

**Online Course Evaluation Summary**

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**Overview of Evaluations for Douglas McKee**

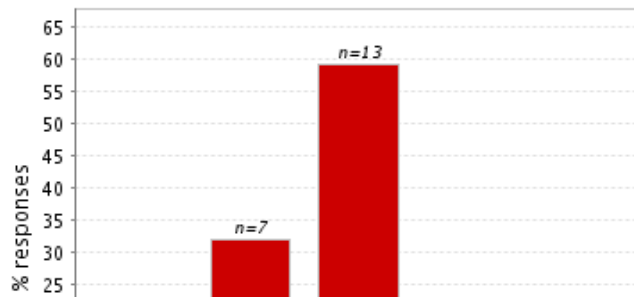
**LAST 410 01 / EP&E 228 01 / ECON 462 01**

Spring 2011:

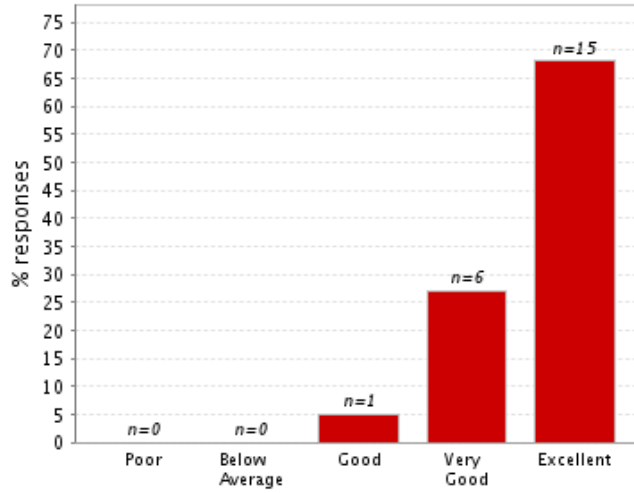
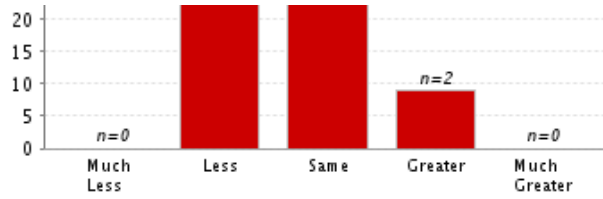
23414	LAST 410 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
23666	EP&E 228 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer
21692	ECON 462 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

Total number of students:	23	
Evaluations completed:	22	96%
Number of declines	1	4%
Number of non-respondents:	0	0%

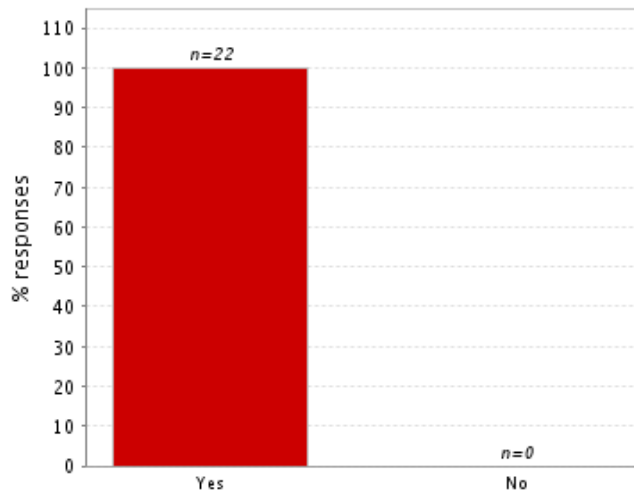
Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?



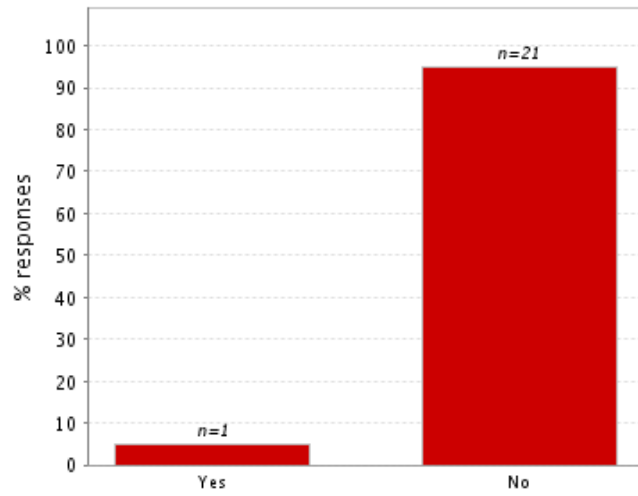
What is your overall assessment of this course?



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 distribution requirements?



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Looking back on Latin American Studies 410 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**

This is one of the best classes I have taken at Yale. The class is very well structured and I can confidently say that I walk away knowing a lot more about different human capital interventions and the methods required to test them.

**Response 2**

I really enjoyed the course. I think my one criticism would be that after a while some of the material got pretty repetitive. Organizing the syllabus around themes, changing the small groups around maybe once or twice a semester, and exposing the class to different empirical methods would have been helpful. I also think that it would have been nice to spend maybe one class period working on methods for the midterm and final papers.

