

Online Course Evaluation

[eval summary](#) [view by respondent](#) [view by question](#) [instructor comments](#)

EVALUATION SUMMARY

ENROLLED: **24**
 RESPONSES: **19**
 DECLINED: **1**
 NO RESPONSE: **4**

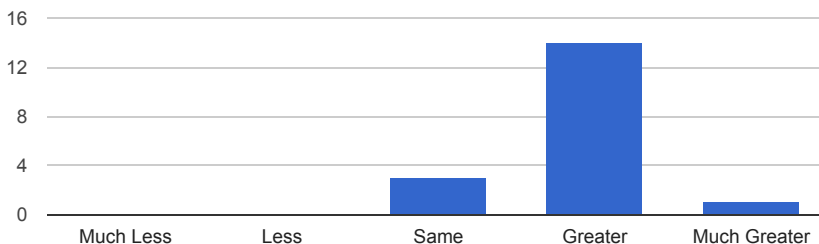
	Term	Course	Title	Enrolled
1	2015 - Spring	ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01	Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer	24

Graph view: Bars Vertical

Q:

Overall, how would you rate the workload of this course in comparison to other Yale courses you have taken? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed by Yale College students, faculty, and advisers to aid in course selection and evaluating teaching.)*

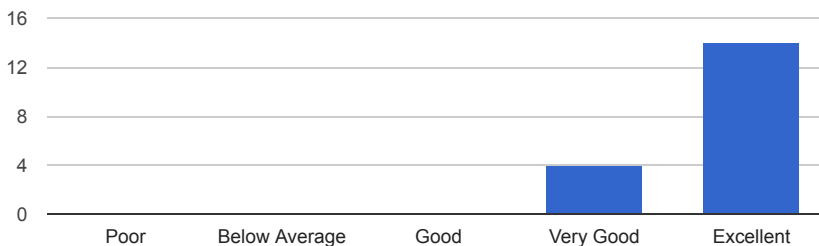
Instructor: Douglas McKee



Q:

What is your overall assessment of this course? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed by Yale College students, faculty, and advisers to aid in course selection and evaluating teaching.)*

Instructor: Douglas McKee



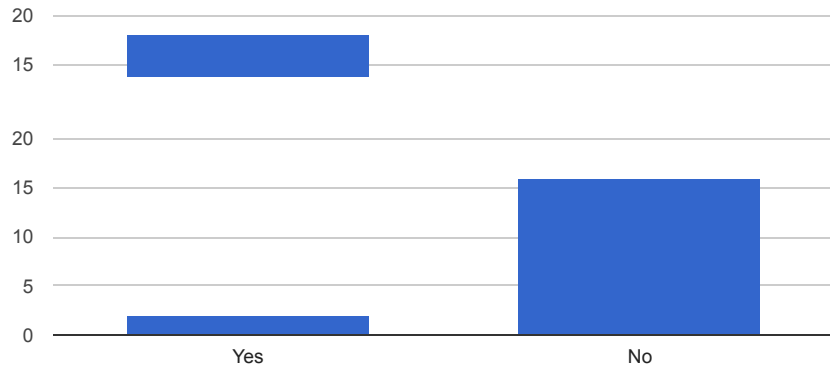
Q:

Do you expect to use this class for credit toward your major, or toward a pre-professional program? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed by Yale College students, faculty, and advisers to aid in course selection and evaluating teaching.)*

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Q:
Do you expect to use this class for credit toward the Yale College distributional requirements? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed only by your instructor(s) and your teaching assistant, and by administrators responsible for evaluating their teaching.)*

Instructor: Douglas McKee



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Online Course Evaluation

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VIEW BY QUESTION

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Evaluation Summary:

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-

2015 - Spring

ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01
Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

Q:

Looking back on **ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01**, what is your overall assessment of the course? What are its strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might it be improved? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed only by your instructor(s) and by administrators responsible for evaluating their teaching.)*

Export Responses to selected question

12345678Forward

Individual Responses link

I think that overall the course is really well designed. The one thing I would say is that student presentations get a bit staid and focus far too much on the methodology. We read the papers and so it could feel like too much review at times. I wish we'd spent a bit more time debating and discussing the actual policy implications from what we read. Also, I'd ban laptops: they proved very distracting.

