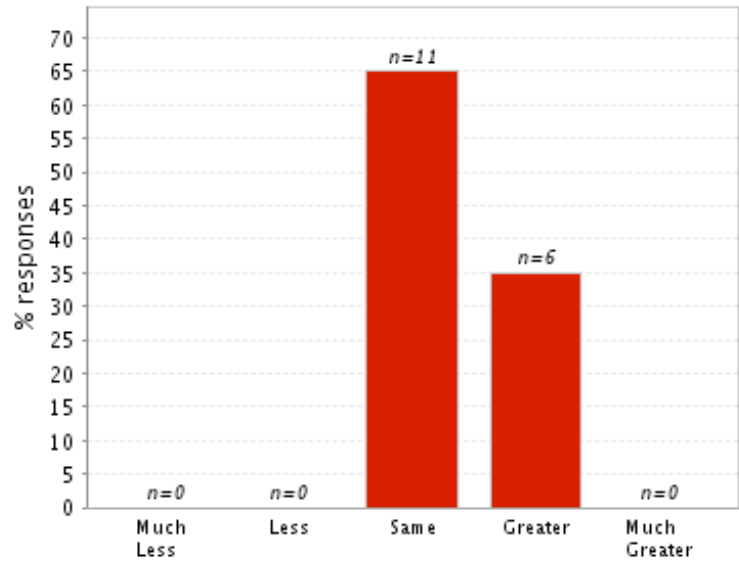


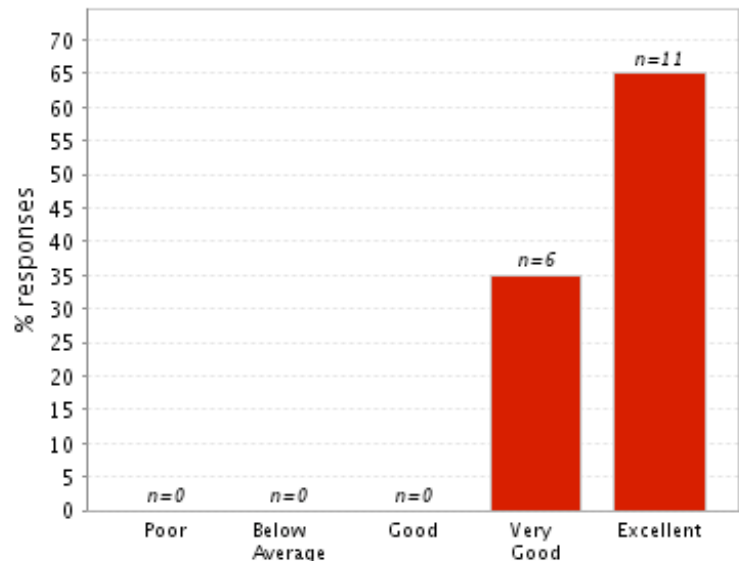
Spring 2010

26504 ECON 462 01 Econ of HumanCapital Latin Amr

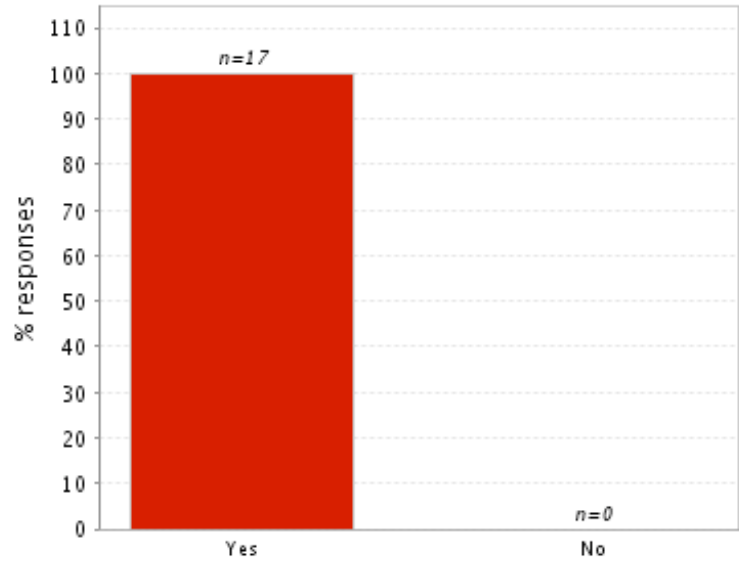
Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken?