**Response 3**

Doug is awesome! Take a course w/ him if you can. He will make sure you graduate as an Econ major at Yale actually knowing some legitimate and useful Economic tools!

**Response 4**

Great class. Doug McKee is a great professor and keeps discussions interesting even if you haven't done all (or any) of the readings.

**Response 5**

Awesome course, mainly because of just how great the teacher is. Covers a great range of topics, and the discussion groups tease out really interesting elements of the papers. Covers empirical methods really well. A few suggestions: -The course certainly covered MOST relevant empirical methods, but if it could have been absolutely exhaustive that would have really set this course apart from other similar courses. -I took another course on development economics, and I came out of both of these feeling like I knew a lot about random policies in random places; i.e. I know something about a nutrition program in Peru, and something about the health care system in Mexico - but no overall knowledge. I know it's hard to make some kind of overarching story about human capital in Latin America, but if there could be certain lines running through that would really help me retain the information. -The student presentations were ultimately a little unsuccessful for me; when I had done the readings in detail they seemed repetitive, to the extent that it gave me an incentive to NOT do the reading, so I would be more engaged in the presentation. Maybe they could be much shorter, and focus on certain peripheral aspects of the papers that aren't obvious just at first reading?

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**Response 6**

This was a GREAT class. The strength was in the syllabus and the professor. Though the reading was significant it was also manageable, which meant that students generally came to class prepared and ready for meaningful discussion. The format was great, with the first portion of the seminar dedicated to individual presentations and the majority devoted to interactive smaller group exercises. Also, interesting and relevant subject matter, though I personally think a similar course exploring North American programs could be fascinating.

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**Response 7**

Great class in which you learn a lot. I was able to take both of Professor McKee's classes, and they both have SO MUCH to offer. Professor McKee was extremely interested in our understanding of course material, and I now know how to set up my own model and interpret regressions etc. This course allowed us to actually be economists who could potentially advise on policies.

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**Response 8**

I think ECON 462, and other classes like it, are really important for Yale to offer. They demonstrate that you can do things with your Economics degree beyond working at a bank or financial consultancy. This class in particular, with its focus on the developing world, shows that you can even use Economics to better the lives of others.

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**Response 9**

Very interesting class. Learnt a lot about econometrics. Very different from other economics classes.

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**Response 10**

Economics of Human Capital Latin America was an awesome class. Its strengths were the selection of material which was very interesting as well as the great teaching of Professor McKee. I can't think of any weaknesses.

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**Response 11**

I thought the class was great. Doug is great, the material is interesting, and it was well organized.

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**Response 12**

A great class for econ majors. Learn a lot about models. Also a great topic.

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**Response 13**

AMAZING class overall!!! I learned so much about actual economics like reading, understanding and even commenting on economics papers. Gives you a solid grasp of empirical methods and current research in development economics. The mini class discussions were very good and made one more at ease in terms of class participation and less daunting than a normal seminar. I liked that we were thinking of our projects throughout the whole semester it didn't feel like there was a mad rush at the end to come up with the final paper. Student presentations were also useful and helped one understand the papers more. That said it would be helpful if the professor could spend one lecture talking about economic and empirical models, the expectations of these were not laid out very clearly at the beginning of the semester. Also we had a 20 or so minute review of empirical methods we covered in class it would help if perhaps more time was spent on these. Overall this class is a gem in the econ department, I dare say one of my best econ classes at Yale.

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**Response 14**

This course is really stellar in many ways. First, it seeks to teach econ students how to understand econometric data and how to carry out empirical research. It's appalling that the standard complement of courses do not do that, but at Yale, they do not, so it's good to have it here. One way it could be improved is if we had presentations on outside papers. For the really really technical papers, it is helpful to read them and then have them presented but for the rest, it is redundant (so redundant that sometimes I, and I know of a few others, would do the bare minimum to do the worksheet and then just learn about the papers in class).

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**Response 15**

Human Capital of Latin America is a great course that exposes students to the research side of the field of economics, while allowing them to explore their own interesting research question. Professor McKee really makes this class awesome, by helping

students understand papers and by guiding students through the paper writing process. Strengths- Teaches students how to read economics papers, even without much econometric background. The worksheets really facilitated learning as they allowed students to zone in on key concepts without getting bogged down in details.- My own class presentation really helped me engage with papers- Research proposal is a great project because it allows students to really understand how research papers are written. Furthermore, it is satisfying to explore an original question. The fact that it takes a whole semester is also good because it allows students to delve into their topic and learn how to write papers in the process.- Professor McKee is a great professor, who explains the papers well and who takes a lot of time with students to help them with their projects. Weaknesses / Improvements- I do not think I greatly benefited from other students presenting to me (although I feel like I learned a lot from my own presentations; perhaps this was because I did not read the papers too in-depth before class because I only needed to get a general understanding of the paper). The presentations were dry and not engaging. While I do think that presentations should be about papers for that week, I think it would be helpful if presentations just focused on the analytical parts of the papers. That way, we could have time for class discussion (see next point regarding class discussions).- I did not like the small discussion groups. The conversations were often uninformative and not on task. I would have preferred more of a group seminar style, in which we all had a conversation about the paper and about the topic in general.- It would have been helpful if the papers were connected by broader themes, and with historical content. Also, it might be better if we focused on certain countries. As it was, the readings are scattered in my mind and I cannot keep track of anything in my head.- I would have liked more guidance with the research proposal. Although Professor McKee did a great job providing office hours to discuss the papers, it would have been better had there been more class time to discuss how to do the research paper (e.g. how to find data, how to analyze other papers).- I would make everyone do data analysis for the paper, however limited the analysis might be. I think that is more fruitful (especially for those who might not do a senior research paper).

