

**Online Course Evaluation Summary**

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**Overview of Evaluations for Douglas McKee**

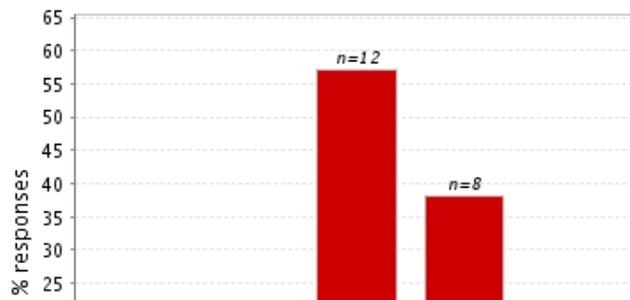
**LAST 410 01 / GLBL 316 01 / EP&E 228 01 / ECON 462 01**

Spring 2014:

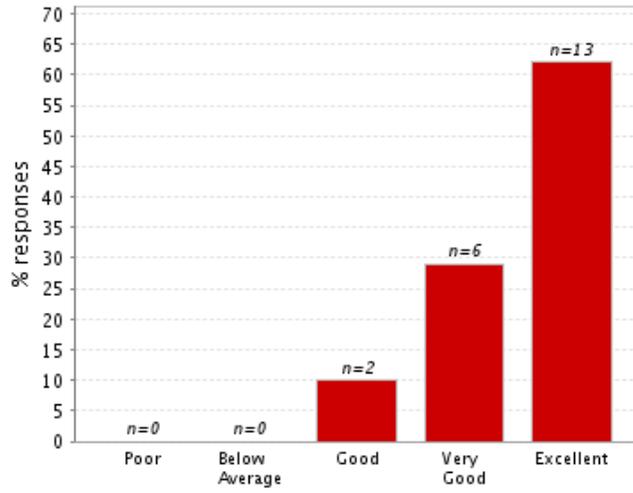
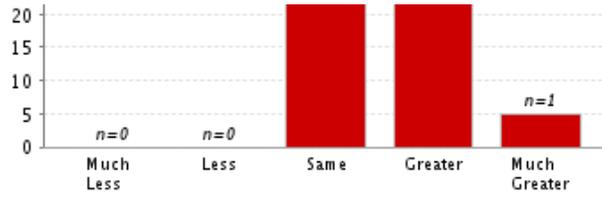
21348	LAST 410 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
21350	GLBL 316 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
21349	EP&E 228 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
21351	ECON 462 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

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

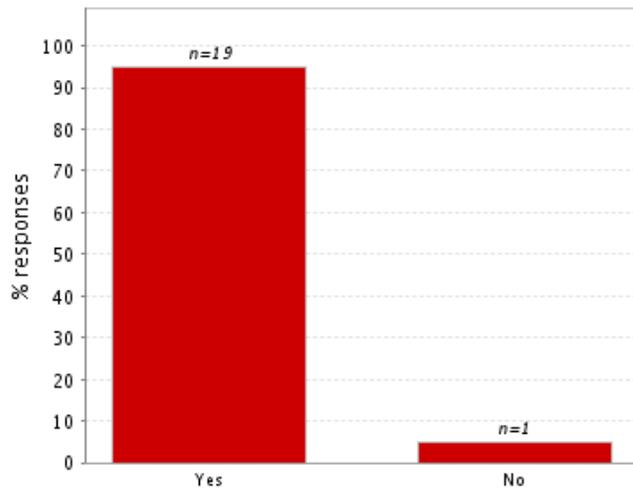
Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?



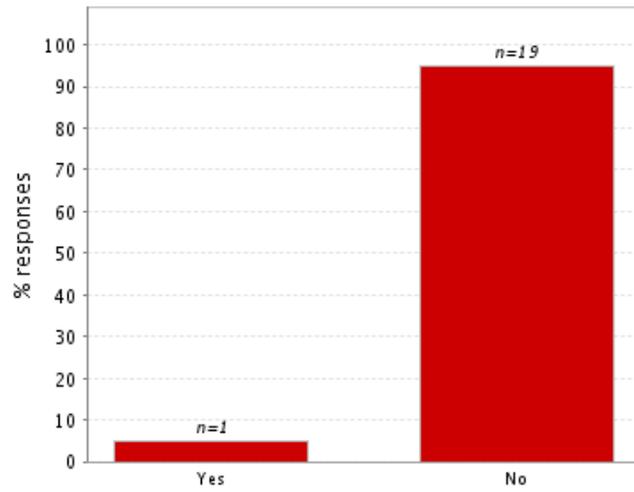
What is your overall assessment of this course?



