

Online Course Evaluation Summary

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Overview of Evaluations for Douglas McKee

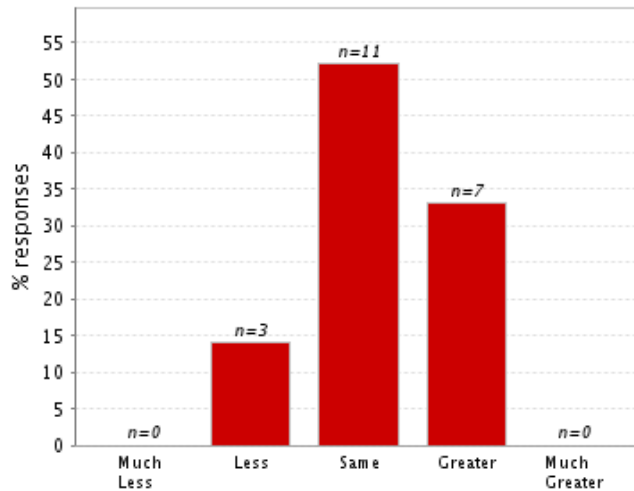
EP&E 448 01 / ECON 466 01

Fall 2013:

- 11396 EP&E 448 01 Economics of Aging
- 11397 ECON 466 01 Economics of Aging

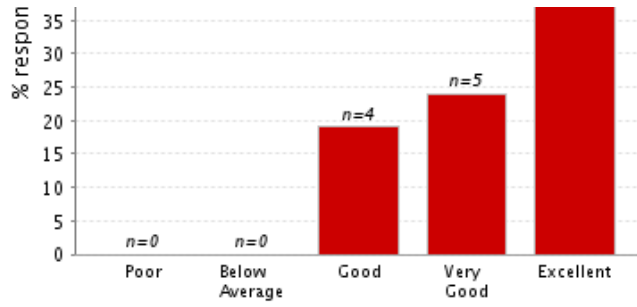
Total number of students:	24	
Evaluations completed:	21	88%
Number of declines	3	13%
Number of non-respondents:	0	0%

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

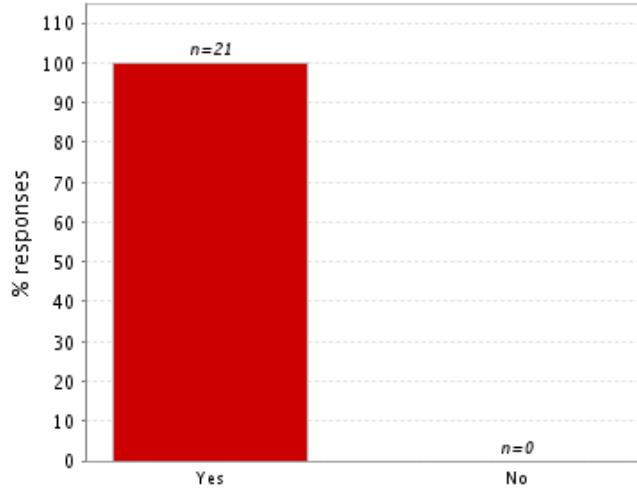


What is your overall assessment of this course?

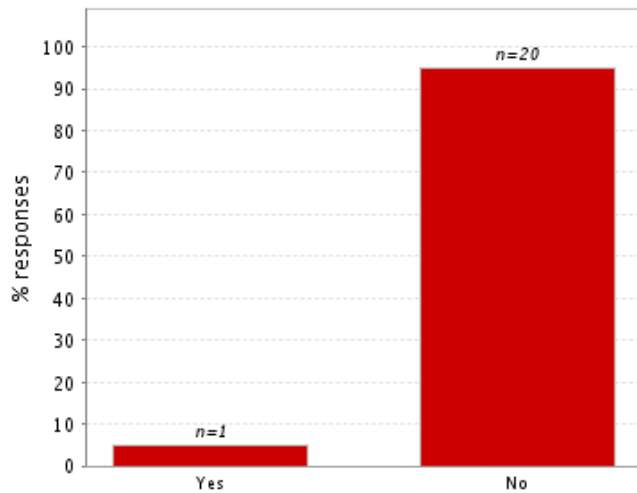




Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program?