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**Response 16**

Great course! learned a lot of statistics, and got a good picture of Latin America. I agree with our class consensus that a few more juicy articles like the Brazilian fashion piece is a good accompaniment to data analysis.

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**Response 17**

This class is excellent. Great in-depth study of the papers and getting a survey of different latin american situations at the same time.



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**Question 2**

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

**Response 1**

Douglas McKee

Doug is a great instructor. He is very engaging, and chances are he will be very enthusiastic about your project. He is very accessible. Get to know him!

**Response 2**

Douglas McKee

Doug is fantastic. I think he really made the class a lot of fun and informative. I feel like I learned more about econometric methods in this class than I have in any other economics class. I feel a little less ashamed to say I'm an economics major now that I have a better understanding of what it is economists actually do and write about.

**Response 3**

Douglas McKee

Doug is awesome and super supportive and accessible! Don't graduate from the Yale Econ major w/o taking a class from him!

**Response 4**

Douglas McKee

Excellent teacher. Easy going, wants you to learn the things that are really important in an economics paper and enjoy doing it. He keeps things interesting in class as well.

**Response 5**

Douglas McKee

Great teacher. Nothing else to say here.

**Response 6**

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**Response 5**

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Great teacher. Nothing else to say here.

**Response 6**



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Douglas McKee

Doug was, without a doubt, the best economics professor I have had in my four years.

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**Response 7**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is absolutely wonderful, and he is truly an expert in his field. He knows so much about Latin America and it's problems and it allowed us to be more engaging as well. I wish he taught more classes so I could take them as well (even though I am a senior).

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**Response 8**

Douglas McKee

Doug is fantastic. He is so fun, relaxed, and makes class a pleasure. He is approachable, and it was easy to schedule meetings with him to discuss my coursework. He genuinely cares about making his class a learning experience and helping students to succeed in not only his course but other Economics classes.

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**Response 9**

Douglas McKee

Amazing professor. Incredibly helpful

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**Response 10**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is one of my favorite teachers at Yale. He is always enthusiastic and transmits his interest for the material to the students. The class structures are always interesting, I loved the discussions. In addition, he is never too busy to help students with questions or papers, and that is really appreciated. I can't think of any ways his teaching could be improved.

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**Response 11**

Douglas McKee

Doug is everything that a Yale professor should be. He's extremely responsive to student needs and understands the material well.

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**Response 12**

Douglas McKee

A very accessible and interesting professor. Really caters to the needs of his students. He is good at explaining things to all types of students while not talking down.

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**Response 13**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is one of the most dedicated professors i have seen at Yale. Provides helpful feedback and is willing to assist you throughout the entire process of your project. And you don't feel intimidated asking him questions/clarifications. I enjoyed his approach of making it a discussion oriented class.

---

**Response 14**

Douglas McKee

Doug is AMAZING. In my four years at Yale, I've encountered few teachers who are willing to invest as much time into their classes and be as accessible to students as Doug was — especially not in the economics department. He conducted his class in a

way that required him to meet with students one-on-one or in small groups throughout the semester and offered incredible advice on how to tackle empirical issues both for his course and not.

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**Response 15**

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is a wonderful professor who is a great teacher and spends a lot of time with students to really help them learn. He is also very fair and thorough. Strengths- Teaches material well: he taught the various econometric concepts well, he spent a lot of time making sure students understood papers, and he facilitated class discussion well- Spends a lot of time preparing for class and organizing syllabus, which made for a great semester- Very available for office hours to discuss projects and papers. This was really helpful for me to learn about research papers and how to write them.- Very approachable and he is in general a great guy Weaknesses- In class, Professor McKee was at times sarcastic and this made it uncomfortable to participate in class discussions occasionally. Although I know he did not do this intentionally, I would recommend that he encourage student questions and not joke about students' questions (however light the joking might be). ... This only happened at times though, and in general, he was great and encouraging.

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**Response 16**

Douglas McKee

Very helpful, patient, and fun. 5 stars.

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**Response 17**

Douglas McKee

Doug absolutely changed the way I feel about the economics major at Yale. For three years I took classes that had me memorize equations that never seemed useful, and never provided a hands on way to access the material. Doug has shown me the ways that an economic model can be used and applied to everyday life, teaching me that economics is a tool that I can use to understand the world. In addition to academic dedication, Doug is also just a fantastic person.

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**Response 18**

Douglas McKee

Very knowledgeable professor and extremely clear and interesting lecturer.

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

**Response 1**

Would totally recommend it, even if you do not know much about Latin America or think you don't have a particular interest in the area. What you learn goes beyond a geographic region.

