ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION Yale University
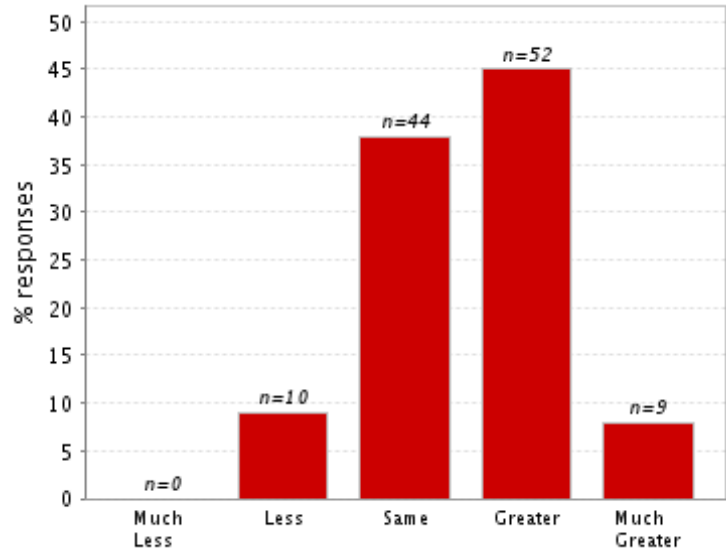
Online Course Evaluation Summary

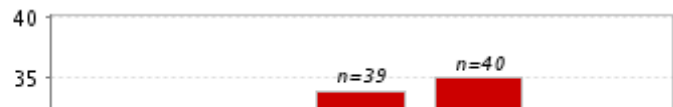| EVALUATION SUMMARY | VIEW BY RESPONDENT | VIEW BY QUESTION | INSTRUCTOR COMMENTS |

ECON 131 01
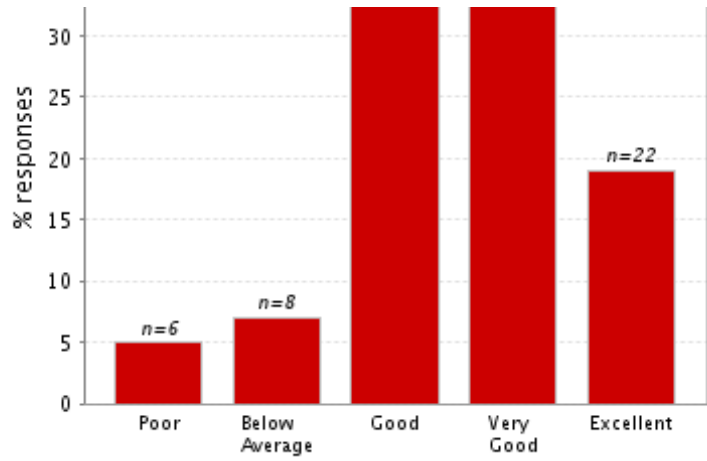
13054 ECON 131 01   Econometrics & Data Analysis I

Total number of students:	138	
Evaluations completed:	116	84%
Number of declines	4	3%
Number of non-respondents:	5	4%

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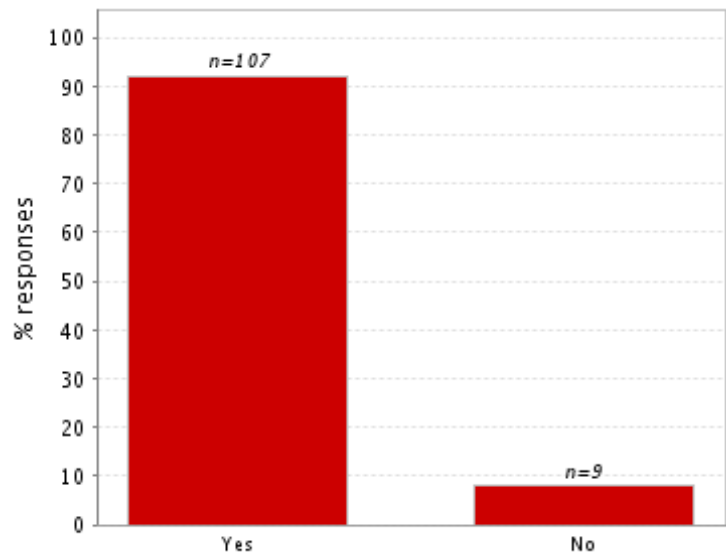

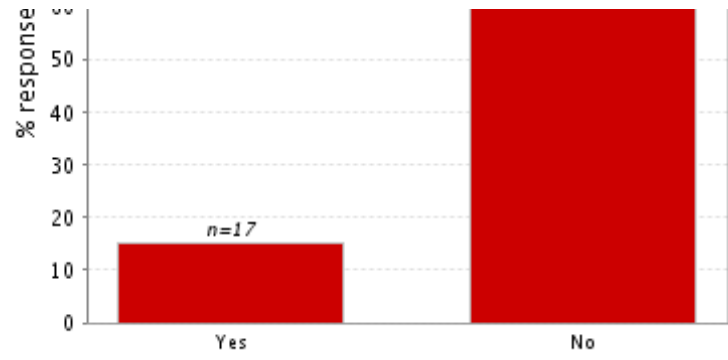
What is your overall assessment of this course?

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?

Yale Online Course Evaluation
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Fall 2014 Evaluations
ECON 131-01 Econometrics & Data Analysis I
Douglas McKee

Total number of students:	138	
Evaluations completed:	116	84%
Number of declines:	4	3%
Number of non-respondents:	5	4%

Looking back on **Economics 131-01** , what is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might it be improved?

Response 1

A little difficult to get through, and I'm someone who has an inherent grasp of math usually. Doug is just a little rambling and nervous and focuses too much on telling amusing anecdotes rather than on the math, so as a result, I picked up very little about the mechanisms on which we were being tested from him. Rather, I relied on my teaching fellow to actually teach anything useful.

Response 2

not fabulous, but had to take it for my major. McKee however is great.

Response 3

Although this class started as a review of AP Statistics for me, I found that, after the midterm, most of the information was incredibly interesting and presented in a great way. Admittedly, I had a love-hate relationship with this class (thinking: "Why do I have to be in this class when I already know AP Stats?") But I'm so glad I was proved wrong. Professor McKee is exceptionally fair in his grading, and he made every lecture incredibly fun and interesting. The book was pretty terrible, but the problem sets--albeit long--were great ways to keep up with the material.

Response 4

This course has a huge learning curve. There are people in the class who are physics majors, taking this class for fun because it is easy and there are students who have never had stats before. This course wasn't very straightforward and the psets were rather difficult because nothing seemed to blend together.

Response 5

I've mentioned more details in the survey you sent out, but really wonderful course and it was all because of your (and the TFs') hard work. You put a lot of time and thought into the class and it really showed/paid off. I love how the quizzes each week reinforce the key concepts, the psets give us practice, and all the tests--including the final--are so conceptual. I think I really have a good sense of how statistics and basic econometrics work. The recorded lectures were great too, especially since I could go back and re-watch any with key concepts I would otherwise have not understood. Overall, really thank you Doug for a wonderful class.

