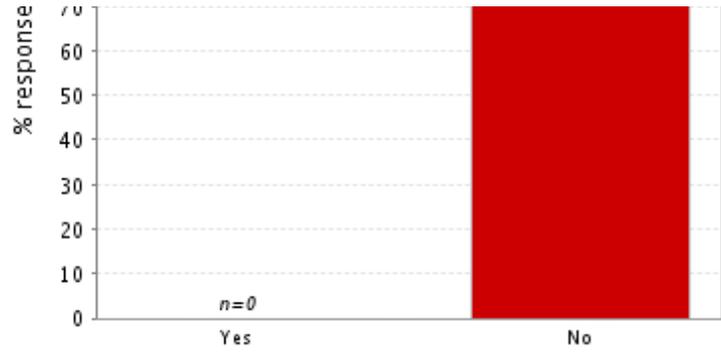


Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program?



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





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Looking back on Economics 466 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 448 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

It was wonderful. A few of the papers we read in class are a little challenging, and I think the only thing that could possibly be improved would be a preview of the "things" we need to know to comprehend the paper well. But overall, it was a wonderful course, filled with phenomenal papers that give you a pretty well rounded understanding of the US (and some international) SS systems, bequests, etc.

Response 2

Great course with a great professor. I didn't realize how much I enjoyed the papers until the end of the semester. We really covered a lot of ground in this class and Prof McKee was phenomenal.

Response 3

Awesome class. Highly recommended. Though I am an econ major, I had never really had to read primary econ literature prior to this class, and this was a great way to start. Definitely one of the best econ classes I have taken at Yale.

Response 4

Amazing class, McKee is amazing. I liked the more group based stuff toward the end, maybe having longer classes would be good.

Response 5

It's a very interesting class if you like the material. The format is very engaging and you learn quite a bit about structural models. The discussions and the input by Professor McKee are great for really understanding the material in a way you don't get in other classes.

Response 6

Great class. Take it if you're interested in how economists study retirement and savings behavior.

Response 7

Very engaging course. I came into this course not caring that much about the economics involving the aging population, but this course really opened my eyes to a side of economics I would not have been otherwise exposed to. I also loved how this course covered all sorts of economics (labor, health, development) concerning one particular population. I wish the course was more structured with presentation versus discussion time.

Response 8

It's a fairly interesting class with a very cool professor. Every week we read a few academic economic papers related to aging (retirement, health, pensions, saving, etc.) and discuss them. You learn a good amount about econometrics and how real-world economics is actually done. The papers can be hard to understand sometimes, but Doug is excellent at going at a good pace and making sure people understand. It's a great economics class if you're looking for a seminar with a reasonable workload and a cool professor.

Response 9

I really enjoyed this class. It is well structured and well taught, and you leave with a good understanding of issues in retirement decisions, health factors, family bargaining, insurance, and more. The final project is well structured and the meetings leading up to it were really helpful. This is my favorite Econ class I have taken at Yale thus far!

Response 10

Good course. Strengths: We read economics literature, which introduced many economic models and empirical methods. Professor McKee is a great teacher and very approachable. Weekly worksheets really kept me on track with the readings. Weaknesses: I never completely understood the empirical methods - it would've been helpful to have a primer worksheet with all of the major methods at the beginning of the semester. Sometimes students' questions would lead to long tangents, which left little time for discussion. It felt a little large for a seminar - might consider lowering the cap for maximum number of students next year.

Response 11

I think this is a great class. I learned how to read a research paper. I found the information very interesting.

Response 12

It's a good survey of an economic approach to modeling the decisions we must make as we age. The course also gives great insight into how economics research papers are written. The papers were often difficult to understand, however, for those without hard math backgrounds, but Professor McKee's comments and guidance on how to read the papers and what to focus on really helped with that aspect. Finally, the course sometimes felt rushed, as it's challenging to have two presentations and a discussion in one seminar period.

Response 13

Economics of Aging was a fantastic course. I wish that before I had taken Introductory Micro and Macro econ Freshman year someone had told me classes like this existed, and shown my how all the knowledge connected. I certainly would have paid a lot more attention! Doug runs a fantastic class that focuses exclusively on economic research. By the end of the course the student should feel comfortable reading economic research and also understand how to begin to approach doing new research oneself. The only weakness, if you can even call it that, is there isn't enough time to cover all the great material in one class a week.

Response 14

I thought this class was good. I learned a lot and was certainly challenged. The papers we read were good, but the course felt a bit disjointed at times. Instead of creating a larger story about the economics of aging based on individual case studies and discussing how they related to one another, the course sometimes felt as if it treated

individual class topics and discussing how they related to one another, the course sometimes felt as if it treated each topic individually. That said, this was a great class overall. Strengths: Professor McKee. He was amazing. A professor like him must teach this class. Aging is messy and intractable, but Professor McKee handles it all and presents the material effectively.