**Response 2**

It's a fantastic class. Doug does an excellent job of teaching and keeping the class fun, and the material provides good exposure to econometric methods. The format (short presentations and small group discussions rather than everyone talking across the table) is conducive to getting to know your classmates and really learning from each other. You also get to start writing an economic research paper which is helpful if you're planning on doing a senior essay or want to do real economic research.

**Response 3**

Prof. McKee is an awesome, chill guy. The workload is very reasonable so you can really spend time understanding the readings if you want, and the final paper is actually fun to write. You can really learn a lot about research and data analysis in this class-- something that can be hard to find in the econ major. Definitely recommend it as a follow-up to Dean Karlan's Econ of Developing Countries.

**Response 4**

One of the most useful Econ classes at Yale. You actually learn things frameworks that you can use for life!

**Response 5**

Classes typically consisted of 1 or 2 people presenting a paper that was an assigned reading, with McKee's help. Then we would, as a class raise some policy questions and discuss in an open forum or smaller groups. Every class was interesting and dealt with different aspects of human capital in Latin America, for example how to increase school attendance or stop drug trafficking.

**Response 6**

Do it. There's a lot of development economics courses at Yale (which is basically what this is) and I think they're all fairly similar, but this one has a great professor who will be really happy spending two hours with every week. and will encourage you to think

originally and creatively. Final project makes you write half a research proposal, which is really educational. Also, really not all that much work.

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**Response 7**

HIGHLY recommended. The professor is awesome. The material is interesting. The work is manageable. Class is fun.

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**Response 8**

YES, definitely take this course!!!

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**Response 9**

Great choice for an ECON senior seminar, mostly because you will never have a cooler or more helpful professor than Doug. The actual seminar is kind of boring since it is usually student-led (bring a laptop), but Doug spices things up with fun discussion questions. The readings are pretty dry since most are empirical, but if you just skim them you will be fine and the actual concepts behind the research papers are interesting. The bulk of the workload is a presentation (Doug totally holds your hand and you will be fine) and a research paper proposal. The paper is intimidating at first, but you'll end up getting really into it, and you'll learn how research economics actually works.

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**Response 10**

Take this class for McKee. He's one of the best professors I've had at Yale.

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**Response 11**

This is a great econ seminar to take. Professor McKee is an awesome teacher, I've taken both of his seminars. The workload is not bad, there is a final paper, midterm paper which is the first half of your final paper, a presentation, and weekly responses that are not graded. The material is interesting, nothing bad to say about this class, it's awesome.

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**Response 12**

Doug is great. Take it.

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**Response 13**

A class where you learn how to make economic models.

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**Response 14**

Yes. There are few interesting and well taught seminars in the econ department, and this is one of them!! You will learn a lot and it's not that stressful. Do not be put off by the sentence in the syllabus that says "students will develop an empirical model," I get the sense that many students are put off by that statement but really Professor McKee provides you with all the guidance you will need and at the end you will be proud of your brain child.

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**Response 15**

A really great course. Maybe a little redundant if you have taken a ton of econometrics heavy work and Latin America econ classes but overall excellent.

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**Response 16**

The Human Capital of Latin America is a great course that will expose you to academic research and teach you how to read (and even write) such papers; in the process, you'll also learn about the field of human capital and learn more about Latin America. The weekly writing assignments (a short worksheet per paper) are a great way to understand how to read papers quickly and efficiently. Moreover, the class presentations complement the reading; your own presentation will really help you understand the material. The research proposal is a great way to really delve into an original question and understand how to write a research paper. In fact, if you really like your paper topic, I'm sure it could be fodder for a senior research paper (if you're a junior that is). I would definitely recommend this class to anyone who is interested in learning how to read and write econ research papers and who wants to learn a bit about Latin America. I would caution those really interested in learning about Latin America or about human capital because the papers provide only a fragmented picture: the papers are loosely connected in theme, not all

nations are covered, and there was no historical context.

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**Response 17**

You learn to read economics papers and understand many of the statistical techniques behind them without delving into the derivations.

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**Response 18**

Doug is the best economics teacher at Yale. He doesn't have a big name like Swensen or Zedillo, but I guarantee you will take a ton out of his class. He's very approachable, teaches the material well, and unlike most teachers in the econ department really understands what he is teaching. So for all of you people out there who (like me) are feeling distraught about economics as a major and are looking for a light at the end of the tunnel, take this class.

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**Response 19**

A Must take! Best econ class at Yale! Very fascinating, yet full of econometrics concepts!



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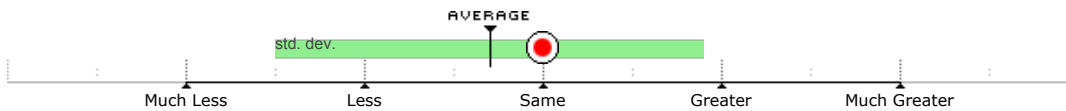
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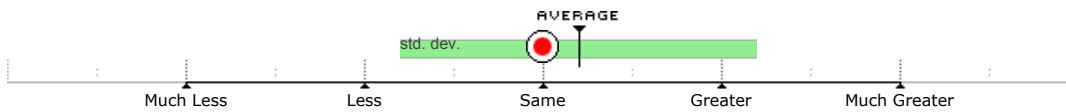
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Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?