Export Responses to selected question

12345678Forward

Individual Responses link

Individual Responses link

The class is organized to get an understanding of real economic models and empirical approaches, and it teaches you all what you should have learned in Econometrics. In that regard, it is extremely useful. I find that the structure of the class was a bit monotonous and that made some classes a bit dry. I would try to dedicate more discussion to the real policy issues rather than so much about the results of one or two papers that we read. I would re-format the syllabus, perhaps, to include the econometrics methods covered and in what weeks. Then students will know what to expect to learn from the class from the start, and they can look for the econometrics approaches they are interested in before presenting. Also, it would help when students write their papers.

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Pros: - Great introduction to human capital issues in Latin America - Great introduction to

Individual Responses link

econometric analysis of human capital issues - Develops student ability to think critically about complex economic models and econometric methods Cons: - Too much reading and weekly work

Individual Responses link

HCLA is a great, fun course. The structure is spot on, and I really enjoyed the addition of the poster session. The only aspect of the course that I would change is the empirical quiz I think it was useful to have it as a refresher on empirical methods, but if we could have a better sense of the format of question we would be asked via example problems, that would be very helpful and would solidify the concepts even more. A problem set might be a more effective way to do this.

Individual Responses link

This course was a great combination of reading academic papers, learning about development economics applied in Latin America, reviewing different methods used in economics, and debating larger issues at play in each week's topics. I thought the variety in the types of assignments we had and in each week's topics always kept us on our toes, and made us all learn a lot. This class took a lot of my time, but every second of it was worthwhile.

Individual Responses link

The class was very informative, and asked us to think critically and learn to read papers. it was very useful. Professor McKee was also great with his help.

Individual Responses link

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Great class, Doug is a really good professor. Class was a little too large and felt like I would have gotten more out with smaller class size

Individual Responses link

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

This is one of the most beneficial classes to take at Yale in the Economics department. The classes strengths are Doug's passion and teaching skill, the terrific readings and the unique ideas about human capital that you learn. The weakness, if any, is the work load.

Individual Responses

This was a great course. I've taken quite a few development economics classes, but I had never

[link](#)

read the vast majority of the papers. Although student presentation took up a lot of class time, Professor McKee did a god job of keeping us on track and helping to facilitate class discussion. Finally, I really enjoyed the final project for the class as it have me the opportunity to create my own economic model, which I had not yet done in a Yale economics class. The one thing that could be improved was class attention during presentations. I noticed that many people were on their computers instead of engaging with their peer's presentation.

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

I think ECON 462 was a very rewarding seminar. I am interested in attending economics graduate school but until taking this course I would not have said that I really knew how to write or even construct a true economics paper. The biggest strength of the course was its focus on critiquing well-known papers in the field of development economics, while one of its largest weaknesses was the high amount of econometric background that was needed to really understand all of the papers. I think the course could be significantly improved by extending it into a year-long program that covers a fewer number of papers each week but really delves into the econometrics and statistical techniques at hand. This would significantly improve the ability of the students to understand the methodology and the weaknesses/strengths of each paper--a skill that would be incredibly useful when designing our own research proposals.

[Individual Responses link](#)

This was one of the, if not the best classes I've ever taken at Yale, especially in the Econ major. Very well taught, the instructor cares a lot about you and how much you understand, and the syllabus is well chosen. Just so good. Can other Econ classes be like this one?

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

. It's excellent. The course is so well structured and innovative. AWESOME.

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer



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Online Course Evaluation

[eval summary](#)

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VIEW BY QUESTION

[instructor comments](#)

Evaluation Summary:

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-

2015 - Spring

ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01
Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

Q:

Please evaluate **each instructor** of **ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01** . What are the instructor's strengths and weaknesses, and in what ways might his or her teaching be improved? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed only by your instructor(s) and by administrators responsible for evaluating their teaching.)*

Export Responses to selected question

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Instructor: Douglas McKee

Individual Responses link

Prof. McKee is an awesome professor. He cares a ton about his students, is very engaging, and takes loads of time to help everyone.