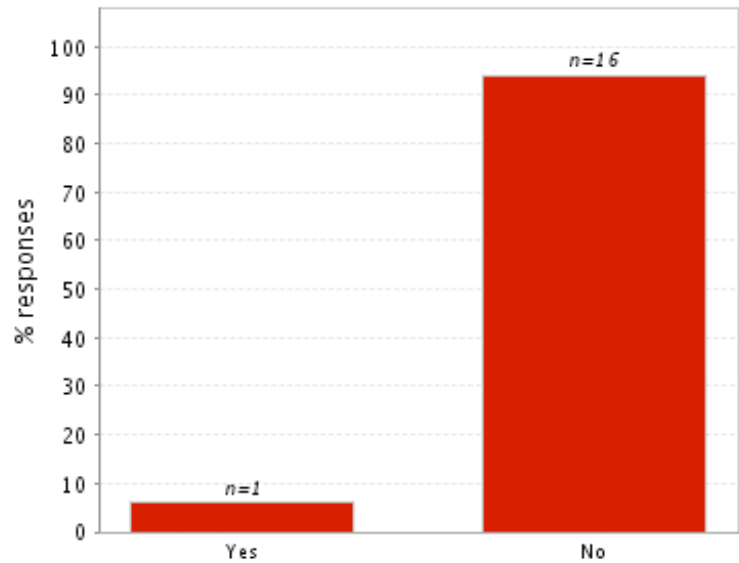
What is your overall assessment of this course?



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?



Question 1

Looking back on 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

Fantastic.

Response 2

Interesting readings, lively group discussions, and an incredibly dedicated professor.

Response 3

Great class in learning how to read economic papers and get thru econometric data.

Response 4

The course was a good study of the subject matter; however, I felt the readings were often times so advanced that the purpose was lost.

Response 5

The class is great. It is very econometrics heavy, and most of the reading comes from economics papers so you need to be prepared for that. Each student has to give a presentation on a paper which really helps you understand the method and McKee is very helpful with each assignment.

Response 6

This class was awesome. Since my parents are from Latin America I found the material very very interesting. The issues we looked at were ones that are of great importance to Latin America now. The final paper was very very helpful. If I had taken this course earlier I would have had the tools necessary for doing a senior essay. I believe it is an amazing class.

Response 7

I really enjoyed the class. The articles professor McKee assigns are generally very interesting. You learn how to write a good economics paper.

Response 8

This was a really interesting class. The economic methods and topics we studied in addition to the material were both fascinating. Professor McKee is hands down the best economics professor I've had in terms of ability to teach the material and you will learn far more from this seminar than any other core economics course you have to take. The information you will learn in this course will actually prove that being an economics major is really useful and interesting and will make you realize why you majored in it. Definitely take this class.

Response 9

Great course - gives you a very strong understanding of the econometrics methods used in economics papers today. Material is interesting as well, though I don't feel it was the highlight of the course. The course really serves to introduce different econometrics methods, show how they are implemented, and how their results are interpreted - I think this focus should be incorporated into the syllabus somehow, in addition to the current thematic approach. Professor McKee has already told of us his plans to do this, but I thought I'd mention: going over tricky and new econometrics techniques before they appear in the week's readings is helpful in making our weekly reading more meaningful when we complete it. The weekly worksheets are great checkpoints for me as I read the papers - keep them.

Response 10

Doug is the man!!!! helps out a lot and cares about his students

Response 11

This seminar, along with one other class, has validated my economics major. I have learned so much in this seminar both about development issues in Latin America and innovative approaches to these problems and also about econometric methods. I think the value of this course is that it focuses a lot on the econometrics and methods of studies. We applied stuff we learned in econometrics and used it to read the assigned papers. We learned how to interpret graphs, tables, etc. And we learned about all the different methods economists use in their research. It is finally a course in which you actually do apply what you learn in other courses.

Response 12

Wonderful! A strength is the professor--Prof McKee is great--as well as a majority of the articles we read and the discussion we had. The only weakness I can think of is that there were maybe 2 articles that were not as interesting as the rest, but perhaps they were necessary due to their technical focus.

Response 13

Excellent! It teaches you empirical approaches for econ research and is in my opinion a lot more helpful than econometric classes. I wish I had taken it junior year! The amount of reading might be a little bit above ave. but you definitely learn a lot. This is a real seminar too with a lot of student engagement!

