

**Online Course Evaluation Summary**

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**Overview of Evaluations for Douglas McKee**

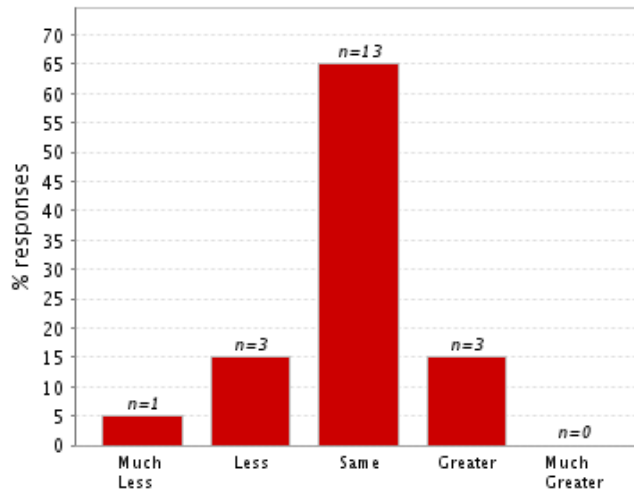
**EP&E 448 01 / ECON 466 01**

Fall 2011:

- 11608 EP&E 448 01 Economics of Aging
- 11607 ECON 466 01 Economics of Aging

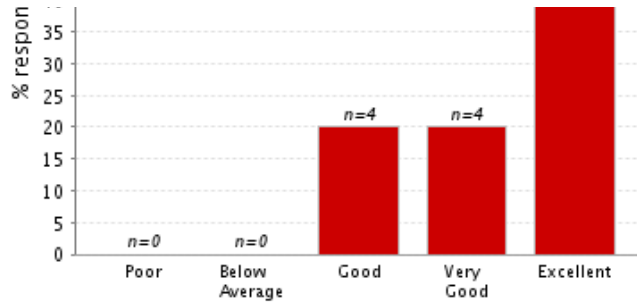
Total number of students:	25	
Evaluations completed:	20	80%
Number of declines	2	8%
Number of non-respondents:	3	12%

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

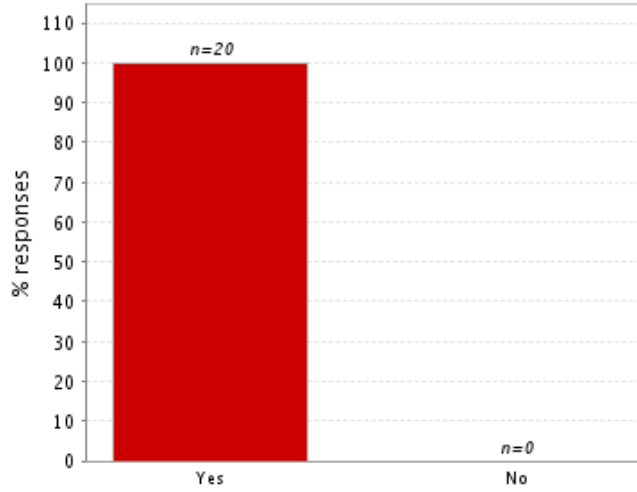


What is your overall assessment of this course?

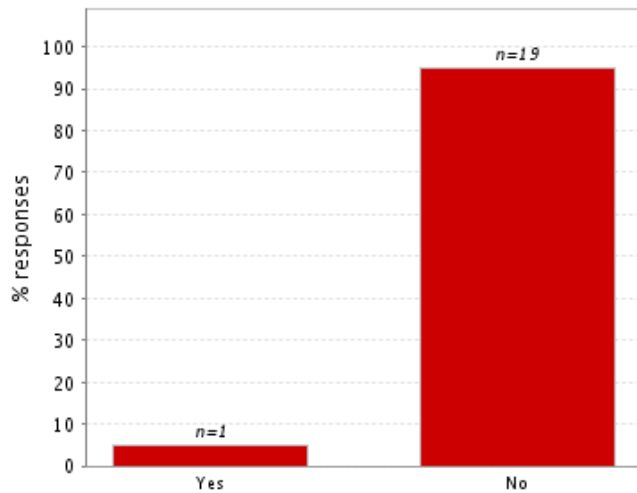




Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program?