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



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

Good course. Papers are fun to read. Not so sure of what my take-aways from the class are though.

Response 2

Fantastic senior seminar. Only problem I had during the semester was that classroom discussions sometimes got off topic, but it's not a major concern.

Response 3

This seminar's greatest strength is its syllabus. Each paper introduces you to new material and/or a new method. Professor McKee did a great job creating this holistic introduction to the economics of aging.

Response 4

Terrific class--both gives students incredible insight into an interesting subject and teaches them to think much more like an economist about other areas. Helps students learn how to apply and formulate economic models and test them empirically.

Response 5

Really good overall. Maybe try to allow more time during class for discussion as opposed to the presentations taking up the entirety. Don't give up on piazza, it definitely has potential if you give kids the right motivations/incentives.

Response 6

This course was not only incredibly informative on the topic of aging, but also immensely helpful as an introduction to writing economic research papers. The course's format of reading two to three papers a week and reviewing the methods/findings in class is a strength, as it allows us to learn both the materials and various research approaches simultaneously. It might be improved by going through the worksheet at the beginning of the semester, to clarify the meaning of an economic and empirical approach.

Response 7

The actual topic was not the most interesting matter, but Doug is one of the nicest, engaging professors and made the class fun. Doug was always available to meet with students whether it was for the weekly presentations or paper proposal. He is so easy going and this make the class enjoyable. Definitely recommend

Response 8

strengths- i liked a lot of it. worksheets were really helpful in learning how to read a paper. professor clearly invests a lot of time into teaching well and meeting with students in small groups.

Response 9

This is an amazing course. If you want to learn how to read and evaluate economic papers while learning a ton about retirement, social security, intergenerational wealth transactions then this class is for you!

Response 10

It was an awesome class--best Econ class ever taken.

Response 11

Great class. Teacher was very helpful, and material was really interesting. Occasionally papers were tough, but it was good that the professor expected a lot from the students. Some of the statistics were tough to follow, but otherwise the material was accessible.

Response 12

Very interesting material but the format of the class gets repetitive after a while. Professor McKee is really easy to talk to and encourages questions in class.

Response 13

Fantastic class. Interesting readings and classes.

Response 14

It's a great senior seminar. The topic is incredibly important given the rapidly aging population in the U.S. and in other countries abroad. Professor McKee is also pretty much the greatest professor ever. He's a fantastic teacher and structures the course really well. I have no complaints whatsoever about the class, it was one of my favorite classes this semester.

Response 15

Helps students to understand economic academic papers in a very structural way. Great lecturing style -- the students and the professor co-teach part of the seminar every week. In the first couple of weeks, it would be helpful to have more guidance on reading papers in general.

Response 16

Great course, some more guidance in the beginning of the course about how to approach reading primary literature would be helpful.

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Question 2

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

Response 1

Douglas McKee

Very engaging!

Response 2

Douglas McKee

Really helpful throughout the semester, especially at the group workshops. Helped to go through some pretty difficult papers.

Response 3

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee created a great syllabus and answered questions well. He was approachable and very generous with his time to help us prepare presentations and draft papers.

Response 4

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is absolutely wonderful--he knows the subject really well, is incredibly engaging and funny, and cares a lot about whether students learn the concepts. He has a great feel for how well the class is learning, and knows a ton about any topic that may come up. I've rarely seen a professor so able to keep students engaged in the material.

Response 5

Douglas McKee

Da bomb

Response 6

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee helps drive efficient class learning by pulling out the important, understandable elements of the assigned papers. In addition, he is extremely helpful in guiding the steps to writing an economic research paper, which is not really taught in other classes.