Response 14

Good class, though a little too big. Limiting the course at 12 people would have been preferable, allowing for better discussion. However, breakdown into smaller groups helped a lot, especially when the student presenters knew their stuff.

Response 15

This was an enjoyable course that was kept interesting most of the time. Some sections didn't seem to be very interconnected, but that's hard to avoid.

Response 16

Good class! Ways it might be improved are to be really explicit about the answers to the worksheets, so we know exactly what to take away. The worksheets were great in focusing our reading, though knowing the "right" or at least "rightish" answers would be really satisfying after filling out the sheets.

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Question 2

Please evaluate each instructor of 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

Great teacher, gives all the help you could ever ask for.

Response 2

Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee has a great passion for teaching and a truly remarkable dedication to his students. Plus he is very approachable, knowledgeable, and simply a great teacher. He did an amazing job of teaching and explaining complex and cutting-edge empirical methods.

Response 3

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is awesome. He really cares about teaching and helping out students.

Response 4

Douglas McKee

Doug is amazing, knowledgeable and wonderful. This is my second semester studying with him and I have had no regrets. He really shines in a small classroom setting.

Response 5

Douglas McKee

McKee is one of the best professors I have had. The material was difficult for me at times, but McKee makes himself available during office hours which helps a lot. He is great at leading class and explaining difficult concepts.

Response 6

Douglas McKee

Doug was a great professor. Even though he has lots of research to do he is very invested in the class and in the students. If you need to talk to him he is very accessible.

Response 7

Douglas McKee

Doug is a great professor. He is extremely helpful and will go out of his way to make sure you understand the material.

Response 8

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was hands down one of the best professors I've had at Yale. He is an excellent teacher and will actually spend a lot of time working with you on research projects and helping you understand any complicated methods. I took both of his seminars and each one taught me more than I learned in econometrics or any other economics core course I had to take.

Response 9

Douglas McKee

Professor McKee is fantastic. He is extremely committed to teaching his students and will spend hours with each student outside of class going over research ideas and assignments. In this sense, he is better than any other economics professor I've had at Yale, most of whom are happy if no one shows up to their office hours. The focus of his class, on understanding the econometrics methods used in economics literature, has been very relevant and useful, and he makes the material very accessible - had I taken his course as a junior, I would have definitely written a senior essay.

Response 10

Douglas McKee

Doug was the best!

Response 11

Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is the best. He is very friendly and cares a lot about his students. He genuinely cares that we learn the material, which I really appreciated. He is also very approachable, always has open doors to his office and he will help you with anything. His teaching style is very down to earth and very interactive with the students, whom he treats like colleagues. I really appreciated having him as a teacher this semester. The class is amazing because of him.

Response 12

Douglas McKee

WONDERFUL! Great teacher and person. Really helpful, noticeably enjoys the material he teaches, and cares about not only the class as a whole, but each individual student. I can't say enough good things about him!

Response 13

Douglas McKee

Awesome professor! All 6 students who took his Economics of Aging in the first semester took this class in the spring, which says a lot about the quality of his teaching. Extremely helpful, explains concepts well and very nice!

Response 14

Douglas McKee

Good engagement, easy to talk to. Perhaps more "deadlines" with the final paper would be better, even if the deadlines are soft.

Response 15

Douglas McKee

Very open to helping students and works hard to give everyone a good grasp of the subject.

Response 16

Douglas McKee

This class has been the best experience I've had in the Econ department thus far - it's a shame it happened in my senior year, or perhaps I would have gotten more out of the major. I think that Doug is very realistic about our strengths and weaknesses; when you feel comfortable being human around a professor, the learning process is infinitely better.

Question 4

How would you summarize Economics 462 01 for a fellow student? Would you recommend Economics 462 01 to another student? Why or why not?

Response 1

Great for anybody that wants to gain a grasp of advanced economics papers.

Response 2

You'll learn all about human capital (education, health, migration, infrastructure, poverty, etc.) policies and programs in Latin America and how to read an empirical paper and how to distinguish quality papers from substandard ones will prove to be really useful in the future. Plus you'll learn numerous new and cutting-edge empirical methods and familiarize yourself with the process of writing a research proposal which is very useful, specially if ur planning on writing an econ senior essay or on going to grad school or on being a research assistant of some kind.YES. Definitely.

