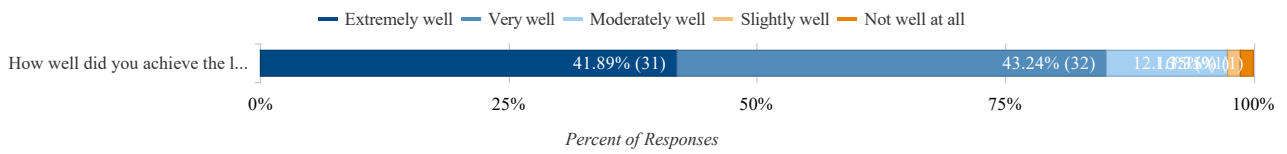
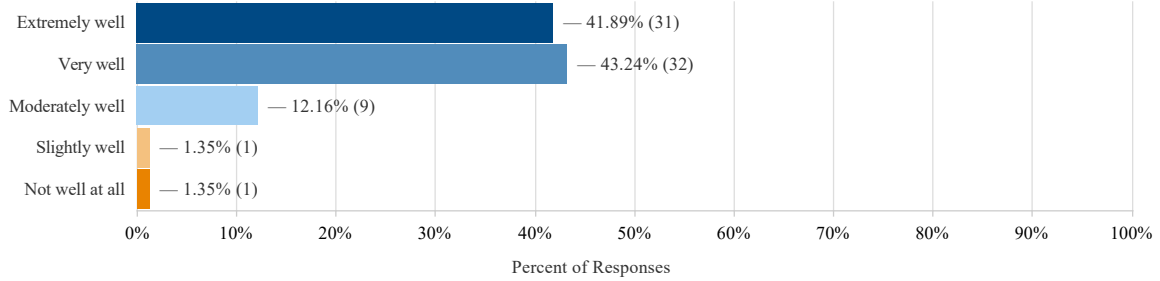


Sp21-THINK-23-01: THE CANCER PROBLEM N/A

Term: N/A
 Subject: N/A
 Catalog & Section: N/A N/A
 Course Title: Sp21-THINK-23-01: THE CANCER PROBLEM

Instructor: Joseph Lipsick
 Enrollment: 89
 Responses Incl Declines: 77
 Declines: 3

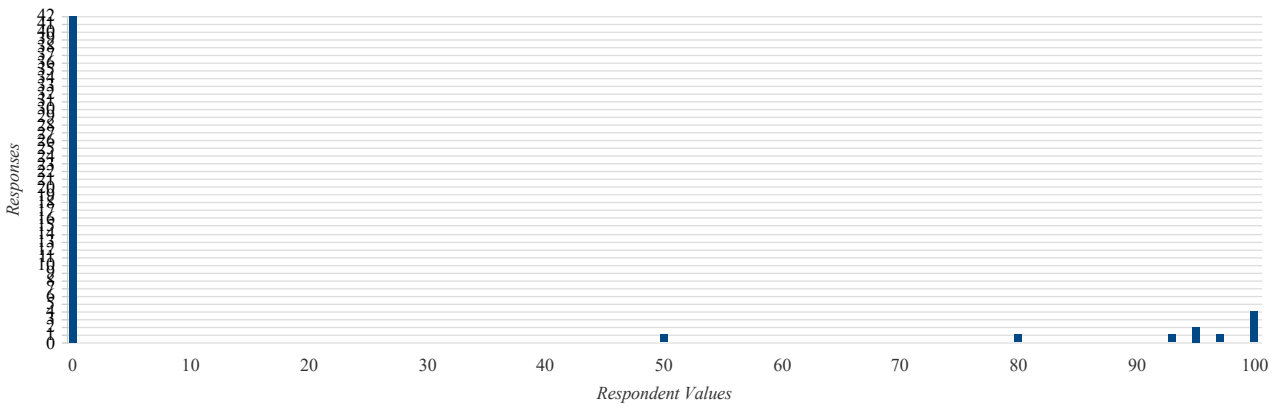
How well did you achieve the learning goals of this course?