Response 6

Course material: it is what it is; not terribly boring, not terribly fascinating; Prof McKee makes it as appealing as anyone can, so that's good. Teaching: love Prof McKee! He's an absolute delight - passionate about the stuff, and involved in/concerned with his teaching. Conveys the much-needed intuition for things very well! I wish his lectures were more representative of the exams' (quantitative) difficulty - the midterm was a bit too tricky - haven't done the final yet. Workload: can't complain, could be worse. Fair grading, though exams should be less tricky! This puts those who haven't seen this stuff before (but have religiously attended class and paid attention) at an unfair disadvantage. Prof McKee has a delightful personality - pleasant, witty, approachable.

Response 7

Very interesting and useful class. It's at times confusing, but that's probably due to the higher level math behind the formulas.

Response 8

ECON 131 is a requirement for the Econ major, but if you take it with McKee you will get a lot out of it and enjoy it somewhat.

Response 9

I enjoyed this course, and found myself very interested in the material. I was not a huge fan of the integration of the program STATA into the course, nor of the labs we completed with it, but the lectures and psets were pretty cool.

Response 10

Have nothing but the highest praise for Prof McKee. He really makes this class. If it weren't for him, damn it would suck...

Response 11

Thorough in its coverage - appreciated the incorporation of practice problems into lecture

Response 12

One piece of advice is that I was a little confused as to the role of Piazza in the course, since sometimes, material would pop up there that we hadn't seen before or that Doug said he should have covered in lecture but didn't. Were we supposed to be responsible for this stuff? It was hard to know. I don't know how you'd address this in the future, though. Secondly, keep and expand upon the interaction. I loved the clickers. It was so much fun. Thirdly, I know much more Stata than my friends who've taken 131 with other profs (or even 131+132). Thanks so much, Doug. I hope we didn't cause you too much trouble.

Response 13

You will learn a lot in this class. (Surprising for the Econ dept.). You will learn a lot of new methods and get to play with some cool data sets and come out with some real skills! Even if you have no experience.

Response 14

great course. learned a lot. Great prof.

Response 15

This class was so wonderfully taught that it actually made me enjoy learning about stats. I also learned a lot in this class--I had never taken a stats class before and learned basic probability and statistics, regressions, how to analyze primary data/research, and how to program in Stata.

Response 16

Solid course, I felt like I learned a lot of useful and applicable information, especially analyzing data and using Stata. Thought most lectures could have used more instruction on the basics of the topic before jumping into applying the information to examples and data. In this sense, thought the individual lectures were a bit disorganized at times, but the general flow of the course was clear. Great online resources, like the slides, video lectures, and piazza. TAs very helpful with problem sets and questions, and I appreciated all the office hours available. Also appreciated the safety nets, like being allowed to drop lowest pset grade.

Response 17

This semester ECON 131 was a great course mainly because of the professor. Doug provided all the resources we needed (he even recorded lectures). The course material itself is quite dry, so I though Professor Mckee did a great job covering it. The course could have been strengthened if the lab exercises were better matched in length to the section allotted. The exercises

themselves were great and improved stata knowledge. I honestly don't know how this course could be improved. Perhaps extra practice problems/exams would be helpful.

Response 18

Take the class if you need it for the major or are interested in data analysis techniques.

Response 19

I felt like I went through most of the semester without knowing any of the course material. The practice final was ridiculous - the practice final posted online was super easy and short, and not at all indicative of the length or difficulty of the real final exam. The final exam was also long and a huge time crunch. The use of Piazza and other online resources was very helpful. The true/false questions on the midterm were weighted way too highly, as getting one or two wrong could destroy your grade.

Response 20

For a class with such a terrible reputation, I really enjoyed Econ 131. Learned a lot of stuff that seems like it will actually be useful in the real world. My one suggestion would be a better incorporation of lecture and section both were important and useful but I would have liked to see more Stata in lecture and more explanation of concepts in section. I also did not like the way problem sets were graded it was frustrating that only one question per problem set (which were long!)

Response 21

Actually an okay class. Just make sure you pay strict attention cause one day you're like "oh sweet AP Stats" and the next day it's like "holy moly what's happening?!?!?!"

Response 22

This is just an awful class that every Econ major has to take. McKee was great but in the end, even the most charismatic professors fall trap to the death sentence that is ECON 131.

Response 23

This is the first year that a new instructor has taught the course in many years (almost a decade?) The format of the class is truly a wonderful way to learn econometrics with real world applications. Beyond standard lecturing, Doug often does "problem breaks" in class so you can try out an example, while he walks around and discusses with students in small groups. We also used clickers in this class to anonymously answer the questions. The section is not your typical section; in this class, you also learn how to use Stata, a powerful data analysis software. GO TO SECTION and learn Stata. Otherwise, you will struggle on the big long-term Stata project. But if you go to section, learning Stata is easy!

Response 24

Good course. Teaches methods that are useful in a variety of disciplines

Response 25

The things you learn in this class are quite useful; however, I often myself struggling to keep up with the material.

Response 26

Very valuable information to be comfortable with, not particularly difficult, Doug's the man!!!

Response 27

Very good class. Professor McKee is a great professor who actively tries to make the class the best it can be. The discussion labs were fantastic -- I would walk out each week feeling great about learning a new tool in STATA. The recording of all his lecture was a great study tool and a helpful catch-up tool when you inevitably miss lecture. I wish there was some more math based topics covered in class. Because I felt the second half of class became a lot of interpretation that was not very math/econ based.

Response 28

This course covers pretty dry material, but is definitely interesting and useful at the same time.

Response 29

The use of piazza was a big help, and the fact that TAs were accessible any day of the week was also a huge help. It was a challenging class but I enjoyed going to lecture.

Response 30

Professor McKee seems to be a great person and to genuinely care about his students, but that does not make up for a really lackluster class. I think the main problem with the class is that it could not decide whether it wanted to be a class on Stata or on econometrics. While I certainly think Stata is a great tool, I did not learn enough about either. More math should be done in class to illuminate how some of the techniques work, more problem sets should be given, and grading should be more thorough - grading only one problem a week is ridiculous when you make me do the entire pset.

Response 31

Overall, a thorough and well-taught course. Professor McKee is a gifted and dedicated professor, and he works hard to make the material accessible to students. Further, every problem, concept, and formula is geared towards real world applications. I never sat in class and wonder how the material is relevant to real life (which made it easier to stay interested and motivated). Although I didnt do as well in the course as I would have hoped, I learned a huge amount over the course of the semester. The problems sets, labs, and lectures gave me a far more comprehensive understanding of econometrics that I thought possible after just one semester. Although the curve is fairly generous, students in this class typically have a background in statistics and calculus and are much more competitive about grades than the average Yalie (the class is a requirement for the economics major after all). However, no prerequisites are listed for the course. I did not have a rigorous statistics or math background, and I found it impossible to stay on the good side of the curve (I had to keep it Cr/D/Fail). Even my friends who have taken AQA/Stat 100 and are naturally gifted at econ and math found it difficult to beat the curve. At minimum, this course should be advertised as a follow-up to Statistics 100, Applied Quantitative Economics, and/or Math 115.