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?



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EVAL ACCESS**View By Question - Douglas McKee**Spring 2014:  [QUESTION 1](#) | [QUESTION 2](#) | [QUESTION 3](#) | [QUESTION 4](#) | [QUESTION 5](#) | [QUESTION 6](#) | [QUESTION 7](#) | [QUESTION 8](#) | [QUESTION 9](#)[PRINT ALL RESPONSES TO SELECTED QUESTION](#)Number of responses displayed: ◀ Response 1 [5](#) [9](#) [13](#) [14](#) ▶  
PREV NEXT**Question 1**

Looking back on Latin American Studies 410 01 / Global Affairs 316 01 / Ethics, Politics, & Economics 228 01 / Economics 462 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**

Where to begin--it was such a wonderful course in every possible way. The readings were super interesting, the structure of the course was well-thought out before, the presentations were fun, the discussions were good (chances to let out creative ideas) and papers were great chances to drill your paper writing & analytic thinking & econometric techniques. On top of this, what really made the class was Professor McKee--the BEST instructor anyone can ask for. I do not hesitate to say he is perhaps the best instructor at Yale.

**Response 2**

Very good course. Collaborative and curious classroom environment. Clear and easy to understand professor. Encouraged creative thinking. Research proposal was good opportunity for independent work. Only downside was size of class, large for seminar.

**Response 3**

Very strong course on an interesting subject. Structure (you read papers on a particular topic each week, some people present) works very well, especially for the presenters. The long-term assignment--formulating a research proposal, with economic model and empirical approach--is really interesting and lets you learn a lot.

**Response 4**

Strengths: overall, such a wonderful class! Material was interesting and I learned how to read dense papers. Biggest drawback was that it sometimes turned into a two-hour lecture, which was hard to stay focused for.

**Response 5**

I thoroughly enjoyed this course. I found the subject matter to be fascinating, and I thought it was extremely well taught. I wish that some of the papers had been given a bit more context so that we would have been better able to interpret them in the scheme of the course, but I have no substantive complaints.

**Response 6**

Enjoyed learning to apply Econ knowledge in reading academic papers. Professor McKee helped make the material accessible and interesting. Helpful to discuss empirical methods before reading papers.

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**Response 7**

Brilliant course, great professor. Perhaps change the syllabus to include papers on poverty and inequality.

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**Response 8**

McKee is great

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**Response 9**

This class was incredible. It teaches you how to properly read and analyze economics literature. Even though it is technically taught as a senior seminar, junior who want to write a thesis should be required to take this class or one with a similar approach.

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**Response 10**

Amazing course, incredible professor.

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**Response 11**

Great course. However, I think the course would be better suited to having fewer topics to cover, and then cover the fewer topics in greater detail. This was the course will not be as monotonous because you can talk about policy implications instead of just talking about hthe paper itself. Also, have junior econ majors take the course. The course just needs to go over econometrics in greater detail in the beginning. Go over the big topic in one class and go through a whole paper together in detail over the econometrics - read the table slowly with the students and go over the econometrics slowly.

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**Response 12**

ECON 462 was a great course in that I felt like I put in a fair amount of work and got a lot out of it. I was introduced to the interesting topic of human capital, which I hadn't covered in serious depth in any other course at Yale. In addition, I got to build up my understanding of econometric techniques by looking at how they are applied to answer various research questions. I would have preferred slightly more discussion at the cost of cutting into the time allotted for presentations because the presentations tended to get dry at times (my presentation included).

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**Response 13**

For me this course did a very good job of reinforcing how Economics is not just about business cycles, inflation, taxes, budget deficits, trade and investment, but also about health, nutrition, education, drugs and deaths, and marriages and divorce. We read several papers, on average 3 per week, over the course of the semester. The papers focused on evaluating policies related to improvement of human capital in Latin America. Not everyone in the class had a good previous grounding on econometrics but we learnt several techniques along the way. I am really glad that I took this course.

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**Response 14**

This course is by far the best economics course at Yale. Its main strengths are the interesting, comprehensive material on the topic, the focus on learning about economic models and research, and the balance between structure and discussion opportunities.

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### Question 2

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

#### Response 1

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was so great, excellent at explaining complex empirical methods and models in a way that we understood easily - the first Econ class where I felt concepts were explained in their best form. He also met with us outside of class all the time.