Response 7

Douglas McKee

Doug is the nicest, most considerate professor I have ever had. I don't think he has a mean bone in his body and he truly loves what he does. His engagement with students and quirky personality makes class fun each week, no matter how brutal the papers we had to read were. One of my favorite professors at Yale

Response 8

Douglas McKee

awesome teacher. gives very detailed feedback and doesn't expect you to know stuff that you don't have experience with. very willing to spend time meeting with students in small groups and one-on-one.

Response 9

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is the best economics teacher I have had at Yale. He is always available to help you, and he puts all his energy into making the class fun and interactive. He is also incredible nice and approachable.

Response 10

Douglas McKee

Best Econ professor I ever had

Response 11

Douglas McKee

Great teacher, always willing to help, and the variety between seminars always made class interesting.

Response 12

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is really awesome. He's willing to help you understand a concept and makes sure everyone in class understands what's happening. He's also really easy to talk to about questions on the homeworks.

Response 13

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee does a wonderful job of explaining the concepts in a clear and understandable manner. He is highly accessible and relates well to his students.

Response 14

Douglas McKee

He's the greatest. THE BEST. He's got this down to a science.

Response 15

Douglas McKee

Douglas McKee

Very accessible and helpful.

Response 16

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee is the best! He's so helpful and is always willing to answer any questions, and meet outside of class to discuss anything of interest. All of his help and guidance was truly appreciated throughout the course.



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

Response 1

yes, if you want to read academic papers that you may not have been introduced to.

Response 2

Absolutely. One of the best senior seminars here. The readings are usually pretty interesting and the workload isn't bad. Prof. McKee gives you a lot of help with the final paper, which requires you to come up with an economic model of your own. I wish more seminars were taught like this one.

Response 3

You get back what you put into this seminar. I would recommend it because it has a great syllabus, but it is very self-motivated and self-directed.

Response 4

Really wonderful class! It's structured so that you read a couple economics papers on a particular topic (retirement, health, savings, elder care, etc.) each week, and then in class there's a fairly structured discussion with people presenting the papers, or leading discussions on the topics, or something. Professor McKee is absolutely wonderful--he knows the subject really well, is incredibly engaging and funny, and cares a lot about whether students learn the concepts. He has a great feel for how well the class is learning, and knows a ton about any topic that may come up. I've rarely seen a professor so able to keep students engaged in the material. It's the first economics class at Yale I've taken that was both not purely theoretical, but that also felt like we were treating the world in an economically sophisticated way (usually, i feel like it's one or the other). More important than the topics themselves, in my opinion, is the opportunity to learn how to apply theoretical frameworks and econometric research techniques to answering real world problems--you come out of this class much better prepared to ask and answer a variety of questions outside of aging itself and even outside of areas you think of as traditionally economic. The major assignment for the class is formulating a research proposal, which isn't too hard but I think ends up teaching you far more than a normal economics paper (you propose a model and empirical approach and actually get in the mindset of a researcher). One of my favorite classes at Yale!

Response 5

Great seminar, highly recommended

Response 6

This is the only course I've taken at Yale that actually teaches you how to read/write an economic research paper and how to think of research questions in terms of theoretical models and empirical approaches -- I would recommend this course and Professor McKee on this point alone. The material is also extremely interesting and relevant.

Response 7

Read 2-3 papers each week and fill out worksheets summarizing them. Complete a paper proposal throughout the semester where Doug walks through each student. You have to also present one of the weeks papers. The topic is not the most interesting, but Doug makes it fun and much more enjoyable than you think it would be. Definitely take this class because of Doug.

Response 8

yes, you should take this class even if you're only mildly interested in the topic, as i was. you will learn: how to read an economics paper, how to formulate a research question, write an economic model and an empirical model (and the difference between the two!), and basically, you will realize how difficult doing research is. workload isn't bad at all- like most classes, you get out of it what you put in.

Response 9

I recommend taking Econ 466. The class is incredibly fun and interactive. The readings can get a little long and vary in the level of difficult, but overall I left this class knowing a lot more than I previously had. Finally, the final project is challenging, but can be very rewarding if you put a lot of time into it.

Response 10

Take it if you're genuinely interested in economics and the society.