Response 32

Econ 131 is notorious for being a pretty dry course, so I didn't have very high expectations going into the class. One strength of the class were probably the collaborative, group environment. I learned a lot from talking with my peers during and outside of class. Another strength was the amount of time we spent on regression. After all of the lengthy problem sets we did analyzing regressions, I felt much more comfortable looking at a regression and interpreting the results. One main weakness of the course was the fact that our section and problem sets were so stata-centric, yet we were never tested on stata and we didn't have the proper resources for learning stata. If you weren't able to make section, it was very difficult understanding what stata code to use for the lab. Also, I thought it was a noble effort to teach us stata during section, but I still prefer the traditional classroom style of section where we could reinforce what we had heard during lecture. Also, I would consider making some sort of statistics a prerequisite for this class because there was great disparity on the midterm scores between students who had taken a statistics class and those who had not.

Response 33

I felt like I learned a lot from Econometrics, especially since I had never taken any statistics before the class. The lectures were great, as they provided you with the overall ideas you needed to start thinking about each topic, as well as the details that you could go over later using the online resources available. I wish the material wasn't so driven by exact definitions and nuances, but I guess that's how statistics always works. Finally, the use of Piazza was incredible for a class like this. Piazza was a central reason I fully understood the material before the final.

Response 34

Strength of the course: incorporates many real-life cases or examples to put the theory into practice Weakness of the course: I would want to the explanation of some core concepts to be clearer

Response 35

Econ 131 was truly very special. And thats all thanks to Doug McKee, one of the people at Yale most dedicated to their teaching, and it really shows in how much he cares about the well-being of his students. Professor McKee is the absolute man when it comes to welcoming student feedback. He is always seeking to find ways to better his class, and its so admirable. I really wish he would teach other core Econ classes because he knows whats best for the students. You go Doug!

Response 36

Well organized course. Wanted the course to have a larger focus on the details of the statistics we were learning.

Response 37

Good course with a very funny and passionate economics teacher. He talks too fast sometimes but you can always rewatch the lecturers.

Response 38

Econometrics I is a great class! It is by far the best Econ core class I have taken. I think I've learned very practical skills that will benefit me in the next few years at Yale and beyond my time here. I also enjoyed how the themes in the class build off of each other and there is a lot of continuity. The problem set and weekly quizzes are also pretty fair and informative. That said, I thought that the exams (Midterm and final) were extremely hard. I wish the exams reflected what we did in class and the problem sets more closely.

Response 39

I thought Econometrics was a great course. I entered the class hearing horror stories from students who have taken it, but ended up really liking all the material, and the way that Doug taught the class. The use of technology was EXCELLENT and I hope that every course at Yale eventually "modernizes" to use helpful tools like lab sections, Canvas, video lectures, web quizzes, data analysis of course implementations, etc. Doug was also an exceptional professor, taking everyone to lunch at their convenience. All of these things made the course more bearable and much more enjoyable.

Response 40

I took the course as a requirement, so I went through it knowing that it wouldn't be fun, but that I had to do it. I ended up being exactly right, although to the instructor's credit, he did add some interesting real world examples to improve an otherwise very dry class.

Response 41

I thought the class was a good mix of interesting and challenging, and while many disagree, its a required course for econ, and that's why most people are taking it.

Response 42

Fantastic course, extremely well taught. I was left inspired to learn more about this subject and even look into career options regarding similar topics. Professor McKee puts in a lot of effort and cares a lot about how he teaches the material and it shows. Thank you for a great semester!

Response 43

Great professor and content. Very useful. This course taught me a lot.

Response 44

Great course and you learn a lot about how to read papers and interpret how valid their data really is.

Response 45

People always dread 131, but Professor McKee really made the class as good as it could be. The online lectures were tremendous.

Response 46

Econometrics this year was a great course. The major strengths it had were the availability of material online to study and the teacher's passion for the material and for helping his students learn. The only major weakness of the course was that the material is somewhat boring: I think that Professor McKee did his best to make it interesting by including a lot of real life examples and a project that let us use and analyze real world data.

Response 47

I really liked the availability of video lectures. It made studying for the exam a lot easier. However, including lab work in the parts made things a lot more difficult; I often had trouble completing the lab work during lab, and it was much harder to complete the lab work without the help of a TA

Response 48

This was a job extremely well done teaching a difficult course to teach. Doug was helpful, engaging, and SO caring/compassionate towards the students. The material was good and problems were interesting. I leave the course feeling like I truly understand STATA. Thanks for making it a great semester!

Response 49

Accomplished its purpose very effectively, though it never evoked a real interest in the content (at least in me). Difficult to say what might have been done differently to keep the course more engaging.

Response 50

Overall alright course. Pretty difficult, but I did come away feeling like I learned a decent amount of econometrics. Lectures were always filled with new information that kept you focused the entire time.

Response 51

ECON 131 was an overloaded course in the Fall of 2014. Even though the material was interesting and useful for econ majors, the structure of the course was not conducive to learning. The course could be divided into too parts that were rather weakly joined: lecture with theoretical econometrics, which was tested on both midterm and the final, and the section, tested on some problem sets. Now, there was not enough time in lecture, or rather it tended to be pretty misallocated, to understand the complex mathematical concepts that were necessary to pass the exams. In section, the key was to be there and put down the commands that were the re-cycled in the psets. So in either situation difficult things most people saw for the first time were not given enough time or attention. There was too much time spend on "in-class discussion" (which tended to be extremely repetitive) while the exams contained questions that I could not even start on despite being familiar with all the problem sets in lectures. For a person without a strong math and computer science background, this class was a torture. Math formulas flashed in my face on a power point were equivalent to being thrown into a cauldron with black tar.

Response 52

Great course, concepts explained well, good use of technology and online lectures were very helpful.

Response 53

I loved this course. The two lectures before Thanksgiving break might have gone a little fast in terms of pace.

Response 54

Good class, good instructor. McKee teaches clearly, is fair and accommodating, and most importantly, actually cares about teaching. Lectures are filmed and put online which is nice. Class, at least as its taught by McKee, is structured well.

Response 55

Tough class but I learned a lot. It was Prof. McKee's first time teaching econometrics during the semester (he usually teaches in the summer) and I felt that sometimes we went over topics too quickly. The second half of the class was regression and I felt like it put everyone on a more even playing field because most of the material was new to everyone.

Response 56

I took this class CR/D/Fail as I am not an Econ major, and I thought it was useful and interesting.

Response 57

Econ 131 is overall very good. Professor McGee is the most responsible lecturer I've ever had. He made every kind of resources available to us and is very responsive when it comes to addressing our concerns. Every lecture is both enlightening and interesting--I enjoyed every one of them.

Response 58

The first half of the course could have been taught better, in my opinion. The topics seemed a little dispersed and I wish the professor did more to connect them. Really like the fact that lectures were recorded but didn't like the weekly quizzes at all. Overall a really good course, especially the second half and I think McKee cares a lot about his students and did a great job.

Response 59

I thought ECON 131 was a great course. Metrics has changed the way I think about statistics quoted in magazines and newspapers. The course made me more aware of the ideas of data mining, correlation vs. causation and other important concepts that affect the validity of claims supported by statistics.

Response 60

The course is a great introduction to econometrics. A lot of the work in the class is done in stata, however, which is entirely absent from the midterm and final exam. Stata should somehow be incorporated in the overall class assessment.

Response 61

I really enjoyed this class. Doug McKee is an amazing professors and one of my favorites in the Econ department. He did an amazing job teaching the class and genuinely wanted people to learn and enjoy econometrics. He really tried to get to know the students and I believe the course was much more enjoyable than other semesters. The class itself is ok. But Doug McKee is great.