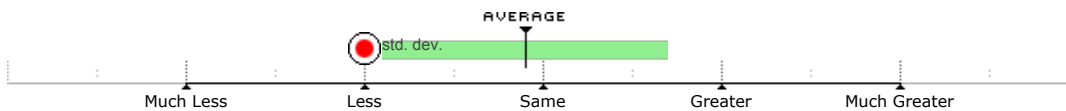
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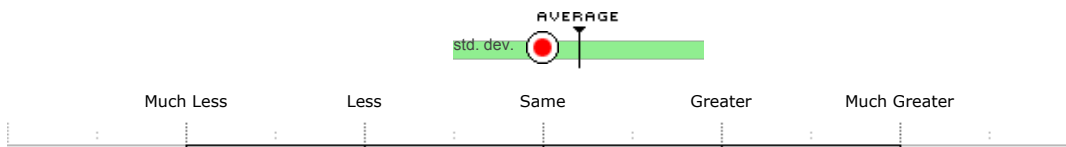
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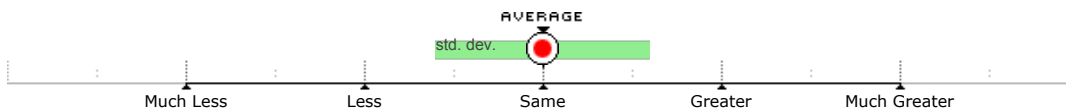
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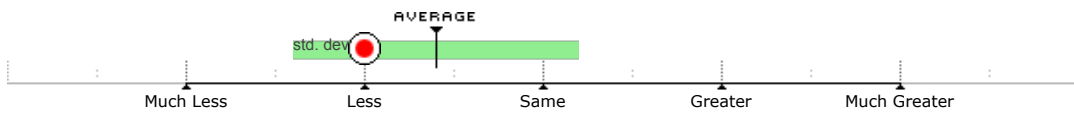
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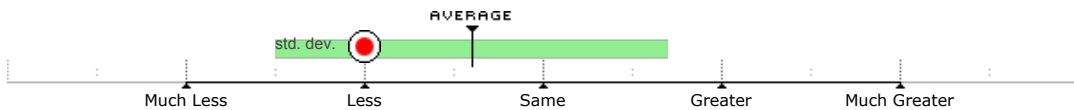
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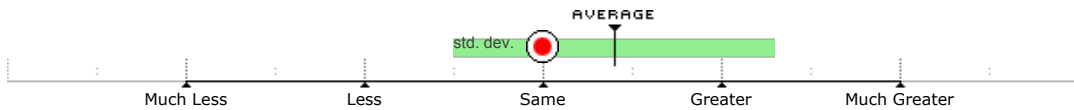
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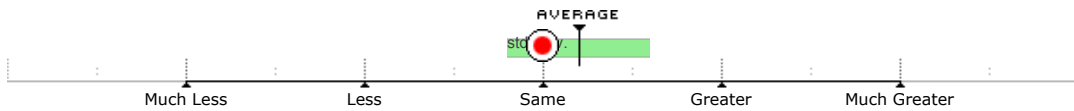
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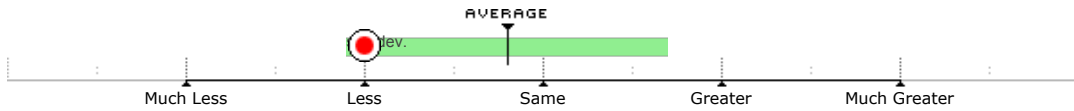
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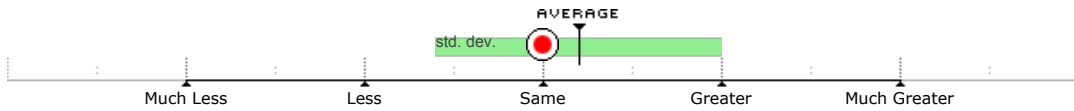
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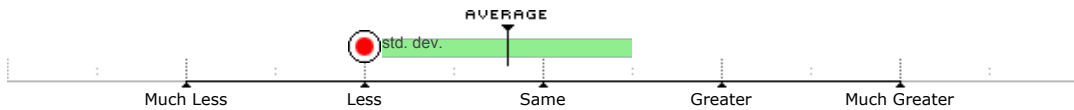
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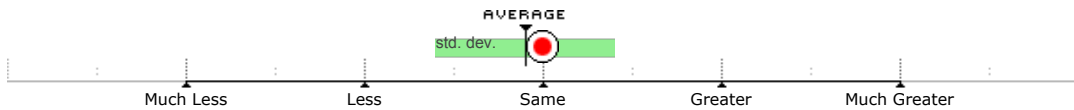
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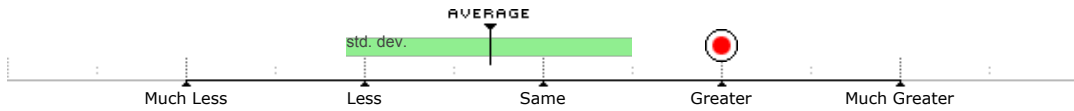
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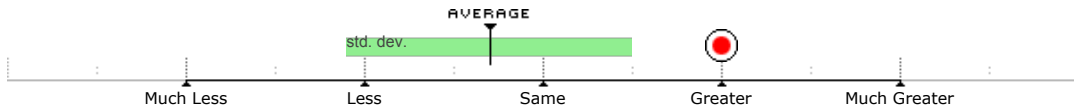
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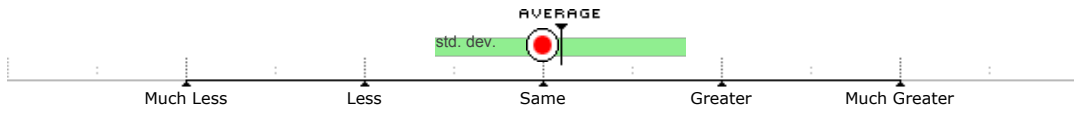
**Response 14**