Response 3

Yes, I would recommend the course if you're interested in learning how to interpret data and come up with creative solutions facing Latin America.

Response 4

The class is heavy in econometric and relies on economic papers, so if you are comfortable with econometrics I would definitely recommend the class because McKee is a great professor.

Response 5

I would definitely recommend this class to any econ major. Especially if you are a junior who is considering doing a senior project. The final paper really helps you learn tools for how to do research and methods to use in a research paper.

Response 6

Great econ seminar to take.

Response 7

Definitely take this course. It is useful material, interesting material, and the professor is really helpful and extremely adept at teaching. Win, win, win. You can't go wrong.

Response 8

If you are a junior economics major interested in writing a senior essay and find yourself poorly prepared by the other economics classes in the department, take this class! McKee covers all the important econometrics approaches in depth and prepares you to implement and interpret them.

however, this class does not use stata, the major assignment is a research proposal rather than a research paper; it will give you the skills to set up a research paper: creating a model, designing an empirical approach, and anticipating results. if you are interested in carrying out the research, however, McKee is more willing than any professor i know to spend time with you after class going over your work and offering advice. you won't be sorry you took this class.

Response 9

yes!!! sweet class

Response 10

Yes! Take it if you're interested in development and applied econometrics. I think the value of this course is that it focuses a lot on the econometrics and methods of studies. We applied stuff we learned in econometrics and used it to read the assigned papers. We learned how to interpret graphs, tables, etc. And we learned about all the different methods economists use in their research and how to construct economic models. It is finally a course in which you actually do apply what you learn in other courses. You come out of it with the skills necessary to read, analyze, and critique an economics paper.

Response 11

Very interesting subjects covered, and you will definitely learn A LOT. For example, by the end you will be able to write your own model and know what type of empirical approach will fit it/the data.

Response 12

Definitely!

Response 13

Good class, good professor, solid way to learn about how to read economics papers.

Response 14

I would recommend this class because it is a good broad look at different aspects of human capital, it helps students learn to read an economics paper, and the professor is very helpful.

Response 15

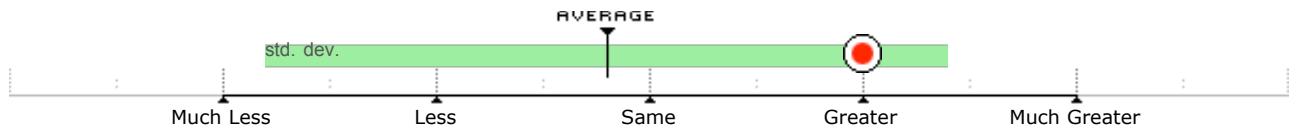
Of course. You're unlikely to find someone else in the Econ department who loves teaching as much as Doug does - it shows, and makes all the difference throughout the semester.

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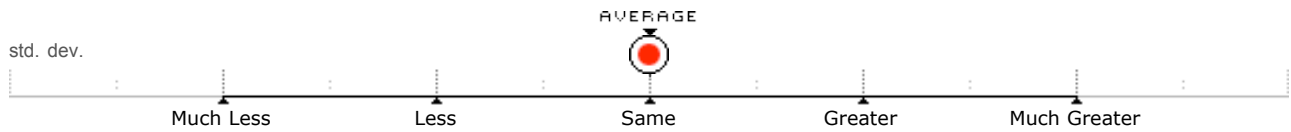
Question 5