Export Responses to selected question

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Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Individual Responses link

Professor McKee is the best Economics professor I've had at Yale. He is patient, explains everything as simple as he cans (but not simpler), and he is always there to help his students. He offered so many opportunities to interact with him and he was always reaching out to make sure everything was going well. That makes a professor more than good, excellent.

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Individual Responses link

Professor McKee was one of the best teachers I've had at Yale. He's passionate about the subject he teaches and is particularly interested in fostering a positive learning environment for his students. I really appreciated how supportive he was to us throughout the semester, and his excitement was contagious. While the papers were sometimes a bit overwhelming to go through, he led helpful seminars and set up the class in a way that kept students involved and active participants in the material each week.

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Pros: Knowledgeable, approachable, patient, and always encouraging students to challenge

Individual Responses link

themselves Cons: Can't think of any

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Doug is a fantastic professor. He cares about his students, and gives ample and thoughtful feedback in an approachable but tough-love kind of way. He facilitates discussion well and has a good sense for what the key points are. He really is what makes this course so great I think he could teach a seminar on just about any topic and make it interesting.

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Honestly, one of the best professors and teachers I've had in my time at Yale. It's so clear that he puts so much thought, time and effort into planning this class, and it makes such a difference how available he makes himself to meet with us outside the classroom as well. He's organized and his consciousness about the way in which he's teaching this class made it dynamic and especially effective.

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Professor McKee was fantastic. He explains things well, he cares about teaching a lot, and he designs the course deliberately and provides a lot of help for students.

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee is the single best seminar leader I have had at Yale. Aside from caring deeply and devoting vast amounts of time to his students, Doug's charismatic, witty, and encouraging moderation of student discussions was a special experience.

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Great prof

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Great!

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is the best professor in the Economics department at Yale. He is not only a thoroughly insightful person, but also is someone who puts in a lot of thought into his teaching method. He is very accessible and even provided videos online to help with econometric concepts, grabbed lunches with students and worked together with them to integrate student presentations nicely with the class.

Individual Responses

Instructor: Douglas McKee

[link](#)

Professor McKee was a fabulous professor, definitely one of my favorites in my four years! He is extremely accessible and relatable. He clearly knows all of the material very well, but is also able to explain it to his students. I also really enjoyed his lunch and office hour sessions. It was clear that he wanted to create a strong class environment and he did. The one thing I would improve is the structure of his office hours. During the week our final paper was due, many students waited for more than two hours to speak with him. Perhaps, he can create a schedule next year so people can sign up for time slots.

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Individual Responses
[link](#)

Incredible teacher who is passionate about teaching and always looking to get better at it

Individual Responses
[link](#)

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Doug McKee is one of the best economics professors I have had at Yale. It goes without saying that he really puts his heart into improving both his teaching and his courses, which is in and of itself a big change of pace. It is not that other economics professors do not care about their own teaching, but sometimes I have felt as though students' questions are second-order concerns or not worth the full attention of the professor. I really appreciate Professor McKee's willingness to talk to students and to try to view things from their perspective in order to then re-explain the material in ways that, although simple to the professor, are more straightforward to the student. Beyond the teaching, the class environment in ECON 462 was very laid-back and enjoyable--I learned just as much as in other classes but enjoyed mixing things up with back-and-forth discussion among students and the occasional joke.

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Individual Responses
[link](#)

Professor McKee cares. That's it. There's no more you can say to do justice to him. He doesn't care if you are a day late, he cares that you worked hard and understood. And if you communicate with him, he will make sure you come out of this class knowing more than you Eve did before.

Individual Responses
[link](#)

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses
[link](#)

Instructor: Douglas McKee

BEST PROFESSOR AT YALE (or one of the best)! He is extremely innovative. I did really enjoy attending his seminar. His ideas to change the classroom dynamics are so cool! I loved the posters presentation session! Weaknesses? We've only got one Douglas McKee!