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



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**Question 1**

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**

AMAZING.

**Response 2**

Learned more in this class than I have in any other course at Yale

**Response 3**

Great course. I learned a lot and Prof. McKee is very nice

**Response 4**

very interesting class. reading the articles and writing my own proposal taught me a lot about the current state of economic research and how we understand matters such as retirement, bequests, and saving are determined, how to identify weaknesses in various research methods and results, how to create an economic model and empirical approach. it was very satisfying to apply a fairly rigorous approach to understanding such important questions. only weakness is the large class size which made the class feel less like a seminar and more like a high school class dynamic.

**Response 5**

It's not an easy class, the readings are sometimes quite difficult - but that's exactly the best part of the class - Prof. McKee puts you at the frontier of the research, and teaches you how to get the most out of them. You also learn how to structure an economics research, how to go step-by-step from idea to final product. This is perhaps invaluable if you're interested in going into economics, or doing a senior project - many students in the past have continued on from what they've done in the class, and turned them into a serious econ paper. In a word, I feel that I am on a completely different platform after taking this class, and have achieved more than I have in any other econ courses I've taken.

**Response 6**

Fantastic course, but with a few key flaws. 1. Too many people in the class so that it's more of a lecture than a true seminar. 2. The papers were so hard that it wasn't worth my time to read them. It was discouraging. 3. There was not much class room discussion. 4. Individual presentations were boring and no one paid attention. But this class will really teach you how to write a hell of an economics research paper

tion of an economics research paper.

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**Response 7**

Overall assessment is pretty good. the course gives a basic understanding of retirement and saving of old people, though some topics are covered more in detail.

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**Response 8**

Make the class smaller! 20+ is too big for this type of seminar.

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**Response 9**

Great Course ...take it!

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**Response 10**

It was one of the most well-organized and meaningful Economics classes I've taken at Yale.

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**Response 11**

This course does not only present interesting economic theories regarding the old-aged population, but it also provides solid background on advanced econometric methods. It also discusses practical problems that economist faces regarding the limitations in the data and how they solve these issues. Meeting one-on-one with professor McKee on the papers and the presentation is a great way to master the material. However, for weeks when I don't have papers or presentation due, the work load is very light. It's almost like coming to class just to hear other people's presentations without having to prepare anything more than just the readings. I think one way to have everyone more invested and engaged in each class is to let us know the discussion topics beforehand. That way we will pay more attention to the reading, think more critically about them, and perhaps do extra research if need be. It would also be nice if we can spend less time in presentations and more in discussions. One way to cut down presentation time might be for Prof. McKee to perhaps spend the first class going through the basics of different econometric techniques that show up a lot throughout the course. This way in student presentations we may save some time explaining the complicated methods by students who also don't understand them quite completely because they are so difficult. Another part I love about this class is the research proposal. While the workload is light in terms of number of pages combined throughout the semester, it takes a significant amount of time in learning how to write a good paper for this assignment. I really learned a lot in the process, from reviewing the literature, thinking through the models, coming up with the empirical methods, meeting with the professor, and learning through his feedback.

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**Response 12**

The class was great in that it challenged students to read harder papers than they might encounter in lower level economics classes, particularly as many economics professors are hesitant to assign anything with too much math. However, I didn't think the groups were very useful.

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**Response 13**

Great class! The mechanics of the course do work really well. The one tricky thing is the speed with which we breeze through the explanations of various techniques for estimating structural models. I still feel like I don't have a completely firm grasp on the topic, but everything else was great.

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**Response 14**

This is a very solid class. Students become a lot more proficient at reading economics papers and you emerge with a solid understanding of various microeconomic issues surrounding aging. The format of the class, however, doesn't really encourage diligent and formal reading - you can get by skimming the reading enough to fill out the worksheets because you're never tested on the material and you can complete the paper without too much gleaned from the papers in class. It's also almost impossible for the students to be able to understand the technical econometric work in many of the papers.