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

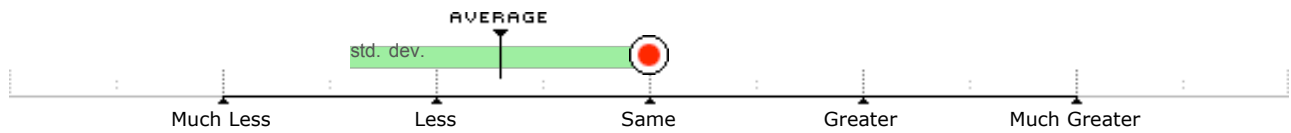
Response 1



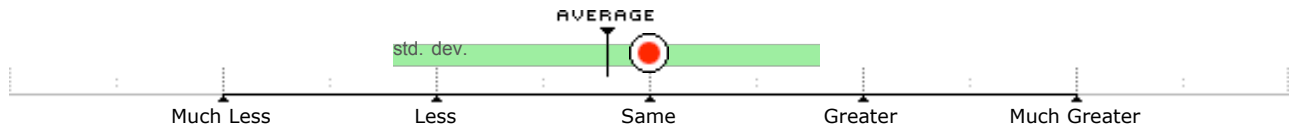
Response 2



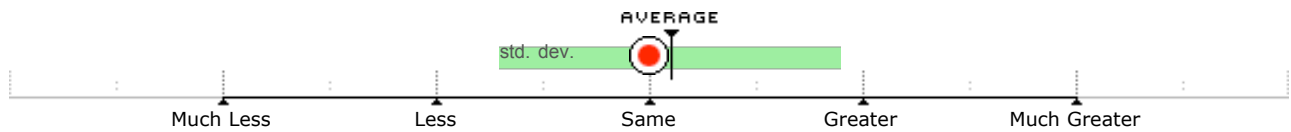
Response 3



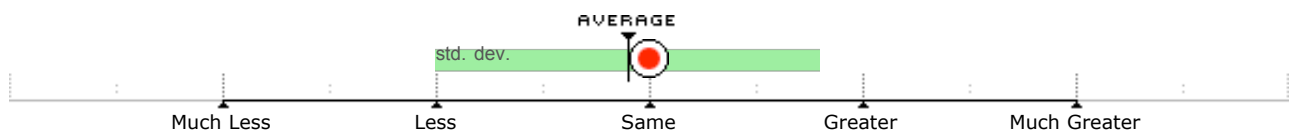
Response 4



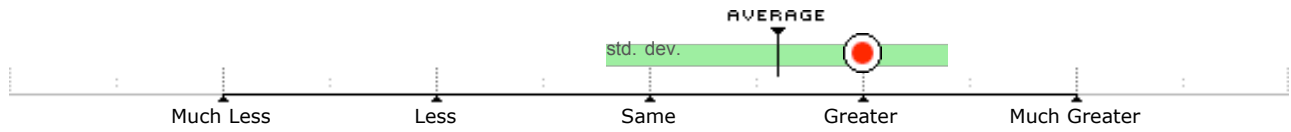
Response 5



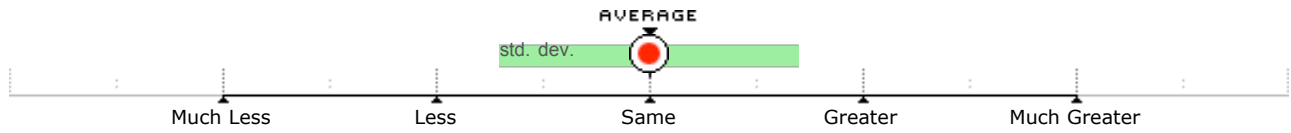
Response 6



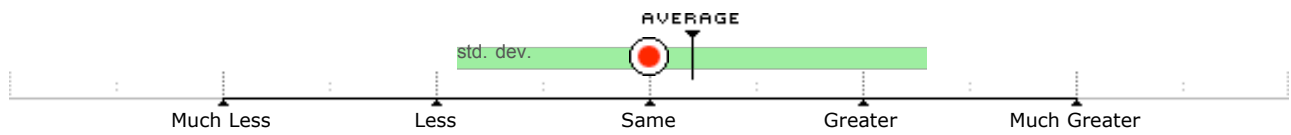
Response 7



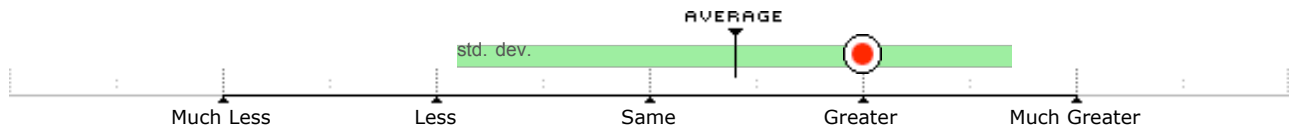
Response 8



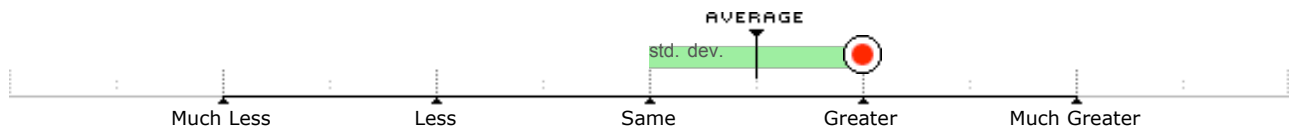