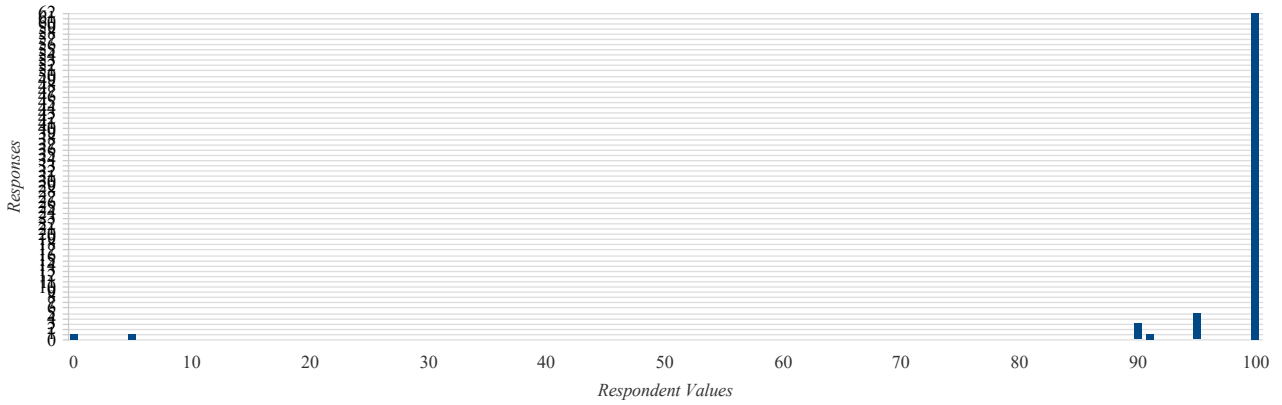
Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median	STDEV	5	4	3	2	1
How well did you achieve the learning goals of this course?	74	83%	4.23	4.00	0.82	42%	43%	12%	1%	1%

Note: 5: Extremely well; 4: Very well; 3: Moderately well; 2: Slightly well; 1: Not well at all

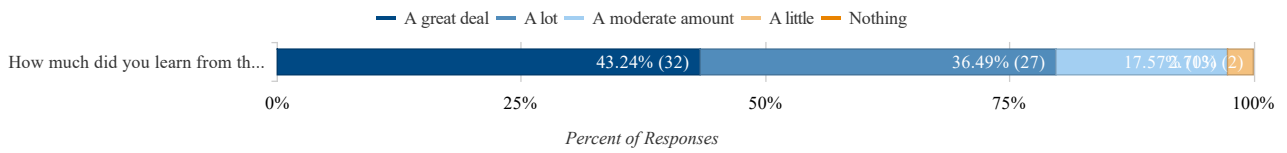
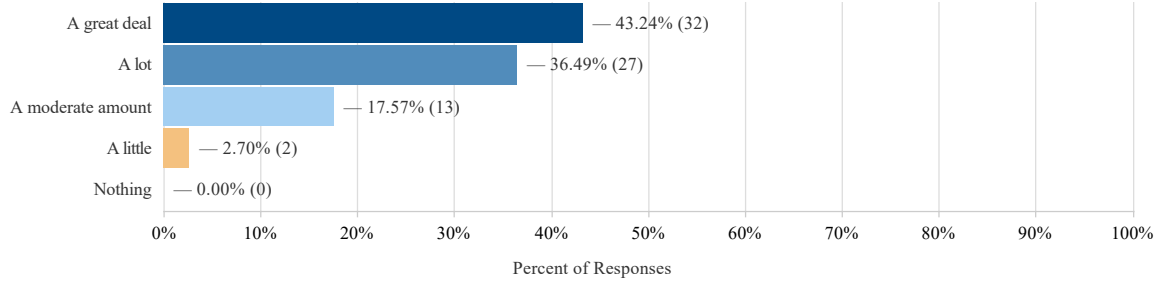
About what percent of the class meetings (including discussions) did you attend in person?



About what percent of the class meetings did you attend online?



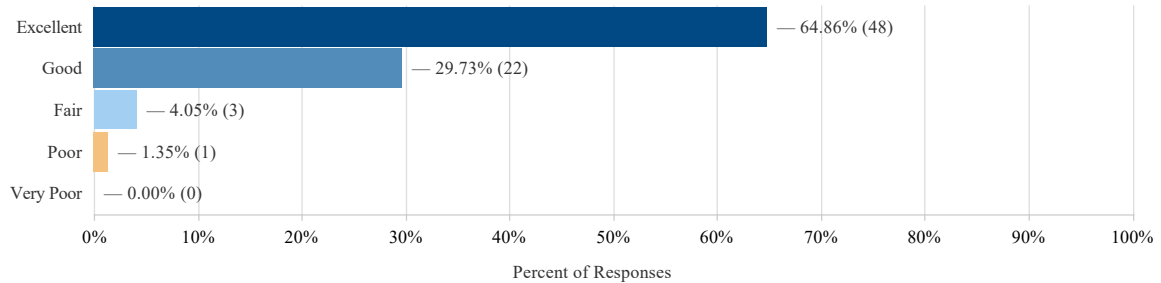
How much did you learn from this course?