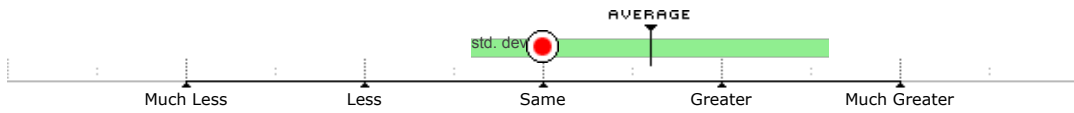
**Response 15**



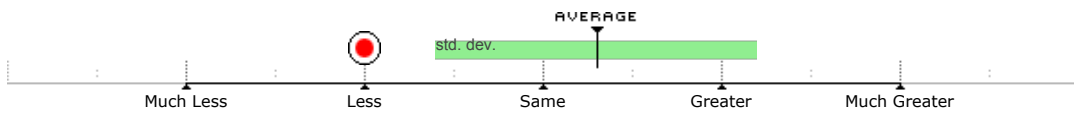
**Response 16**



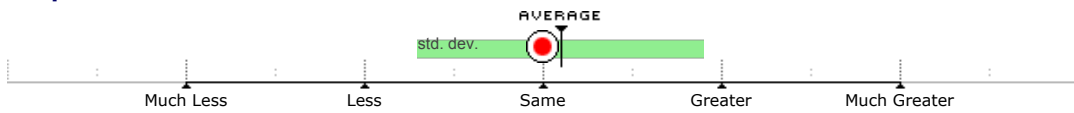
**Response 17**



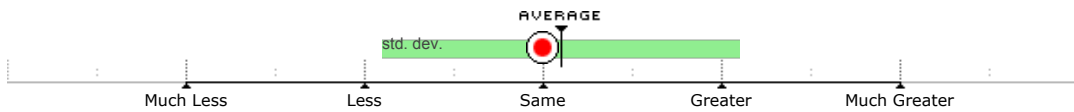
**Response 18**



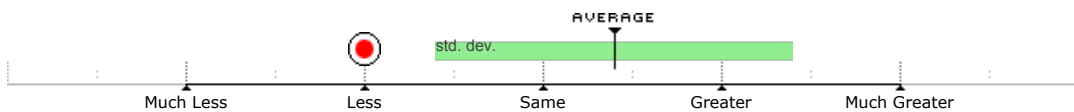
**Response 19**



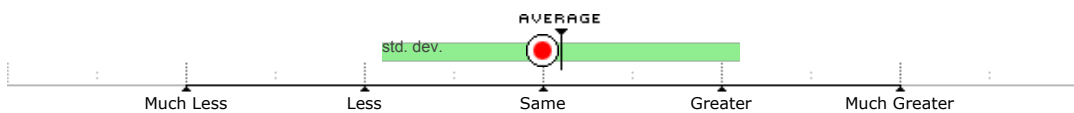
**Response 20**





**Response 21**




**Response 22**






 Answer selected by student  
 Student's mean (average) answer for this question across all classes evaluated

Standard deviation of a student's answers: a narrow bar indicates that a student's answers to this question tend to cluster around the mean



 Standard deviation of a student's answers: a narrow bar indicates that a student's answers to this question tend to cluster around the mean, while a wider bar indicates more variability.

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**View By Question - Douglas McKee**

Spring 2011:

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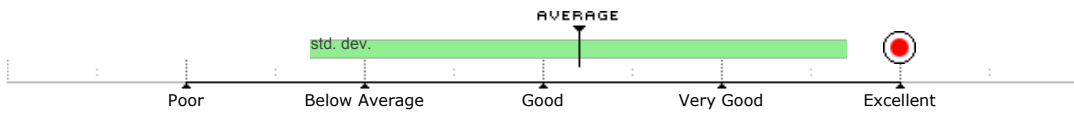
Number of responses displayed:

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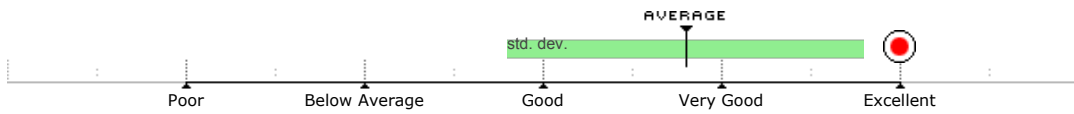
**Question 6**

What is your overall assessment of this course?