Response 9



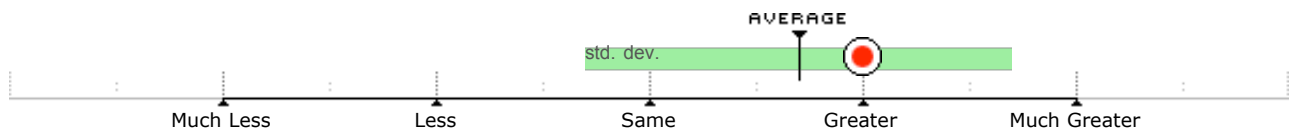
Response 10



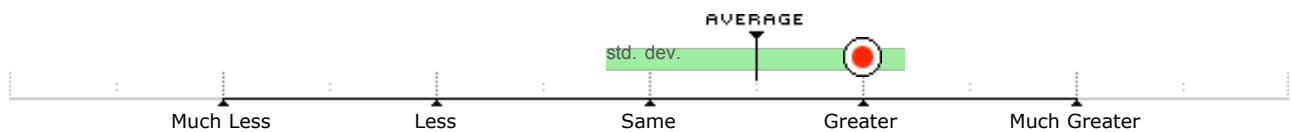
Response 11



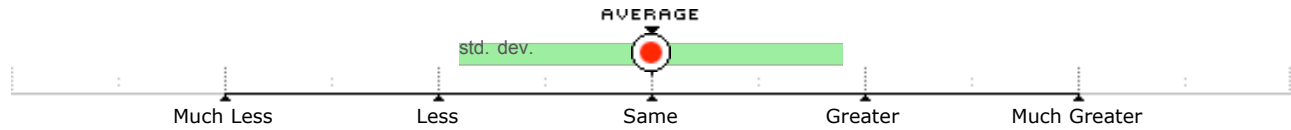
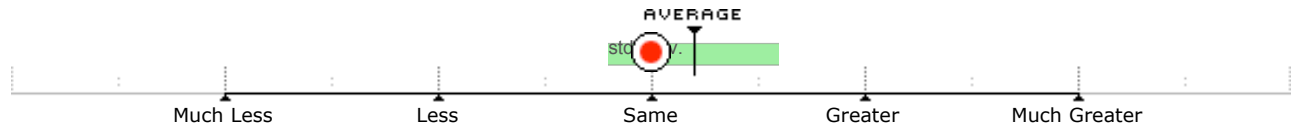
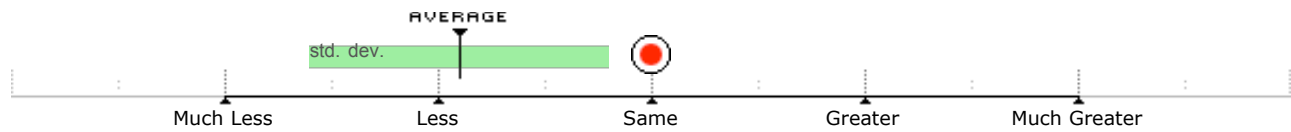
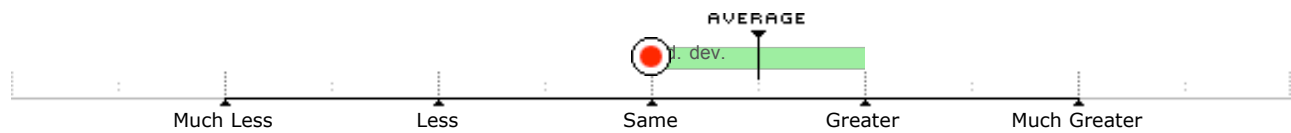
Response 12






Response 13



Response 14

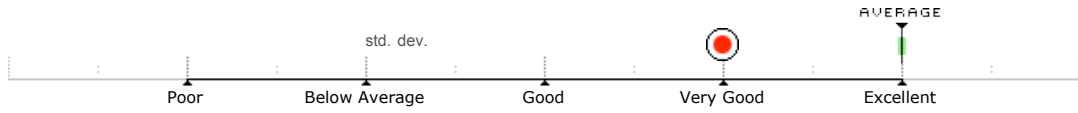
**Response 15****Response 16****Response 17**

-  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, while a wider bar indicates more variability.