Individual Responses
[link](#)

Instructor: Douglas McKee

Prof. McKee is one of the most intelligent, charismatic, and helpful people I have ever met. He helped me through so much throughout the semester and I absolutely would recommend every student mildly interested in Economics to take a course with him.



Online Course Evaluation

eval summary view by respondent **VIEW BY QUESTION** instructor comments

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-

2015 - Spring

ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01
Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

Q:

How would you summarize **ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01** for a fellow student? Would you recommend **ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01** to another student? Why or why not? *(Your anonymous response to this question may be viewed by Yale College students, faculty, and advisers to aid in course selection and evaluating teaching.)*

Export Responses to selected question

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Individual Responses link

I would definitely recommend this class. If you can, take it junior year because it'll give you a super strong skeleton for a thesis. It's a ton of work though so be ready for that.

Export Responses to selected question

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Individual Responses link

Individual Responses link

The class is organized to get an understanding of real economic models and empirical approaches, and it teaches you all what you should have learned in Econometrics. In that regard, it is extremely useful if you plan to write a senior essay (take it as a junior, if you can). I find that the structure of the class was a bit monotonous and that made some classes a bit dry. This class is not that much about policy as much as it is about learning about the economic models and empirical approaches that other authors use. The professor says that in the first class (it is about Latam because there is a lot of data and papers from there), but I still was surprised by the end when I did not learn much about policy--I did learn an incredible amount about econometrics.

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Take it only if you're interested in the econometric analysis of human capital issues (the course

Individual Responses link

has little emphasis on macro-issues and almost no macro-conversation) Pros: - Great introduction to human capital issues in Latin America - Great introduction to econometric analysis of human capital issues - Develops student ability to think critically about complex economic models and econometric methods Cons: - Too much reading and weekly work

Individual Responses link

HCLA is a great course for senior econ majors or anyone with a similar econ background, including statistics and econometrics for reading economic papers. Even if you have no experience learning about human capital (basically education and healthcare) in Latin America, you'll enjoy this class if it sounds even vaguely interesting. We read 2-4 papers every week and write weekly reading responses, and a group of students presents the papers for the week. Then over the course of the semester, you write a research proposal that is like a mini-thesis. We have an empirical approaches quiz, and a poster session at the end of the semester to show off your proposal work. You'll work hard but learn a lot in this class. One of my favorite classes at Yale if not my favorite definitely take it!!

Individual Responses link

This class was the best! As Prof. McKee said, some key things you'll learn about: (1) economics of human capital in Latin America, (2) how to read and understand papers in development economics, (3) economic methods in these papers, (4) how to design your own research proposal. Apart from interesting material, Doug makes this class. He works so hard with us to make every session engaging and to make sure we are actually learning as much as we can from what we've read and discussed. It was great to end my senior year with this.

Individual Responses link

The class was great-- would recommend. You learn to read econ papers and actually understand the methods, and then write your own research proposal with plenty of guidance and discussion. McKee is very helpful and supportive, and a very chill prof.

Individual Responses link

Just take this class. Take it. Not taking EHCLA is like finding the last water-filled cactus in the Sahara and not drinking from it.

Individual Responses link

This is an extremely econometrics heavy class. You will struggle if you have not taken metrics 2. I had a really rough time with a lot of the empirical methods and metrics used (you will read three econometric papers a week and do worksheets on them). Doug is a really great professor and will do his best to teach metrics but this class is really large and it's hard to get 1on1 help sometimes (and I personally often felt intimidated to ask for econometrics help because everyone in the class seemed to understand it very well). This class attracts a very specific type of Economics or Global Affairs major type of student.. Professor was great though.

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Take it, and try to take it as a junior since it will really help your senior thesis. I believe that this course is not offered next time, but surely take McKee's other class - Economics of Aging - if that's the case. You will not regret the hard work you put in.

Individual Responses

[link](#)

This is a great class! The workload is manageable and the papers are interesting. Going into it, I was concerned that, having taken many development econ classes, I would have already read many of the papers, but the vast majority were new to me. Professor McKee is also wonderful, definitely one of my favorites! He is very friendly, creates a good class environment and is quite helpful, especially when it comes to the final project.