Response 15

I really enjoyed this class. I thought it covered a really interesting range of material, and I thought all of the papers were fascinating. Some of the papers, though, were extremely technical, and I wished that the course had gone in one of two directions: either to explain more thoroughly all of those empirical methods being used so we could better understand the nuances of the paper, or to mostly ignore them so that when we were reading, we didn't feel stressed out by technical details we didn't understand. Either of those directions would have helped make the reading less overwhelming. And even though the first option sounds preferable, since learning more is seemingly better, I'm not sure we really had the time to add an econometric component to the class -- we were already pressed for time. That said, some of the in-class presentations definitely didn't need to go on as long as they did; we could have sped those along. I also really really wish that we'd had longer to pick our research question for the proposal. I definitely wasn't ready so early in the semester to make such a big decision, and after reading some of the papers from a little later in the semester, I wish I'd had the opportunity to follow up with those topics more in depth through my proposal. I understand giving us those three major checkpoints, but I'm really not sure we needed so many, or that there needed to be so much time in between them -- people really didn't work on proposals until right before each checkpoint was due. So overall, I wish I'd been exposed to more of the topics before having to pick what I wanted to do!

Response 16

I really liked working on the final paper and also presenting the papers ourselves. One thing that I thought could have been improved is that sometimes our classmates' presentations went on for a long time. Other than that, I really liked the structure of the class. Overall, great class!

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PREV NEXT**Question 2**

Please evaluate each instructor of Economics 466 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 448 01 . What are the instructor's strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might his or her teaching be improved?

Response 1

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee is a wonderful human being. He is so kind to his students, he is so responsive via email, and he's also just a very nice person to exchange ideas with and digest your ideas with. He has been very helpful to me as I try to refine an idea for a senior thesis.

Response 2

Douglas McKee

Prof McKee is a wonderful teacher. He was particularly accommodating and helpful if you ever visited him in his office despite his chaotic and busy schedule! It was very clear that Prof McKee was passionate and knowledgeable about the subject matter which was a real help and a treat to the students.

Response 3

Douglas McKee

Prof McKee is a pretty chill guy, and it's obviously he's really interested in the material he's teaching. He's also really helpful for preparing for your presentation and helping out with your final research proposal as well. Highly recommend you take a seminar with him.

Response 4

Douglas McKee

Wonderful teacher and person.

Response 5

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is a great professor. He is very helpful and open to questions. Moreover, he is very helpful explaining the econometric and theoretical economics portions of the class, which are not always directly intuitive. He is a great part of the Economics Department.

Response 6

Douglas McKee

Prof McKee was great. His guidance made writing the research paper a really fun and rewarding experience.

Response 7

Douglas McKee

Very good professor. I liked how he explained the theory behind the models before reading papers. This course had the right amount of technical economic models and overall macroeconomic conclusions. I actually wouldn't have minded if it was a little more technical. McKee set up the class well and engaged everyone in the class. Very productive group and one-on-one discussions. Also the final proposal was a wonderful way to indulge in this course.

Response 8

Douglas McKee

Doug is awesome. He clearly understands students and makes sure we're learning/getting something out of the course. I am not sure he can improve much.

Response 9

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is fantastic. He was always helpful in simplifying complex concepts, and always willing to meet up and help. He has a strong understanding of the concepts and really cares about his students. I enjoyed his honesty with his students and thought that his willingness to engage was important to the class. I think the class could be improved by having a little more structure at times, or perhaps a review of empirical concepts at the very beginning of the year.

Response 10

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is great - it was really helpful how he jumped in during student presentations to answer questions and explain difficult concepts. He was very knowledgeable about all the details of the papers we read. He is also very friendly and approachable, and was always available to meet to talk about presentations and papers. Writing economics-type papers was new to many of us, and he really guided us through the process.

Response 11

Douglas McKee

Doug is awesome! He's super helpful. I really appreciated his help in developing my presentation. He's also great with feedback for the main paper.

Response 12

Douglas McKee

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee's sense of humor, deep understanding of the course material, and total willingness to sit down with his students individually and help them through whatever was challenging to them was by far the best aspect of this class. Professor McKee is a one of a kind human being. This class is worth taking just to have the opportunity to have a conversation with him.

Response 13

Douglas McKee

Throughout the course each student gets a chance to co-teach a class on one of the research papers, and also to work individually and in groups with Doug on a research proposal. Outside of this Doug also makes himself available to meet with students. All of these are great opportunities to get fantastic one-on-one help to really deeply understand the material. The week you co-teach is one of the best of the semester as you work in significant detail to really grasp the material such that you can teach it to your peers. In class, Doug runs a class that does well balancing fun and interactive engagement, but also teaching the relevant new material. If you think you just might be interested in economic research, Doug will definitely do a great job fanning the flame of interest.

Response 14

Douglas McKee

Awesome. Yale needs more professors like Professor McKee. He's one of the most down-to-earth, approachable, and understanding professors I've encountered at Yale. In addition, he's incredibly knowledgeable. I can't say enough good things about him! Thanks for everything, Professor McKee!!