Response 62

Great teacher, video lectures are awesome.

Response 63

Overall Assessment: Pretty good Strength: Doug McKee Weakness: Econometrics Improvements: More emphasis on problem set learning in section

Response 64

I thought Doug did a great job with this course overall. He did his best to make lectures engaging and the material accessible. I liked the labs a lot too, as it was nice to get more hands-on experience with Stata. All of the TFs were great! This was certainly not an easy course, and I think it moved a bit fast at times, but I learned a lot. The one thing I might have appreciated was more discussion of the deeper underlying math behind some of the topics we discussed.

Response 65

Overall I appreciated the emphasis on the methods and concepts rather than the strict math. I was however taken aback when the final did not align to this emphasis and included many more calculations than I had expected.

Response 66

This was an excellent course, and Professor McKee was a wonderful teacher. I really appreciated having Piazza as a resources to answer the questions I or others had, and the weekly quizzes were a good instrument to help me make sure I was on track with the course material. It was also nice that the Big Project was not done in groups because this usually leads to one or two individuals bearing the brunt of the workload. All in all, I think the TFs (shoutout to Bonnie) and Professor McKee did a great job with the course.

Response 67

McKee is a good guy and a good professor, just maybe not the guy you want to teach you a statistics based class. I have no intuition about statistics at all having taken the class, which is the focus of the first half of the semester. That said, I did learn how to use Stata AND I got a great intuition for regression analysis (the second half of the course), which is a valuable skill going forward. Problem sets are long and labs are a commitment.

Response 68

131 was a decent introduction to statistics and regression. The recorded lectures were a god send because that allowed me to actually understand the course. If i just attended class McKee would go too fast and I would barely copy down what was on the slide and wouldn't really hear what McKee said. After the midterm I stopped going to class and jut watched the lectures which was better because I had time to pause and absorb what was being said. Overall its a lot of material but it was interesting to learn and I liked using stata.

Response 69

I enjoyed the class; it was interesting and very well taught. I presented the material with many practical applications and engaging examples.

Response 70

This course was not taught well in my opinion. Professor McKee could not figure out if he was teaching an econometrics course with real life application or teaching us how to use and read stata. I think that much of what I learned could be useful but the emphasis on stata erased most of that.

Please evaluate **each instructor** of **Economics 131-01** . What are the instructor's strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might his or her teaching be improved?

Response 1

Douglas McKee

Rambling and nervous in class. Unclear and rushed when teaching math. Very personable and able to communicate amusing anecdotes, but unable to actually teach the real subject material that he was assigned to teach. However, I heard this class was a nightmare before, so I'm guessing this must be an improvement because Doug does truly care about our feedback and making the course better, however unable to truly teach he was.

Response 2

Douglas McKee

Really fun professor! Clearly put a lot of effort into the course.

Response 3

Douglas McKee

After taking this class, it is clear why Professor McKee is heralded in the economics department. He is so passionate about econ and our class and life that his passion really rubbed off on me. So glad I was part of the select few to have a pleasant experience in ECON 131 at Yale!

Response 4

Douglas McKee

I thoroughly enjoyed Professor McKee, he was kind and energetic. He worked so hard to make sure everything was entertaining, interesting, and relatable. He also went out of his way to meet with people, hold lunches, and discuss current events. I don't think it is his fault that the class is dry material, but he did his best to make it as interesting as possible.

Response 5

Douglas McKee

By far the most dedicated and thoughtful professor I've had in all my econ classes here. Every assignment and test is well designed to reinforce certain key concepts, lectures are wonderfully clear and he's a master at breaking down concepts into understandable chunks.

Response 6

Douglas McKee

Prof McKee is awesome! He's an absolute delight - passionate about the stuff, and involved in/concerned with his teaching. Conveys the much-needed intuition for things very well! I do wish his lectures were more representative of the exams' (quantitative) difficulty - the midterm was a bit too tricky - haven't done the final yet. He has a delightful personality - pleasant, witty, approachable - enjoyed lunch with him, great to talk to!

Response 7

Douglas McKee

I can't say enough good things about Professor McKee. It's refreshing to see a professor who actually cares about teaching an intro level undergrad class. His lectures are interactive and engaging. He set up an online discussion forum for students and personally answered every question. He organized lunches to get to know his students. He recorded every lecture and posted them online for people to review. One time he brought 2 urns and some 600 tennis balls to the lecture hall in order to demonstrate the wisdom of crowds. In sum, he did everything big and small to maximize our learning experience.

Response 8

Douglas McKee

While his jokes were sometimes bad, I feel like I learned a lot from McKee. He REALLY tries to make sure you learn the material and is always willing to provide help. He is also very interested in teaching methods and refining his own style so that students learn as much as possible.

Response 9

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is very enthusiastic when he teaches and does a great job to keep the lectures lighthearted and engaging. He actively looks for feedback from the students, and is willing to change his course to make it work better for the class. He is also very knowledgeable about the material and STATA, and is very approachable.

Response 10

Douglas McKee

As I said above, 6/5 stars for the professor who genuinely cares about the students and does everything in his power to make the class as good as possible---

Response 11

Douglas McKee

I thought Professor McKee was a phenomenal professor. You really got the sense that he cared about the class, and was an incredibly engaging lecturer who made an otherwise dull topic pretty interesting. Very innovative in his teaching style and open to new ideas. Overall, a very enjoyable class experience.

Response 12

Douglas McKee

Very accessible, via Piazza and weekly lunches - clear lecturer. An innovative instructor, but tried to change too much too quickly - I wasn't a fan of the "lab" set-up--I think it was a waste of TFs' time--and didn't think it was a good idea to make TFs grade one problem of the pSets, since lots of mistakes might have gone uncaught.

Response 13

Douglas McKee

Doug is an awesome professor! He really cares about his students and makes lectures fun. One weakness may be that when revisiting his slides to study for the midterm and final, it is hard to piece together the main concepts we need to know. They are little scattered, but overall Doug did a great job!

Response 14

Douglas McKee

Doug is a phenomenal lecturer who is obviously obsessed with teaching well. I hope he stays at Yale for many more years. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU. My #1 suggestion for his lecturing in the future is to make it more interactive. He did this at the beginning of the semester, but it faltered off by the end. This was a serious detriment towards the last few weeks of the course, but I look forward to his next iteration of it.

Response 15

Douglas McKee

McKee is what makes this class work! Really, this material is so dry but he cares about it so much and he applies it to the most interesting data sets. Plus he's very congenial and always willing to listen. I'm not sure I would take this class with another professor though. When I decided to take it, I was prepared for misery, and I can see that I would have been miserable if the class had been taught differently.

Response 16

Douglas McKee

Amazing professor. Really cares about teaching; he invites students to lunch. Very engaging.

Response 17

Douglas McKee

Doug was an amazing instructor and the best professor I've ever had in the econ department (and I'm a junior). The time, energy, and care he dedicates to his teaching is admirable and highly appreciated. The fact that he created his own website, recorded his lectures, uploaded graded assignments in a timely fashion, and took the time to answer questions on a public forum multiple times a day shows how much he cares about his students.