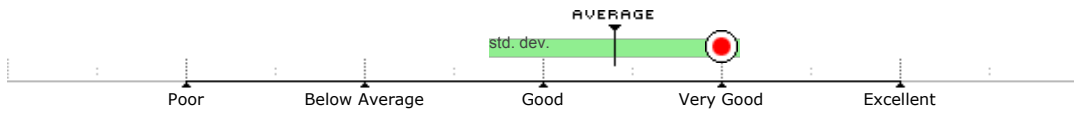
**Response 1**



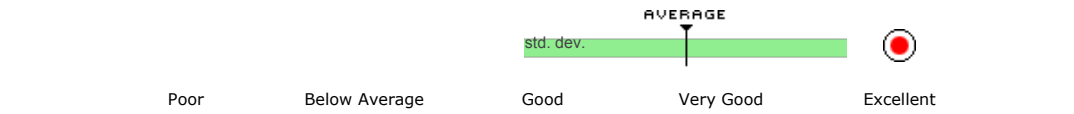
**Response 2**



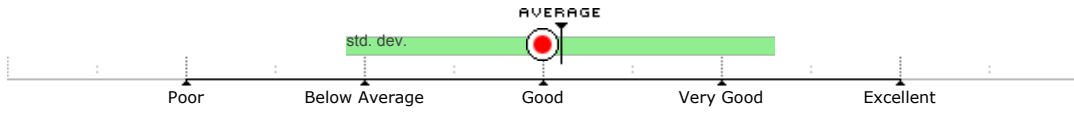
**Response 3**



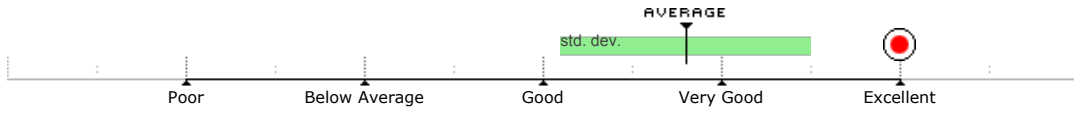
**Response 4**



**Response 5**



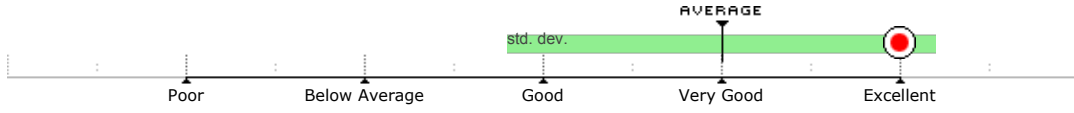
**Response 6**



**Response 7**



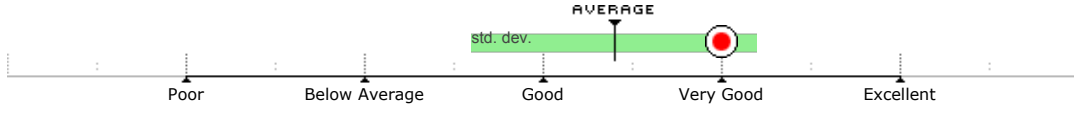
**Response 8**



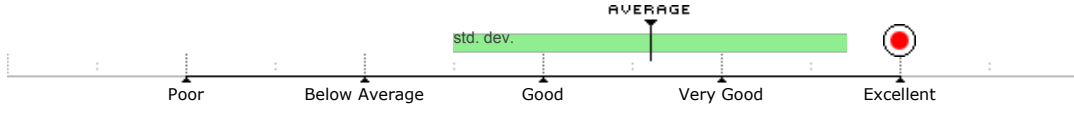
**Response 9**



**Response 10**



**Response 11**



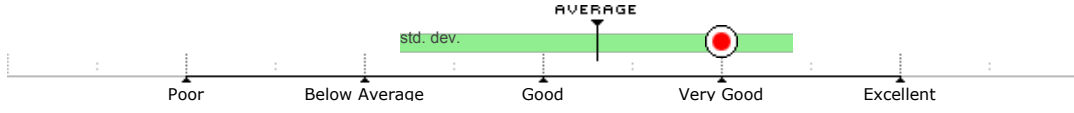
**Response 12**



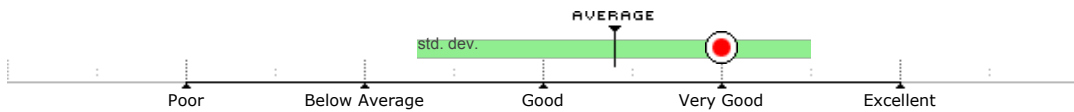
**Response 13**



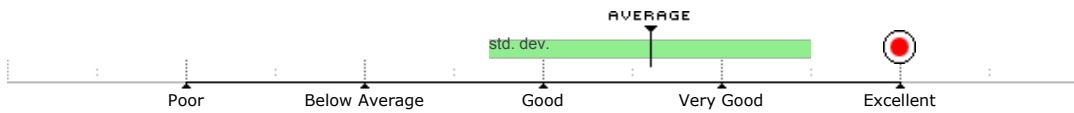
**Response 14**



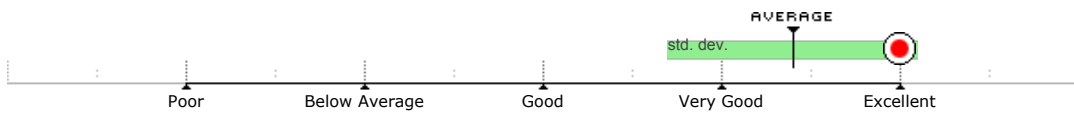
**Response 15**



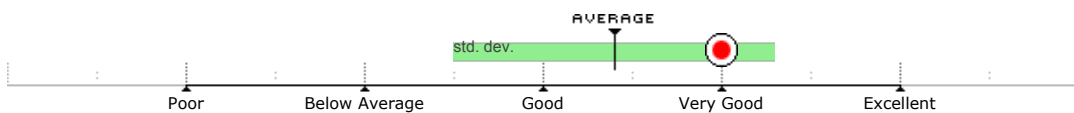
**Response 16**



**Response 17**



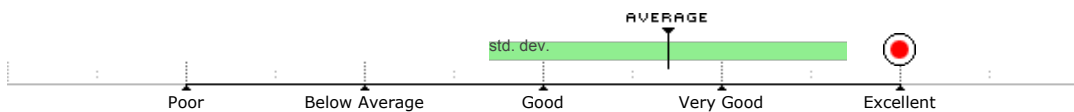
**Response 18**



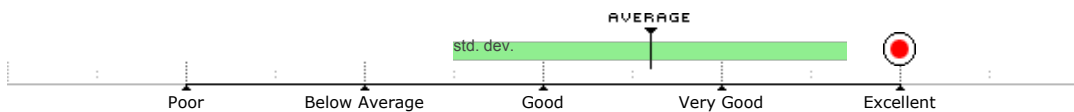
**Response 19**



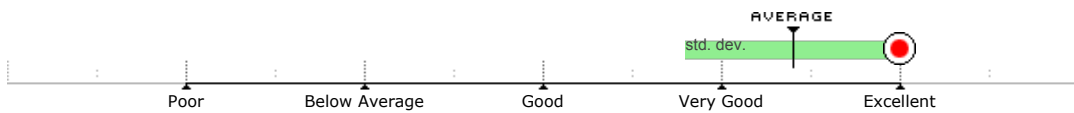
**Response 20**





**Response 21**





**Response 22**






 Answer selected by student

 Student's mean (average) answer for this question across all classes evaluated

 Standard deviation of a student's answers: a narrow bar indicates that a student's answers to this question tend to cluster around the mean

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EVAL ACCESS**View By Question - Douglas McKee**Spring 2011: [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](#) [12](#)

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**Question 9**

Of all the papers you read this semester, which did you find most and least valuable?

**Response 1**

Hmmm I don't remember, but I agree with some of the comments mentioned in class re: assigning some "softer" reading (like The New Yorker articles) that put the issue/intervention in a more human context.

**Response 2**

I found all of the papers pretty valuable. I just wish there had been more variety in the types of readings we were doing. Maybe having more readings like the New Yorker article would have been nice although I don't think there should be too many fewer economic papers. I recognize the field is somewhat limited in terms of variety of methods and issues to address, but there was a lot of difference-in-differences after a while.

**Response 3**

I really liked the paper I presented on, about the Social Investment Fund.