Response 11

Great class. A really good senior seminar that teaches you how to read real econ research papers. The topic is also super interesting- I didn't think I'd be interested, but it was actually really important material that was engaging.

Response 12

Interesting material and fun class

Response 13

Definitely take this class, if you can get in. Prof. McKee is easily one of, if not the best professor in the Econ department. The material is interesting and Prof. McKee does a fantastic job of explaining material. Very engaging classes.

Response 14

It's a great senior seminar. The topic is incredibly important given the rapidly aging population in the U.S. and in other countries abroad. Professor McKee is also pretty much the greatest professor ever. He's a fantastic teacher and structures the course really well. I have no complaints whatsoever about the class, it was one of my favorite classes this semester. If you can get in, take it.

Response 15

Great course filled with lots of primary literature reading, really expands knowledge of academic economics, economic modeling, and how research is done.

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What were your favorite and leastfavorite articles that we read?

Response 1

-

Response 2

My favorite were pretty much anything that concerned behavioral economics and financial literacy. The Angeletos et al. paper on hyperbolic discounting was probably the best. Don't think I have a least favorite paper. I did struggle with papers that had significant mathematical modeling.

Response 3

Weeks 3 and 12 were my favorites, and Week 6 was my least favorite.

Response 4

My favorite paper was Bernheim, Schleifer and Summers, and I think generally the last three weeks (on transfers, bequests, and elder care) were, for me, the most interesting. I also especially liked Rosenszweig, Scholz et. all, Aguiar and Hurst, hyperbolic discounting, and Frankenberg and Thomas. I found the readings on Social Security (especially the Congressional Green Book and the CBO summaries) a little less interesting and unnecessarily long. I also think for that class a discussion on what features might be in the best system, rather than a debate about a bunch of different ones where some were quite similar, might have worked better.

Response 5

I didn't read any of the background materials for week 1, though those might have been a helpful foundation for the course. I would have probably read them if I were more encouraged to. I actually liked the Geanakoplos article about the personal accounts for social security, the financial literacy and behavioral savings articles were good (probably because they were much easier reads). I don't know if I had any least favorite articles, other than some being very difficult to get through.

Response 6

I think all of the articles were relevant and contributed to our course, but I would recommend having two articles per week consistently, so that there is sufficient time to go over the papers in class, since most of them have complicated models.

Response 7

Favorite were the empirical intensive ones like McGarry. Least favorite were the economic model intensive ones that were just too hard to understand.

Response 8

My favorite readings were Lusardi, and Engers& Stern. I do not have least favorite articles but I did find those from week three very difficult. Your helpful hints that week, however, were very helpfully.

Response 9

Can't remember-- but shorter ones are generally better than the longer ones. Economists are not the greatest writers but those that write with logic, clarity, and humor are simply precious.

Response 10

Favorite articles: The social security week. The only articles that I wasn't a huge fan of were the family planning ones involving game theory and the dynamic models of labor supply, just because they were a little beyond me. Some extra guidance with those might help a lot.

Response 11

I enjoyed the unit on saving behaviors the most and probably the last two weeks the least.

Response 12

I think all of the papers we read were important, but I think in general I wish we focused more on the model and the methodology of the papers. I think that for me, the process of how the authors arrived at their results are more important than the results themselves, and often times I found that there was simply too much handwaving done in class because the model and empirical process was too complicated. I took econometrics, but I still don't feel like I have a good grasp on the empirical processes (the different kinds of regressions, why those were the best types to choose under the circumstances, etc). Without the huge middle chunk of "how", I felt like the conclusion of "what" was less compelling.

Response 13

My favorite ones were the ones relating to intergenerational transfers and elderly care. It was particularly interesting to learn about the papers and then hear about different responses from students in the class, a lot of which come from different culture backgrounds. My least favorite ones might be first couple of papers on social security, maybe because I found it hard to approach and understand the papers in the first weeks of class.

Response 14

Some were harder than others, but the harder ones I learned more from, so they were all fine.

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