Response 15

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was awesome -- really engaging in class, always willing to meet with us outside of class, and super forgiving about extensions. My only criticisms are what I mentioned above -- that he might want to think about how to move class along a little faster (so that we don't run out of time during presentations), and that he should consider how to better explain the technical stuff in the papers (or tell us which sections to ignore so that we don't feel overwhelmed).

Response 16

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is great - the help sessions that he held were incredibly helpful. All of the guidance on the final paper was really nice (and absolutely necessary to completing it).

Response 17

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is the only professor in the Econ department who can actually interact with other human beings.



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PREV NEXT**Question 4**

How would you summarize Economics 466 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 448 01 for a fellow student? Would you recommend Economics 466 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 448 01 to another student? Why or why not?

Response 1

it's a wonderful class! if you can get in it, take it! It's truly wonderful, very laid back time schedule because it meets only once a week, but the paper will take a while to read! Prof. McKee is wonderful, don't miss the opportunity!

Response 2

If you can get in, it's probably the best senior Econ seminar out there.

Response 3

A great class for any economics major, especially if you haven't had a lot of exposure to primary economics literature. Highly recommended!

Response 4

Take it! Even if you are not interested in the subject McKee is a wonderful teacher and person. He is great at picking the right amount of reading so that you really understand (and actually do) it and you get a lot out of the class.

Response 5

I would definitely recommend this class if you are interested in the material. You will learn both about Aging and also a great deal about economic modeling. If you want to understand more of what it actually means to be an economist, take this class.

Response 6

Very good course. Not too much work but engaging material. Take this course as a seminar - McKee is the best econ professor I've had!

Response 7

Response 7

A great survey of a variety of topics in aging, that conveys complex information in a clear and well-taught manner. If you can get in, I would absolutely recommend. It takes a topic that initially I didn't have much of a specific interest in and made it engaging and fun. Absolutely take it!

Response 8

Econ of Aging a fairly interesting class with a very cool professor. Every week we read a few academic economic papers related to aging (retirement, health, pensions, saving, etc.) and discuss them. You learn a good amount about econometrics and how real-world economics is actually done. The papers can be hard to understand sometimes, but Doug is excellent at going at a good pace and making sure people understand. It's a great economics class if you're looking for a seminar with a reasonable workload and a cool professor.

Response 9

Great economics seminar. Not that much work - just a weekly worksheet and 1-2 economics papers to read. The only major graded assignment is an economics research proposal, which Prof. McKee really guides you through. Would recommend if you need an econ credit - you won't learn how to run empirical analyses, but will gain some cursory knowledge from reading econ literature on aging, which is actually a very interesting topic.

Response 10

I would recommend this class to other economics majors only. If you don't have a background in economics, some of the papers may be difficult to understand.

Response 11

I would definitely recommend this course. Professor McKee is great. You get a much better sense of how to read and understand an economic paper. Plus, writing the research proposal is a really good experience.

Response 12

Economics of Aging is a fantastic seminar in which the student learns how to both read economics research and begin to approach starting to do one's own research. Co-teaching the class, reading the papers, and writing a research proposal is an incredible way to begin to transition from just acquiring knowledge through intermediate courses and begin to think about developing new knowledge.

Response 13

Professor McKee is awesome, but I have mixed feelings about ECON 466. There were ~25 people in the class this semester, and as a result, it felt a bit too much like a lecture and not enough like a seminar. We didn't have many class discussions, and when we did, they were structured as such and didn't develop organically. In terms of the course's content and requirements, each week is centered on one area of aging (bequest motives, aging in developing countries, health and aging, retirement, etc.), and you're assigned 2 papers to read on the topic. To focus on the major points of each paper, McKee requires that we complete a short worksheet for each paper. The papers are time-consuming and very challenging, but if you stick with them, you'll learn a lot. Each person must present a paper in class, and you write one twenty-page paper over the course of the semester as well. I originally suspected that the course was going to be more microecon/econometrics heavy, and though many of the papers make use of microecon/econometrics extensively, I'd really say this is a more macro-based class. The

papers are very "big picture" and topics are usually considered at the policy level, not at the level of individual decision making, so don't take this class if macro-based thinking isn't your cup of tea. McKee was great and very approachable and understanding over the course of the semester.

Response 14

This was an awesome Econ seminar. Dr. McKee is a really awesome professor and the papers of

This was an awesome Econ seminar. Professor McKee is a really awesome, relaxed professor, and the range of material is fascinating -- especially if you're interested in micro-level decision-making behaviors. Each week you'll read a couple of (mostly interesting) papers and fill out short worksheets (which are actually great because it means you'll do/understand the reading). There's also a research proposal with various checkpoints over the semester, which is totally do-able and Professor McKee makes himself super available to help you out. And each student will make a presentation for one of the classes -- also totally doable because you'll meet with McKee first. Overall a great class!

Response 15

Great class - you read a lot of interesting papers and learn about the major issues in the field of economics of aging. You get to write an empirical paper which is a lot of work, but can be rewarding. Also, Professor McKee is really helpful when writing your paper.

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