**Response 4**

I liked the Vaso De Leche program evaluation. It was clear and concise and neatly split into two parts (targeting and then effectiveness of the program). It had a model which was helpful when it came to the final assignment. I'm not sure which was the least valuable.

**Response 5**

Caveat: they were all so different and so varied (see comment in Question 1) that this is a pretty hard exercise. But what comes to mind: Most valuable: Maloney (2004) - just found this really surprising and really interesting. Also the migrant papers - really interesting. Least: nothing in particular coming to mind. Probably b/c I don't really remember the least valuable ones per se... sorry!

**Response 6**

Really liked: Gitter et al. World bank paper (overview) - but maybe earlier in the semester

**Response 7**

I really enjoyed the final class as a good reminder of some of our most basic vanilla difference-in-difference method, and esp since it was my own presentation. I think people will get most out of thei own paper, regardless of subject matter.

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**Response 8**

The paper by Ram Singh was least helpful and just confusing in general... All the other papers seemed good.

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**Response 9**

I think one of my favorites was Urquiola's "Apples and Oranges: Educational Enrollment and attainment across countries in Latin America and the Caribbean" the least valuable for me was probably "Measuring microenterprise profits: Must we ask how the sausage is made?"

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**Response 10**

I do not really remember any paperin specific (other than my own that I presented on). I think this was because I did not fully read the papers before class and because I did not get a lot of class presentations. ... Maybe, if there were class discussion and papers were connected by theme (and with history of Latin America), things would be more memorable.... In general though, I don't remember too many specific details after class, only general themes, concepts, and ways of thinking. This is what happened and why I took the class; I got a lot out of the class.

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**Response 11**

Most valuable--MaloneyLeast valuable--The long exposition on the Mexican health care system.

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**Response 12**

The one with the most errors.



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