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**Response 15**

This was a really fun and challenging class. It's not a typical Econ course or seminar but that's probably a good thing. It's what I imagine a grad-level labor Econ class is like. You'll be called on to grapple with actual literature from the field every week and glean the basic findings and methodology of its seminal papers, which can be really exhausting reading, but the weekly worksheets make it basically impossible to wimp out and there's no better way to learn the material. Doing the in-class presentation of a paper was a really great experience and I learned a lot, and the other student presentations were all great

presentation of a paper was a really great experience and I learned a lot, and the other students' presentations were all super informative, actually -- Professor McKee does a much better job than most professors of making sure these presentations are up to snuff. I do wish we hadn't done so many small-group activities in the second half of the course, as I didn't find much good discussion came out of those. I'd rather have a more traditional seminar-style discussion of the week's papers and their implications for policy. That said, the course was overbooked so I understand the decision.

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**Response 16**

Amazing class! Really teaches you to read research papers, understand economic and empirical models, and create them. Interesting materials& the final paper is very rewarding.

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### View By Question - Douglas McKee

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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/her teaching be improved?

#### Response 1

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee reminded me why I am a major in Economics - that is saying a LOT about him. The research proposal inspired me to dig back into the decision-making process side of microeconomics that I used to love (I'm doing mine on irrational decision-making). I would absolutely recommend his class to anyone, regardless of what the subject is. Plus, the group meetings were enormously effective. And he cared about students more than most. In short, definitely the best/one of the best professors I've had thus far.

#### Response 2

Douglas McKee

Great teacher and always willing to help and meet outside of class if you do not understand some things

#### Response 3

Douglas McKee

very helpful and friendly. most approachable professor i have every had

#### Response 4

Douglas McKee

professor McKee was always enthusiastic, interesting, knowledgeable, receptive to questions and objections, amusing, and very approachable. both in class and one-on-one i always felt like i came away with a better understanding of the material or methodology after Professor McKee explained the matter at hand. he also did an excellent job of encouraging everyone to take their own approach to the research proposals which was refreshing and made the assignment more interesting to do.

#### Response 5

Douglas McKee

1. Passionate about the subject and good at it 2. Great teacher 3. Super cool dude 4. Deeply invested in the students' interest

1. Passionate about the subject, and good at it. 2. Great teacher. 3. Super cool dude. 4. Deeply invested in the students' interest.

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**Response 6**

Douglas McKee

He was always willing to help and was super friendly. I wish I could have had him as an adviser.

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**Response 7**

Douglas McKee

I really enjoyed taking a class with professor McKee. He was extremely engaging, prepared and structured with his seminars. I found that he also cared personally about each student and their research projects and the feedback he gave me was extremely helpful and taught me a lot. He definitely put more effort into the seminar than most other economics professors. No negatives to say about him!

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**Response 8**

Douglas McKee

Amazing. Cares. Excellent teacher.

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**Response 9**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is just pretty amazing. He is so chill and makes the class very fun!

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**Response 10**

Douglas McKee

I have to be honest that when I preregistered for this course, I wasn't too excited about the subject matter, but I signed up anyways because last year's evaluation said Prof. McKee is a great seminar teacher. Indeed, he did a really great job in this class and made the materials more interesting and relevant because he is so excited about it himself. He is very knowledgeable, but at the same time approachable and laid-back. This is why meeting with him on the papers and presentation are always very helpful. He clearly cares a lot about the students and how to improve his teachings. He also knows how to make comments and suggestions without discouraging the students or giving away all the answers.

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**Response 11**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was great, very interesting and helpful whenever anyone had problems with the papers or their research proposals.

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**Response 12**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is the best!

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**Response 13**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is great. he genuinely cares about his students and the material. To improve the class, though, he should focus on making the course slightly more rigorous to encourage reading and participation.

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**Response 14**

Douglas McKee

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was fantastic. His reading demanded a lot but he had a perfect balance for engaging me as a student. He was open to new interpretations and ideas about our reading, and was always patient and good-tempered about explaining things I got wrong. He created a really great learning environment for some pretty challenging material.