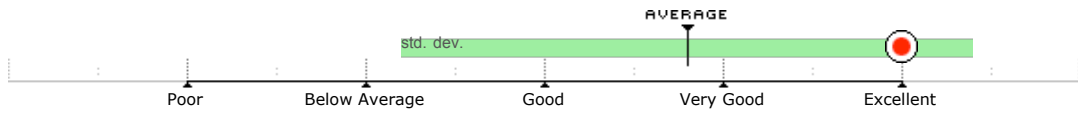
Question 6

What is your overall assessment of this course?

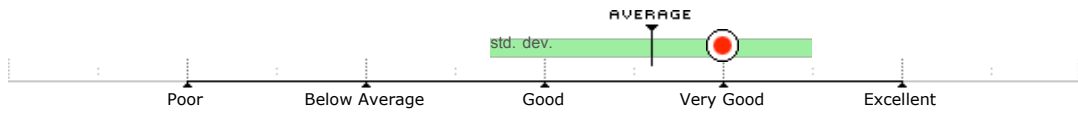
Response 1



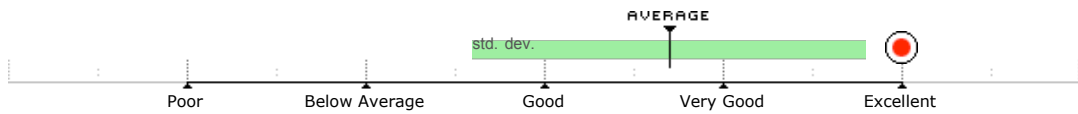
Response 2



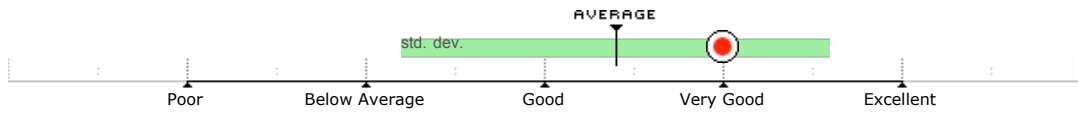
Response 3



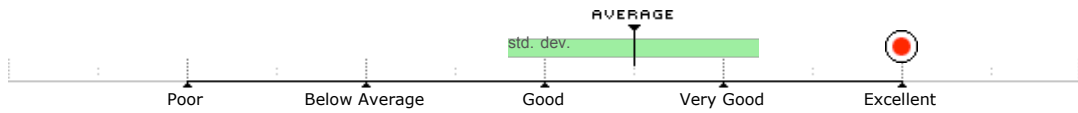
Response 4



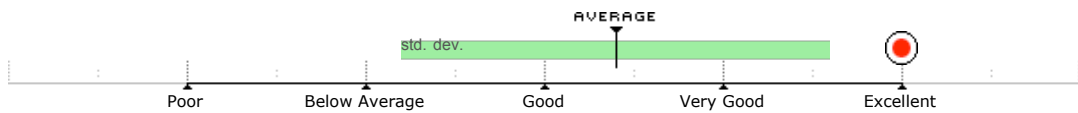
Response 5



Response 6



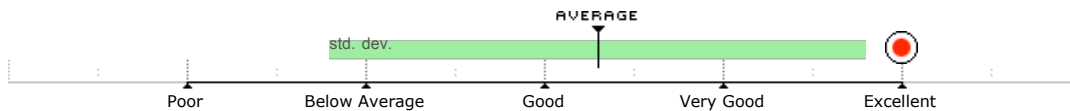
Response 7



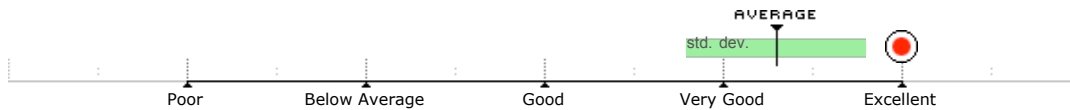
Response 8



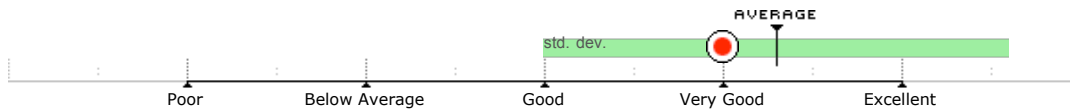
Response 9



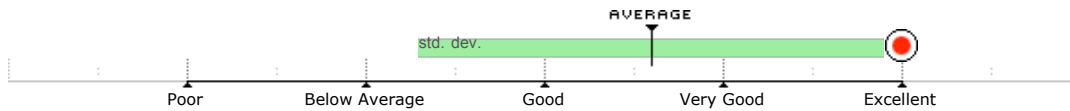
Response 10



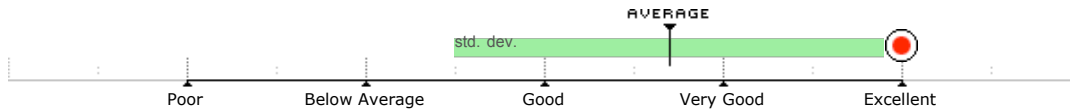
Response 11



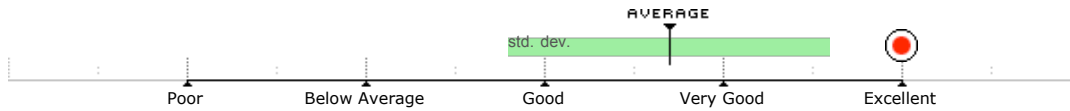
Response 12



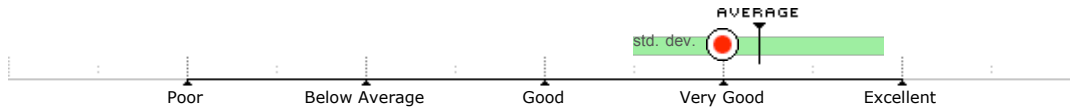
Response 13



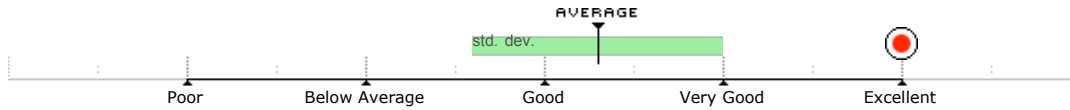
Response 14

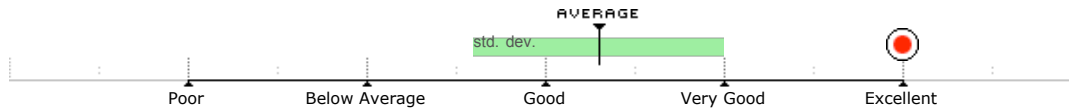


Response 15



Response 16

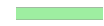


Response 17

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, while a wider bar indicates more variability.

Question 9

Of the papers you read this semester, from which did you learn the most and from which did you learn the least?

Response 1

MOST: Thomas, Duncan (1994) "Like Father, Like Son; Like Mother, Like Daughter: Parental resources and child height," Journal of Human Resources, Vol. 29, No. 4, pp. 950-988. LEAST: Mead, Rebecca. (2003) "Dressing for Lula," it The New Yorker, March 17, pp. 82-91. BUT IT WAS FUN :)

Response 2

I learned the most from the articles regarding drug trafficking and its effects on Peru and Colombia. I can't really remember the article I learned the least from, but probably the article about nutritional programs and the schooling outcomes.

Response 3

The papers that had a lot of econometrics really helped me gain a greater grasp of how econ research is done.

Response 4

Most: Angrist and Kugler, "Rural Windfall or a New Resource Curse? Coca, Income, and Civil Conflict in Colombia" Least: Borjas, "Self-selection and the Earnings of Immigrants"

Response 5

i thought all the papers were pretty good. three papers a week was sometimes tough and detracted from my ability to understand each one. "fluffier" articles such as the one on the elite in brazil are a nice addition (even if a third paper) to give context.

Response 6

I learned a lot from most of them...the Borges paper was dense, but I feel that once covered in presentation and more in class, I actually learned a lot from it. There was one paper in particular I didn't get much out of--I think it was one that had to do with Mexico (health in Mexico? or migration?), but it seemed more like a news article with little facts/percentages than an econ paper.

Response 7

Papers involving diff-in-diff and various ways of compensating for limited data-sets.

Response 8

I think I learned the most from the papers that were bad because it taught us how to pick out mistakes that can exist in published economics research.

Response 9

Vaso de Leche or the paper about Progresiva

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