[Individual Responses link](#)

Best econ class I've taken. Definitely a lot of work and the research proposal was likely the hardest and most comprehensive paper I've ever written at Yale. But it's worth it if you balance your schedule around it because the class sessions are not dry like so many other econ classes

[Individual Responses link](#)

I think that this course is extremely helpful if you want to learn how to write a true economics paper--one that is not just a review of existing literature or a personal critique of a specific development program. Of all the economics classes I have taken at Yale, this course is bar none the most relevant to real-world experience and taught me more than several other classes combined. Take this course if you want to have a great senior spring and learn from one of the funniest most caring professors in the Economics department.

[Individual Responses link](#)

Absolutely. Amazing instructor, amazing subject.'

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

This course is incredibly helpful. Not only it provides a great overview of human capital (education, health, etc) but also includes an extremely useful review of econometrics methods. If you don't know how to read economic papers this is your best opportunity to learn properly. TAKE IT!

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer



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2015 - Spring

ECON 462 01/GLBL 316 01/EP&E 228 01/LAST 410 01
Econ of HumanCapital LatinAmer

Q:

Of all the papers we read this semester, which one did you learn the most from? And is there a paper on the syllabus that you would remove?

Export Responses to selected question

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Individual Responses link

I learned the most from the Montiero and Assuncao paper. I would remove one of the migration papers: they felt repetitive with all three.

Export Responses to selected question

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Individual Responses link

Individual Responses link

I learned a lot about the papers that I had to present because those I studied in detail the most. I would remove those papers without empirical methods (there was one about Mexico I believe). I would re-format the syllabus, perhaps, to include the econometrics methods covered and in what weeks. Then students will know what to expect to learn from the class from the start, and they can look for the econometrics approaches they are interested in before presenting. Also, it would help when students write their papers.

Declined to Answer

Individual Responses link

Individual Responses

I learned a lot from almost all papers but the most interesting one was: Angrist, Joshua and Adriana Kugler (2008) Rural Windfall or a New Resource Curse? Coca, Income, and Civil Conflict in Colombia, Review of Economics and Statistics, Vol. 90, No. 2, pp. 191215. Don't know which one to remove because there were lessons learned from all, even the ones I wasn't interested in.

[link](#)[Individual Responses link](#)

Best paper I really enjoyed Anna Dammerts paper and Angrist and Kuglers papers on the coca trade in South America. I thought they were complex but readable, and told an important story about violence and the policy implications of cracking down on the drug trade. Paper to remove de Mel. I understand why it was added to the syllabus, but it was very hard to for me to understand through all of the accounting minutae.

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

Learned the most from: "Self-Selection and the Earnings of Immigrants" (Borjas)

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

[Individual Responses link](#)

I thoroughly enjoyed the paper on the protein versus sugar drink in Brazil. I felt that the health portion of the class was fantastically covered and taught.

[Individual Responses link](#)

Declined to Answer

**Individual
Responses
link**

Declined to Answer

**Individual
Responses
link**

I really enjoyed the paper that talked about Samuelson-Stoper/Heckscher-Ohlin models (I think it was about labor market reforms in Colombia in the late 1980s). I hadn't taken International Economics or Public Economics so it was really interesting to me to get exposure to leading trade models and see how they apply to real-world situations. There was no particular paper that I enjoyed the least, although I think that some of the ones featuring higher-order econometric techniques would have been more accessible if we had covered just that one paper that week. This would have allowed us to tackle the methodology more head-on and not have to worry about understanding the fancy econometrics in addition to taking care of 1 or 2 additional papers during the same week.

**Individual
Responses
link**

Declined to Answer

**Individual
Responses
link**

I thought the Atkin FDI paper was great. I didn't get learn much from the school choice papers in week 3.

**Individual
Responses
link**

Don't remove any. Add more!! I particularly loved those papers that used a different empirical approach than OLS (Policies for improving child health!).

**Individual
Responses
link**

Declined to Answer



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