Response 18

Douglas McKee

Overall a good instructor! Seemed like Professor McKee tried hard to improve his teaching throughout the semester, an effort which was greatly appreciated. Tried to make the content more interesting, was approachable, and friendly. Appeared somewhat scatter-brained at parts during lectures, which may have been due to the disorganization within certain individual lectures.

Response 19

Douglas McKee

Professor Mckee is a champion. He is a fantastic professor and helps his students all he can. He offers lunches with students, records class lectures, hosts a piazza page he maintains well, and actively adjusts class to feedback received from students. Did I mention he is also enthusiastic about the material? Easily one of the best professors I have had at Yale.

Response 20

Douglas McKee

Absolutely great! He's very fair, kind, and understanding.

Response 21

Douglas McKee

Chill lecturer, horrible test setter, entertaining, tries his best to make the class entertaining and tbh he did a great job in the second half od the course after midterm 1.

Response 22

Douglas McKee

He uses the online resources well, and spends a lot of time answering students' questions on Piazza. He definitely wants to provide the tools to see his students succeed. However, I think his exams were not good.

Response 23

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is definitely the best Econ lecturer I've had at Yale. He explains concepts really well, is funny and interesting, and definitely really wants to see his students learn. I especially appreciated how he brought current research/studies into the class, but in a way that we could understand with only a limited knowledge of statistics/economietrics.

Response 24

Douglas McKee

Doug's great. Meant well.

Response 25

Douglas McKee

McKee was funny and engaging.

Response 26

Douglas McKee

Amazing dude. Doug is so passionate about teaching--he has a teaching blog! He is so willing to stay after class and answer anyone's questions, and going to office hours is surprisingly effective. He writes fair exams, and the psets and labs are very reasonable. He really cares about his students.

Response 27

Douglas McKee

Great Prof. Provide loads of helpful resources

Response 28

Douglas McKee

I strongly admire Professor McKee's enthusiasm for teaching. Although it was sometimes hard to keep up with him during lecture, it was obvious that Professor McKee really cared about the subject and wanted to teach it well.

Response 29

Douglas McKee

THE GREATEST, really cares about teaching undergrads, very chill, tried hard to make Econometrics the best class he could

Response 30

Douglas McKee

Doug, you are the man! I love reading your blog and it's clear that you care about teaching. Keep up the good work!

Response 31

Douglas McKee

Always tried really hard to make the material as interesting and relevant as possible. Really grateful for that.

Response 32

Douglas McKee

Doug is a great professor, and he really puts the time and effort in to care about the quality of the course. I highly recommend his classes (I mean, I'll be doing my best to get into his seminar next semester, so that should say it all).

Response 33

Douglas McKee

Prof McKee preferred not to use math to teach us the concepts - he much preferred to describe them to us conceptually. I don't know if this is a good or bad thing but I'm assuming that students who are looking to do grad study in econ or even write a senior paper may have wanted to get a little more out of the lectures. His exams tended to be a bit of a surprise - more difficult than we had anticipated, given the practice material and the problem set questions.

Response 34

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee's strength is certainly that he is an amiable and generally nice guy. He's certainly approachable and was open to suggestions, but he needs to rely less on Stata in a class where we should be learning the mechanics of how these techniques work. He also needs to make better textbook selection.

Response 35

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is a fantastic professor; easily one of the most dedicated, genuine, invested educators Ive ever had. He puts tremendous effort into making the material accessible to students, and he is always warm and approachable. Although the material in this class is difficult and McKee had to move quickly to fit everything into the semester, I learned a huge amount from him. It is clear that he loves teaching and working with students.

Response 36

Douglas McKee

Awesome professor.

Response 37

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was extremely approachable, flexible, receptive to student feedback, and fun to talk to. He lengthened the time we had to do problem sets and also dropped the lowest problem set, based on student feedback. He also recorded every single lecture, which made it easy for you to catch up if you missed any lectures. Overall, he took many steps to improve Econ 131. One main weakness was the lack of time we spent practicing the math behind the statistics or really going in depth to understand what we were doing. I would have appreciated reinforcement of the topics we learned in the first half of the semester in section by doing more of the math problems.

Response 38

Douglas McKee

It quickly became clear that teaching is a passion of Doug's after just the first couple lectures, and also reading his blog. That passion was the main reason I thought this class was so successful. He clearly structured his lectures in a way that facilitated learning, and the way he communicated with the class in both lecture and Piazza was incredible. Doug treats himself essentially as both an economist and a student of the field of teaching, and I wish more professors could be this way.

Response 39

Douglas McKee

Doug is a very responsible lecturer. He is willing to experiment with new methods of teaching, such as opening a unique online course platform. He also uses many examples in his class. However, I feel it would be better if he had spend more time elaborating on the basic concepts. The structure of the course could also be improved a bit.

Response 40

Douglas McKee

Econ 131 was truly very special. And thats all thanks to Doug McKee, one of the people at Yale most dedicated to their teaching, and it really shows in how much he cares about the well-being of his students. Professor McKee is the absolute man when it comes to welcoming student feedback. He is always seeking to find ways to better his class, and its so admirable. I really wish he would teach other core Econ classes because he knows whats best for the students. You go Doug!

Response 41

Douglas McKee

He does a good job of keeping students engaged and providing students with many resources for learning. Piazza was a huge help. I'm also glad we did problems in class since it helped solidify things we were learning. I also liked the way problem sets were designed (the kinda of questions he asked).

Response 42

Douglas McKee

You can tell he's very passionate about stats and tries to improve the class. He can be more explanatory on subjects but when he thinks something should be better, he fixes it.

Response 43

Douglas McKee

Prof Dough is wonderful!!! He is very invested in his students. Throughout the course he made sure to ask students their thoughts and opinions on how he can improve the course and implemented changes that would benefit us along the way. He is very receptive and approachable. Sometimes, I felt like he went really fast in the lectures--especially during the second half of the course where we focused on Regression. Even if we had the lecture videos to look back on and rewatch, I found it difficult to initially grasp some concepts when he quickly went through them.

Response 44

Douglas McKee

I really really liked Professor McKee. While a little slow in lecture, being able to speed up the videos was really really effective and efficient. What an excellent lecturer, being so prepared for every slide and so on top of the material and how the content needed to be learned and assessed. He was great on the Piazza forums, I truly enjoyed getting emails from him, and I felt like he was truly concerned for everyone's well-being. Also loved how Doug offered to take everyone to lunch every week - that was a great touch in the class.

Response 45

Douglas McKee

He is great because he provides a lot of sources for help. You pretty much cannot have a problem that you can't get help on one way or another. However, he isn't the greatest lecturer, and I found that reading the book was very necessary to fully grasp the material.

Response 46

Douglas McKee

While he can sometime gloss over basics because he's more used to teaching advanced material, it is far outweighed by the amount of resources he gives students to succeed in his class. Video lectures, piazza questions 24/7, a course website.. He really cares about his work and it shows.

Response 47

Douglas McKee

One of the best and most hardworking professors in the Econ department. Goes out of his way to make sure we like the class material - not just understand it. Great person, fantastic lecturer.

Response 48

Douglas McKee

Fantastic. The most committed and innovative instructor I've ever seen.

Response 49

Douglas McKee

He really cares a lot about teaching but still needs to find a more effective way of doing it.

Response 50

Douglas McKee

Fantastic. Made a huge effort to improve the class, and it worked.

Response 51

Douglas McKee

Great professor. The way he listened and reacted to the class was unique and made it much more engaging and useful.