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### Response 15

Douglas McKee

AWESOME Professor! His lectures are very interesting, and he also spends time to make sure that everyone is getting a lot from the class. Thanks so much for a great semester!



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#### Question 4

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

It's very micro econ. The title makes it sound like you stick only to topics of social security and medicare and benefit plans. But, really you dig into the micro economic question of why humans make decisions like they do. You model and test and evaluate the decision-making process ABOUT the above macro topic using MOSTLY economics papers. The research proposal at the end is intensive but fascinating (if you can find a topic that really interests you and that you really want to learn more about, b/c Prof. McKee will help you learn to dig into it.)

##### Response 2

Take this seminar

##### Response 3

Don't let yourself be scared off by the mathematical focus of the first two classes--you don't need to love econometrics to do well in and enjoy this class (although it helps)if you're interested in understanding what motivates decisions such as retirement, saving patterns, bequests in a satisfyingly rigorous way then you should definitely take this class. if you want to learn how to create an economic model and set up empirical analysis, take this class. if you want to learn random factoids to impress you more nerdy friends, take this class.Professor Mckee is great: knowledgeable, enthusiastic, amusing and extremely helpful throughout the process of writing the research proposal.it's hard to come away from this class not having learned a lot, not just facts, but how to approach economic/business/political arguments and proposals with a critical eye that will serve you well in any area of business.caveats: the articles you read are difficult and sometimes pretty mathy but you are not expected to understand everythingWorkload: 2 research papers to read each week (hard but doable) with ungraded worksheets to help you understand the papers, a research proposal that you complete in stages throughout the semester

##### Response 4

Absolutely. Take it if you can - that is if you can actually get in, this class is in great demand.

##### Response 5

YES

##### Response 6

I would recommend it if you are interest in the subject, the teacher is great!

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**Response 7**

It's a class on the economics of growing old. It's a well taught course but this semester it had too many students in it which ruined it for me. If there are going to be 20+ students in it again, you're better off finding another seminar.

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**Response 8**

Yes! Best way to learn how to write an academic research paper. The material that Professor McKee chooses are quite interesting, accessible and he definitely makes the subject fun to study. Normally the things you learn in Econ classes are pretty much not applicable to anything outside of school, but the topics here are actually interesting and definitely keeps you thinking.

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**Response 9**

I would highly recommend taking this course. When I preregistered for this course, I wasn't too excited about the subject matter, but I signed up anyways because last year's evaluation said Prof.McKee is a great seminar teacher. Indeed, he did a really great job in this class and made the materials more interesting and relevant because he is so excited about it himself. He is very knowledgeable, but at the same time approachable and laid-back. He clearly cares a lot about the students and how to improve his teachings. The work load is light, just a paper or two for each class. The midterm and final papers are also not hard, because you can get feedback and help from the professor along the way.

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**Response 10**

Each week you read econometric papers and the grades consist of the parts of a research proposal. Yes I would recommend this class. The professor is great and the papers are a good introduction to what grad school would be like.

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**Response 11**

Take this class!!! It really is fantastic. Professor McKee is the best, the subject matter is interesting, you learn how structural models work, and it's VERY VERY little work.Each week, you go through two papers. You have to fill out a "worksheet" on each paper before class, but these are really easy and you only have to read the intro/conclusion to get through it. That's the only weekly homework.You also have to lead one class in the semester, but this is really easy and kind of fun.Other than that, the ONLY work is a 15-page paper, half of which is due at midterm and half of which is due during reading week.Awesome class. Take it. You'll learn a lot without doing much.

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**Response 12**

This is a good economics class - the material is interesting and relevant. It's not a lot of work at all - you can get by just skimming the papers, and you don't need to spend much time on the paper assignment. It can get boring at times because you don't really need to pay attention in class, but overall very good class and great teacher.Students become a lot more proficient at reading economics papers and you emerge with a solid understanding of various microeconomic issues surrounding aging.

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**Response 13**

If you're willing to put in a couple of hours a week on these papers and are at all interested in the course material, you'll get a lot out of this. I also suppose if you're a more grad school-bound Econ student with better math chops than me you can get some really great exposure to methodology and labor Econ research.

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