#### Response 2

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was wonderful. In terms of instructing, he was very clear, patient and willing to help students truly learn. The amount of time, effort and dedication that he gave to the class and the students was something I have never seen and something I will never see, either. Outside of classes, he was very approachable, friendly and nice. I don't think there is any way the teaching of Professor McKee can be even more improved--he's the definition of a perfect instructor.

#### Response 3

Douglas McKee

Clear and easy to understand. Encouraged classroom discussion. Available and willing to help students outside of class as well. Puts you in position to succeed.

#### Response 4

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is a wonderful professor; he is exceptionally focussed making sure all students really understand the material, while at the same time allowing students with additional interest in the material plenty of scope for learning more. Both in terms of how he runs his classes and the work he assigns outside of them, he is exceptionally successful at teaching real economics.

#### Response 5

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was wonderful. Maybe the most patient and helpful teacher I've had at Yale. So encouraging. Thanks for everything!

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**Response 6**

Douglas McKee

I thought Professor McKee was fantastic. His lectures were engaging, and he did a good job of choosing worthwhile articles. I also appreciated the way he was able to explain relatively complex concepts in laymen's terms.

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**Response 7**

Douglas McKee

Prof McKee is a clearly vocational teacher. He helps clearly explain even the most complicated topics, and his teaching style makes the class environment engaging.

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**Response 8**

Douglas McKee

One of the best professors I have encountered at Yale. Keep doing what you are doing.

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**Response 9**

Douglas McKee

Best teacher, really gives life to sometimes dull material

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**Response 10**

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is the crown jewel in the Yale Econ department. He is first-rate educator who invests in his students beyond even the scope of his course. In my case, I felt more comfortable reaching out to Doug about my senior essay-- which was unrelated to his course -- than I did with my own adviser in EP&E. Doug would always find time to accommodate my last minute requests to meet -- even if it meant walking together to his next engagement.

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**Response 11**

Douglas McKee

I have never learned so much from an economics professor at Yale.

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**Response 12**

Douglas McKee

AMAZING professor always willing to go the extra mile and meet with you, really helpful office hours--definitely a gem of a professor

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**Response 13**

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee was an excellent professor. He was always willing to talk to students and gave more time to HCLA than any other professor whose class I have taken.

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**Response 14**

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee made the material very accessible. I liked how he structured each class and moderated discussions. He engages all sorts of questions, stupid, silly or smart, which for me always made the 2 hour long seminar seem not too long.

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**Response 15**

Douglas McKee

Doug is great. Nothing but positive things to say about him as a teacher. He moderates the pace of the class masterfully, slowing down on concepts that deserve more discussion while picking up the pace on less important topics. He makes his expectations as a grader very clear, and he is readily available to offer help if you need it.

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**Response 16**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is an extremely engaging professor who puts much thought into organizing the course and into making each topic and paper as interesting and clear as possible. He makes himself available to every student and encourages participation from everyone.



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#### Question 4

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

#### Response 1

Take it. The best class I've taken at Yale, hands down. You'll get really comfortable with some common econometric techniques and reading empirical economic papers. Professor McKee, as you've heard, is just phenomenal. He's the definition of a perfect instructor/teacher. Just to clarify--based on the past years' reviews, I came up with a HIGH expectation. The expectation was exceeded. This is just a wonderful course.

#### Response 2

Best class I've taken at Yale. Teaches students about economic research in engaging manner. Research proposal is a cool opportunity for creative and independent learning.

#### Response 3

Econ 462 is a terrific class. Personally, I wasn't always the most interested in the material (though that's something you can judge from the class name--the material really is about various determinants of human capital in Latin America), but both the in-class and take-home material were always really interesting and allowed you to learn a lot. It's one of the few Economics classes that really allows you to get some insight into how economics is practiced, with an especially strong focus on how economists empirically test their predictions (there is some focus, though a little less, on the theory behind those predictions). The main assignment is to formulate a research proposal, which is a challenging but not unmanageable assignment, especially for a senior seminar. It's much more interesting than a standard paper on some subject--you have to formulate your own economic model and way of testing it empirically, getting you to really think about how some process you're interested in takes place.