Response 52

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is hands down the best professor I've had yet at Yale. He clearly cares about his students and is passionate about his subject of Econometrics, though sometimes the subject material can be boring. He does his utmost to make himself available to students for help on any and all problem sets and exam preparation, and does his best to innovate and create new teaching material for students to use.

Response 53

Douglas McKee

Really good lecturer - very engaging and explained things very clearly. Also, very helpful on Piazza

Response 54

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee did a great job with the class. He was an interesting lecturer, very receptive to student ideas, and very accessible through tools like the Piazza forum that he used to answer questions. Posting the lecture videos online also made it much easier to study for exams. Overall the class was very fairly done and graded, and I think Professor McKee is one of the better Econ lecturers I've had so far for these reasons.

Response 55

Douglas McKee

Extremely caring teacher. Thinks a ton about his teaching and it comes through. I feel very valued by Prof. McKee. Sometimes incorrectly assumes that all students care about is exams/ grades, so I'd urge him not to make this assumption! With a teacher as strong as you, Prof. McKee, it's easy just to care about the material. Thank you for putting all of the lecture videos online, reinforcing the notion that this stuff is here for us to LEARN, not just to curmudgeonly test us on attendance /etc. -- I watched many of the lectures online instead of in person, and feel I know the material quite well as a result of Prof. McKee's willingness to make this an option. In person, you were dynamic. Thanks for a great semester.

Response 56

Douglas McKee

Clear, enthusiastic instruction, and very helpful responses through Piazza. No real room for improvement.

Response 57

Douglas McKee

Wasn't always clear in his explanations and sometimes assumed we knew more statistics than we had learned. Didn't like the lecture format of working through an example using the techniques before we had actually learned what they were because then they became harder to generalize to other problems. Overall good teacher though and you can tell he cares about his students. Really liked how all his lectures were recorded and could be watched later. Really helped with review.

Response 58

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee likes to think he is a conscious, self-aware teacher. And he's a really nice guy, smiles, and talks at a very slow pace. Yet for some reason, he is not great at explaining difficult concepts he expects students to solve in exams - he rushes through the explanations. I asked for problem solving sessions and more practice exams after the midterm, to which after the answer "yes, I'll think about it" - there was no resolve. I believe he wants to be a great teacher and always asks for more feedback, but sometimes he could really get a reality check and see that "discussing things in groups" makes the class more chill but doesn't help anyone understand concepts above the most basic ones in class. Big lectures are a challenge to teach effectively, and I believe that of all people professor McKee can learn to do it well, but still has a long way to go.

Response 59

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is very dedicated to his students and does his best to make lecture interactive. However, I felt that he focused too much on examples in class and not enough time on the concepts. It was great that he put lectures online though so I could pause and replay parts I didn't understand in lecture.

Response 60

Douglas McKee

Professor Mckee is one of the most dedicated and charismatic teachers I know.

Response 61

Douglas McKee

Good. McKee teaches clearly, is fair and accommodating, and cares about teaching.

Response 62

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is the most involved teacher I've ever had. He is open to the opinions and concerns of the students, and he is always searching for the most effective teaching methods. Doug McKee is the ideal for what a professor should strive to be.

Response 63

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was an outstanding teacher, incredibly reasonable, and just did a great job

Response 64

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee cares a lot about his students and it showed when he taught the class. He's a great professor and took the time out to meet students for lunch despite the course being a large lecture. I think he structured the course well, and the second half was especially good. Glad we had the labs to practice Stata -- I think we learnt a valuable skill.

Response 65

Douglas McKee

Doug was great! He clearly cares a lot about teaching and his students and this comes across in everything he does in the course. From writing the labs to constructing great PowerPoints, everything he does is well thought through. Doug, you're the man--thanks for a great semester!

Response 66

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was a great teacher, and was excited about what he was teaching. During lectures he tends to work out examples in class, but the examples are sometimes a bit rushed and not very thoroughly explained.

Response 67

Douglas McKee

One of the best Econ professors I've had at Yale. I was dreading econometrics and he made it into a great course.

Response 68

Douglas McKee

Super passionate and super cool

Response 69

Douglas McKee

Strength: Well-versed in econometrics, thoughtful, fun instructor Weakness: Sometimes gets off track Improvements: N/A

Response 70

Douglas McKee

DOUG IS AMAZING! It was amazing how approachable and accessible he made himself to all of his students. He was incredibly creative as well. Loved loved loved having him as a professor!

Response 71

Douglas McKee

Wonderful professor who makes lecture interesting

Response 72

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is a great lecturer and structured the course so that students had multiple resources they could learn from. He was also very responsive to feedback, and for example, shortened all the labs, which made going to section much more engaging and less discouraging.

Response 73

Douglas McKee

There needs to be more proof/mathematical intuition gained from the first half of the course, otherwise the tests we use are just a monkey/plug-and-chug exercise. Nice guy, great for regression, not for statistics in general.

Response 74

Douglas McKee

McKee is a good instructor in that he really cares about the students and wants them to learn. In-class he goes too fast and its hard to keep track of everything that is going on. On the videos when you can pause though he does a good job of explaining the concepts and imparting knowledge.

Response 75

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was very engaging, always available to students and overall the best professor I could have asked for such a class, which I had been told could have been dry and boring.

How would you summarize **Economics 131-01** for a fellow student? Would you recommend **Economics 131-01** to another student? Why or why not?

Response 1

A little difficult to get through, and I'm someone who has an inherent grasp of math usually. Doug is just a little rambling and nervous and focuses too much on telling amusing anecdotes rather than on the math, so as a result, I picked up very little about the mechanisms on which we were being tested from him. Rather, I relied on my teaching fellow to actually teach anything useful. However, he cares a lot about our feedback, so I'm sure he'll be constantly improving. I'm assuming if you're taking this class you're probably required to for the econ major, so just grit your teeth and get through it. I hear it's very much like stats, so if you have that background, it's probably a lot easier.

Response 2

Only take if you have to.

Response 3

Although this class started as a review of AP Statistics for me, I found that, after the midterm, most of the information was incredibly interesting and presented in a great way. Admittedly, I had a love-hate relationship with this class (thinking: "Why do I have to be in this class when I already know AP Stats?"). But I'm so glad I was proved wrong. Professor McKee is exceptionally fair in his grading, and he made every lecture incredibly fun and interesting. Absolutely take this class, if you want to know the basics of data analysis and look into pretty cool stuff in econometrics. You'll get lots of exposure to Stata, which I hated initially but have grown to love, which looks great on a resume.

Response 4

The class is pretty standard, nothing I can add. If Doug is teaching it, definitely take it with him--he's a very thoughtful and dedicated teacher who will actually teach you the concepts.

Response 5

You know you have to take it -- but it's really not that bad! Course material: it is what it is; not terribly boring, not terribly fascinating; Prof McKee makes it as appealing as anyone can, so that's good. Teaching: love Prof McKee! He's an absolute delight - passionate about the stuff, and involved in/concerned with his teaching. Conveys the much-needed intuition for things very well! I wish his lectures were more representative of the exams' (quantitative) difficulty - the midterm was a bit too tricky - haven't done the final yet. Workload: can't complain, could be worse - 6 Psets, midterm, final, weekly online quizzes, and empirical project (in 2 installments). Fair grading, though exams should be less tricky! Section was essentially a lab for stata. There was an anonymous online forum for questions and discussion - which was super helpful! Prof McKee regularly answered tons of questions. He has a delightful personality - pleasant, witty, approachable.

Response 6

Surprise, an economics class where you actually learn something. I can't say enough good things about Professor McKee. It's refreshing to see a professor who actually cares about teaching an intro level undergrad class. His lectures are interactive and engaging. He set up an online discussion forum for students and personally answered every question. He organized lunches to get to know his students. He recorded every lecture and posted them online for people to review. One time he brought 2 urns and some 600 tennis balls to the lecture hall in order to demonstrate the wisdom of crowds. In sum, he did everything big and small to maximize our learning experience.

Response 7

It's required for the econ major so if you want to do econ you have to take it. However, many of the statistical methods we learned were very cool and have real-world significance, so I would recommend it to people who are interested in probability/statistics.

Response 8

The class has the usual weekly pset, but with recorded lectures and useful weekly quizzes. The information is interesting, but the labs can become somewhat tedious. I would, however, recommend the course to a friend.

Response 9

It was OK

Response 10

Recommended for people interested in finance/econ ... If not, just take Stat 100-106

Response 11

A requirement for Economics, so you have to take it. I would strongly recommend taking with Professor McKee. Econometrics as a whole is a little dull and time consuming, but Professor McKee made it enjoyable. He was innovative and engaging and I would take other classes that he teaches. Worth waiting a semester to see if you can take it with McKee.

Response 12

An introduction to the basic methods of statistical analysis in economics - not math-heavy or rigorous, look to 135/136 for that. Very different from micro / macro in that you need to start thinking about how to build models yourself, and how to evaluate those models - be prepared to put in some time / thought into this course, even if you've taken stats before.

Response 13

You can't get a more painless introduction to statistics than 131 with Doug. As a non-Econ major, I was very happy with this alternative to the Stat 10x sequence -- I definitely learned A LOT more than my peers in Stat 10x and can program in Stata. The stuff at the end of the semester was also very cool. Doug is a solid lecturer and cares so much about teaching.

Response 14

Stats and stata. not much else. not much econ either. good course if Doug McKee is teaching. Otherwise, I've heard its horrible.

Response 15

Even though this is a required course in the econ major, I think Professor McKee made this Econ 131 so enjoyable and informative that I'd highly recommend it to anyone in the social sciences.

Response 16

A good class for those interested in learning basic statistics with an economic application, but other stats course may be better for just learning statistics. Psets and tests were manageable. Professor McKee looks for feedback throughout the semester and takes students opinions into account. He really tries to make some of the drier statistics more interesting with examples and real data.

Response 17

ECON 131 this semester was a great course. The material is not tremendously difficult, the grading is fair, the structure is logical, and the professor is fantastic. This is required for econ majors, but this is a great class that should not be viewed as a dull requirement. I would certainly recommend this to another student.

Response 18

Amazing course! Prof. McKee puts lectures online which is a GREAT resource. I feel like the nature of econometrics makes it a course that you can easily fall asleep to, but McKee makes it as enjoyable as it gets. Stata is kinda' annoying. The labs are as well, but it's overall a great course.

Response 19

131 is a fine course, take it if you need it for the major or are interested in learning about data analysis. That being said, I had NO background in Statistics coming into the course and basically suffered all throughout. I learnt a lot but now my grade is solely dependent on how many screwed up the insanely hard final more than I did.

Response 20

Definitely depends on the professor, since this class has a reputation for being awful, but if Professor McKee is teaching it then go for it! Pretty much average in terms of workload (biweekly psets, midterm, final), and material is tough but totally manageable. If this class is a requirement, then you just gotta take it. But as a non-Econ major, I'm still really happy I took it. Statistical literacy is super important, and this class gives you enough of a background to be able to tell good data analysis from bad data analysis (of which there is a lot!!) when you see it. Also probably makes you vaguely more employable, or something.

Response 21

Ugh take only if you absolutely have to.

Response 22

Pretty atrocious class. Take it if you must.

Response 23

ECON 131 is a required class for the Econ major. However, it is incredibly useful from any serious research standpoint, and anyone considering writing a thesis in economic or policy implementation would be well-advised to gain some of these statistical tools. The class consists of: weekly quizzes (you get 100% percent because you can attempt as many times as you like), problem sets, a midterm, a Big Empirical Project (Stata), and a final. Doug records each lecture so you can rewatch it online, but I would strongly advise against skipping lecture and only watching them online. I rewatched lectures for both ones I'd been to, and ones I skipped, and watching them online was far more effective if I went to class in the first place. That being said, they are a great tool and allow you to miss class without serious repercussions if you need to.

Response 24

Come ready to work. McKee is great though

Response 25

Useful class. Sort of difficult.

Response 26

McKee's the man to take it with, you'll learn the basics of Stata and statistics, good primer

Response 27

TAKE IT WITH MCKEE! He's the man. He spends so much time on this class and it shows. He's technology from recording the lectures, to Piazza, to discussion labs make ECON 131 a great course to take. I came out of this class knowing how to use STATA and felt like I actually learned a marketable tool.

Response 28

Take this class if you have to for your major or if you want to be able to work with economists and social scientists.

Response 29

Required for Econ majors, so you don't really have a choice. That said, personally I would advise trying to take the class with Doug. I don't know much about who will be teaching it in the spring semester, but I doubt they'll be able to do a better job with the material.

Response 30

It's required for the major, and it teaches important concepts. The first half is much like AP Stats, so for those with advanced prep they may want to take a higher level course. Overall the class was enjoyable - Prof McKee was always very eager to help answer questions, as were the TAs.

Response 31

131 is rough. It's not well taught and the material is not well explained. Don't expect the textbook to be helpful either - its pretty useless. If you take it though, get Yu as your TA as he is the best. Also, don't count on the practice midterms or exams as being indicative of the midterm or final. Especially the final.

Response 32

A thorough and very well-taught course. Professor McKee is a gifted and dedicated professor, and he works hard to make the material accessible to students. Every problem, concept, and formula is geared towards real world applications. You will never sit in class and wonder how the material is relevant to real life (which makes it easier to stay interested and motivated). Although I didnt do as well in the course as I would have hoped, I learned a huge amount over the course of the semester. I gained a far more comprehensive understanding of econometrics than I thought possible after just one semester. THAT BEING SAID, students in this class typically come in with a background in stat and calc, and they are much more competitive than the average Yalie (the class is a requirement for the economics major after all). Take Stat 100 or Applied Quantitative Analysis prior to this course unless you are naturally gifted at econ and math.

Response 33

Required class for the Econ major, take it with McKee if you have some background stats and want to hear about some interesting research projects that he and his colleagues have done. If you have zero stats background (like me) I would advise either first taking stats 100 or taking 131 with a professor who will spend more time on the statistics part of the class. McKee was really engaging throughout the semester, but I felt that he rushed through the statistics and probability because he was so excited for the regressions.