#### Response 4

Each week, you read 2-3 econ papers on a particular subject relating to human capital in latin america and do reading responses. In class, students present on the papers (with Doug stepping in to clarify, emphasize, or teach tools of econometrics). Then, we have small group or full class discussions: "Given what we've learned from these papers, what is the policy recommendation?" Over the course of the term, you work individually on designing your own research project. Doug is one of the best teachers I've had at Yale. I always had a good time in class, and I learned a lot about empirical economics. However, the homework was rough. I did not enjoy doing the readings or working on my research proposal. So, if you are just looking to fulfill the senior econ requirement, I would recommend this class only if you are interested in development in Latin America.

#### Response 5

**Response 5**

Great course! The reading is a bit much though.

**Response 6**

I would absolutely recommend this course. There are just weekly worksheets that (while time consuming) are not too difficult. They just force you to read what are otherwise dense Econ papers very closely. Professor McKee is outstanding, and this was, without a doubt, one of the best classes I have taken at Yale. If you're at all interested in the subject matter, it is a must, and if you're not, you should still probably take it.

**Response 7**

I would definitely recommend this class to other students, even if for no other reason than to take a class from Prof McKee. The material is very interesting and engaging, and the format of the class, both in terms of how he teaches material and of how each student develops his own research proposal, make it exceeding fulfilling.

**Response 8**

Yes, amazing course. McKee is brilliant.

**Response 9**

Good class. McKee is a great professor and guy and really makes the class. Be prepared to read a lot of econometrics papers so shore that up before taking the class. Struggled through it but really walked out feeling like I learned a lot. Going in this was ranked highest rated economics class at Yale but I don't believe it deserves such high praise.

**Response 10**

Yes, Take it. It can be tough with the econometrics, but Doug McKee will help you through. Also, if you are a junior, try and take this course. Would set you up really well for a senior essay. Also, don't be afraid to tell Doug McKee to slow down on the econometrics, because he will!

**Response 11**

Most definitely. Professor is great. Material is very interesting. Class is well structured and organized. Why not?

**Response 12**

I highly recommend taking this course if you are willing to put in some work to get far more out of it. Doug is a great teacher, the subject matter is interesting (and often overlooked in other Yale courses), and the workload is reasonable (even for a second semester senior with a job). If you are looking to cut corners and breeze through a seminar, this one isn't for you. There are demanding weekly readings, and the final project is not something you can put off until the last week. However, you will leave the class with a better understanding of human capital, the Latin American region, and how to apply more advanced econometric techniques to answer research questions (something that isn't covered in much depth in Econ 131).

**Response 13**

This is the best econ class that I've taken at Yale. Definitely take it! Professor McKee is extremely engaging and you will actually learn how to read economic papers and do economic research in this class, which you don't get anywhere else.

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### Question

Of the articles you read this semester, which did you like the most? And the least?

#### Response 1

The most memorable articles were the vaso de leche and the low birth weight article.

#### Response 2

Best -> Melissa Dell article on Mexican Drug War Least -> I really liked them all! Even the Singh paper, despite its flaws haha!

#### Response 3

I enjoyed the Borjas paper (and the model of who immigrates) the most; I also really enjoyed the week on parental investment in children and the week on charter schools. I also enjoyed papers that employed techniques we hadn't yet talked about (like propensity score matching). I think I enjoyed the papers on wage returns to education a little less than the others; they seemed a little less interesting.

#### Response 4

Most: atole, class size Urquiola, Neal vouchers, the two parental investment ones, Jenson perceived returns to education, the low birthweight one Least: Borjas migration, Thomas health and wages, Attanasio trade reforms

#### Response 5

Oh shoot I can't really remember specific ones now. I'm sorry!

#### Response 6

I thought the de Mel article told a great story. I enjoyed that article a lot. I didn't get as much out of the Attansio article as the rest.

#### Response 7

most: the drug/coca articles least: no "least," but i do feel like we did too many education articles

#### Response 8

I don't remember many of the papers to be honest (that is what many in the class said as well) - maybe have fewer papers assigned (or fewer topics), but just cover them in more detail. I actually have to go look at the syllabus to answer this question...I liked the school papers, informal economy and the parental investment.

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**Response 9**

I loved the first paper in which we came across regression discontinuity in the setting of infant health and the effects of improved nutrition in early life. It was a fascinating econometric technique that answered a very important research question. To be honest though, I liked close to 75% of the academic papers we read. I didn't like some of the reviews we read (i.e. vouchers in schooling systems) that weren't necessarily academic studies. I feel like student presentations could have dealt with overviews of a topic more effectively than 20 pages of dense text.

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**Response 10**

I most enjoyed the papers on parental investment, child health, and migration.

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