Response 34

Certainly an enjoyable class with Professor McKee. If you've taken statistics before, this class will probably be easy for you if you put the work in. If you haven't, Doug's research during our class showed that you won't necessarily be at a disadvantage, since a lot of the kids with experience treat the class as a joke and don't end up doing that well. The first half of the semester is essentially AP Stats (I've heard), and then the second half is a pretty big overview of regression analysis. The PSets are only biweekly and took me between 4 and 8 hours each, I'd say. And you get all sorts of online resources like Piazza, recorded lectures and online slides. Just make sure not to fall behind, because statistics is more about intuition than specifics, and it's hard to cram.

Response 35

Overall, this is a course for Economic majors who do not want to see too much mathematics.

Response 36

If youre an Econ major, you must absolutely take it with Doug. Do not consider any other options. He values student feedback above all else and at times is even too considerate, if thats possible. Hes also very clear in his lectures, and if there are things you still dont understand, he provides you with all of the resources youll ever need. You will come out of this class with many useful skills to apply to the real world, and develop technical knowledge of Stata, which is also extremely useful. Overall Dougs a great guy (who even tries to get lunch with all of his students in a class of 150+) and I highly recommend this class, even if youre not an Econ major.

Response 37

It is a good course. I wouldn't take it unless it was a requirement since much of it overlapped with my high school stats course. The material was not very interesting, but it was well taught.

Response 38

Yes I would recommend ECON 131. Nothing was terrible until the end where I was a bit overwhelmed with end of the semester projects and studying for the final. Very doable, pertinent, and fun. The final was a bit hard though.

Response 39

I thought Econometrics was a great course. I entered the class hearing horror stories from students who have taken it, but ended up really liking all the material, and the way that Doug taught the class. The use of technology was EXCELLENT and I hope that every course at Yale eventually "modernizes" to use helpful tools like lab sections, Canvas, video lectures, web quizzes, data analysis of course implementations, etc. Doug was also an exceptional professor, taking everyone to lunch at their convenience. All of these things made the course more bearable and much more enjoyable.

Response 40

An econ requirement that I'm glad is now out of the way.

Response 41

DEFINITELY. Take it, Professor McKee is a great guy and you will like the material if you pay attention in lecture. He makes a lot of effort to simplify the concepts and give us the skills that are required to excel in Econ in the long run. The class is really well structured. I would do it again if I could!

Response 42

Yes, absolutely. Useful knowledge and take it for Doug.

Response 43

Yes, plus you probably need to take it anyway.

Response 44

I would recommend econometrics (taught by McKee) to anyone interested in the social sciences. It's practical and relatively painless, and even fun at times.

Response 45

I would absolutely recommend ECON 131, with one caveat: TAKE IT WITH McKee!!! He is an incredible instructor and does his absolute best to provide as much possible material and help to students when they are struggling with coursework. He also does weekly lunches where he sits down with students and talks to them, attempting to make a large lecture course feel like a seminar. That said, the material isn't easy if you haven't had statistics before, so be prepared to work hard for a good grade. Also make sure to take full advantage of the notes he allows you to bring to the test. Overall, highly recommend and take it with McKee.

Response 46

A very good introduction to statistics and basic data analysis. The lectures are really interesting and you get to learn a very useful data analysis software

Response 47

I would definitely recommend ECON 131 when taught by Doug. He's a good teacher who puts a lot of thought and time into teaching. He posts videos of all lectures online so that you can watch, rewatch, and LEARN the material at your own schedule. The material itself is interesting and absolutely vital for quantitative research in any social science. This isn't so much an economics course as a basic data analysis course: you'll learn probability, concepts from statistics (e.g. hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, p-values, etc.), and then of course many methods of linear regression analysis, both single and multiple regression. Very useful stuff, and taught well here by a caring professor!

Response 48

Imparts a basic understanding of econometrics along with the tools for elementary data analysis--in other words, precisely what it is intended to do. While not particularly exciting/engaging, the course is certainly well taught. Take it if you need to or if you find the subject intrinsically interesting.

Response 49

Challenging statistics and econometrics course that does teach you a lot of methods for analyzing data by hand and using stata.

Response 50

You have to take it so you will. But beware - an overload of material, extremely easy to fall behind, and a purgatory for econ majors.

Response 51

Basically a statistics course, good foundation, recommend really only for econ majors

Response 52

I would recommend ECON 131 to another student if you have a good professor and TA. The first course of the class is basically intro to statistics and the second part of the class may get a little messy conceptually. You learn how to use STATA and the different types of data analysis methods, which are very useful.

Response 53

Good class, good instructor. McKee teaches clearly, is fair and accommodating, and most importantly, actually cares about teaching. Lectures are filmed and put online which is nice. Class, at least as its taught by McKee, is structured well.

Response 54

It is a tough class, I wouldn't really recommend it unless you need it for your major or are super interested in regression analysis. You learn a lot of stats also but there are probably better classes where you can also learn stats.

Response 55

It's an interesting course that is not terribly difficult as long as you are diligent about putting in the extra hours every week.

Response 56

Yes I would recommend this course if taught by Professor McKee. I've heard bad things about it in the past, but he was pretty awesome

Response 57

Take 131 with McKee if you can, he's a great professor. It's a good course with a decent workload, and you learn to use stata and interpret regressions which is a valuable skill to have. The class is especially good after the midterm, and the labs were a cool way to apply concepts learnt in class to real life.

Response 58

I'm not an econ major. That said, I thought ECON 131 was a great course. Metrics has changed the way I think about statistics quoted in magazines and newspapers. The course made me more aware of the ideas of data mining, correlation vs. causation and other important concepts that affect the validity of claims supported by statistics.

Response 59

The first half of the class can be avoided with a basic background in statistics. Not a heavy math based course.

Response 60

If you can take it with Doug McKee. The class itself was ok but the professor was great.

Response 61

Worth taking even if you're not an Econ major

Response 62

Take it if you need it or want a good learning experience. If you're bad at calculus or programming - DO NOT TAKE.

Response 63

ECON 131 is a course that is filled with Econ majors, but is very relevant to anyone who is interested in statistics and quantitative analysis. Doug McKee is an AMAZING professor who nobody should pass up the chance to take a class with. He was very creative with the class and he was an engaging lecturer. This class is not easy though, but if you really apply yourself, you can learn a lot. And walk away with a real skill--using Stata!!

Response 64

Definitely take the class with McKee!

Response 65

Definitely worth taking if Professor McKee is teaching.

Response 66

As someone with no stats or probability experience, this class did a good job teaching me all of these things. Before the midterm it was difficult because I went to class and it was hard to learn everything. After the midterm I only watched the lecture videos and that was a lot better. Watch the lecture videos!! The class teaches a coherent system of math, that ends up making sense which is nice.

Response 67

I would definitely recommend this class, it is not too focused on economics and therefore accessible and interesting for people outside of the major. It is extremely useful and ultimately the best one of the 'intros to statistics'. The workload is non-negligable but managable, the psets are assigned every other week but take quite a few hours. The curve is nice enough.

Response 68

A required class for econ majors, not sure why anyone would take it otherwise. Doug McKee is clearly very passionate about teaching, and puts a lot of effort into using Piazza effectively, actually incorporating Stata, and helping students learn. That being said, having Doug teach econometrics is pretty much putting lipstick on a pig. There is no way this class would be fun or interesting no matter who taught it, and Doug's talents would be better served teaching an interesting seminar.

Response 69

If you're an econ major, you have to take. otherwise, probably just take a stats class if you're interested in this type of stuff. it's nice the lectures are online. professor was enthusiastic.