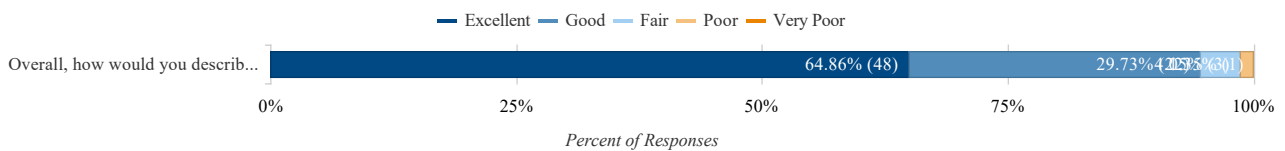


Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median	STDEV	5	4	3	2	1
How much did you learn from this course?	74	83%	4.20	4.00	0.83	43%	36%	18%	3%	0%

Note: 5: A great deal; 4: A lot; 3: A moderate amount; 2: A little; 1: Nothing

Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction in this course?





Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median	STDEV	5	4	3	2	1
Overall, how would you describe the quality of the instruction in this course?	74	83%	4.58	5.00	0.64	65%	30%	4%	1%	0%

Note: 5: Excellent; 4: Good; 3: Fair; 2: Poor; 1: Very Poor

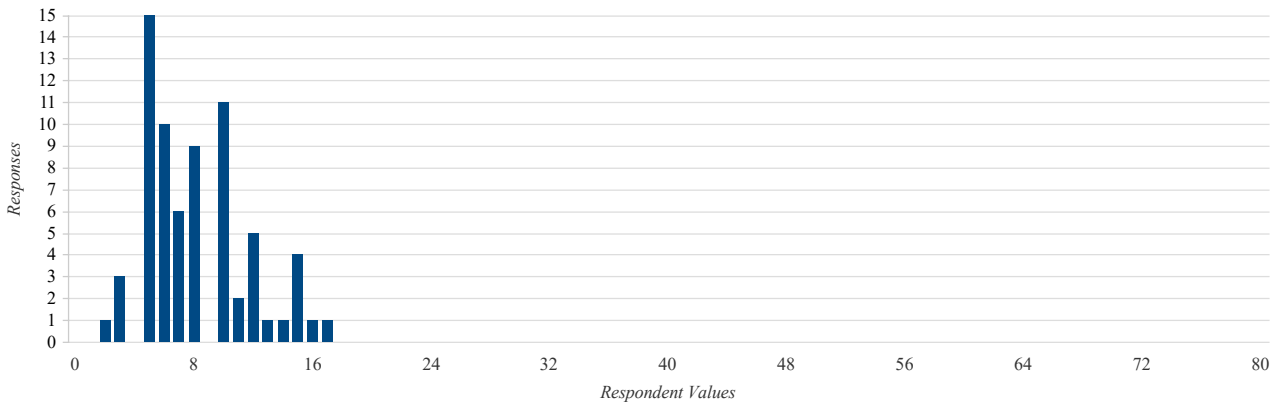
What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

(56 comments)

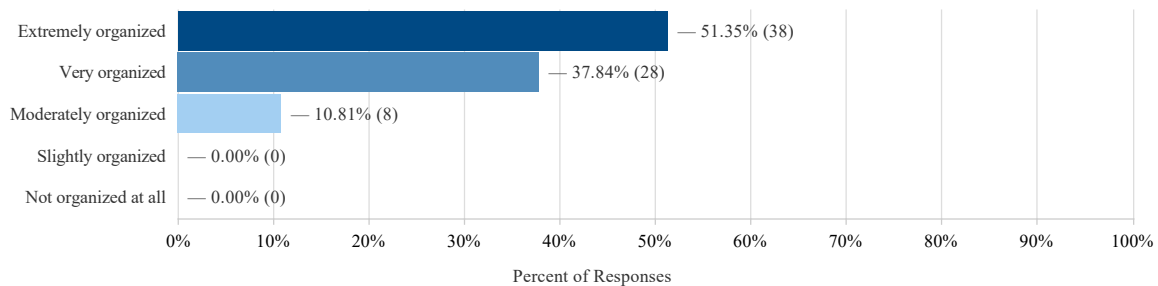
1. I learned the basics of cancer and how it affects families.
2. I now have a better background about cancer that goes further than simply what the media makes available.
3. I learned to write an essay in APA form to write about my Op-Ed.
4. I was able to learn a great deal about cancer and the history
5. a lot of information about cancer
6. I learned a lot about how cancer really works, from this course
7. There's reason why cancer is considered difficult--I always considered its biological implications but never really the complex socioeconomic, racial, controversial, historical, ethical, etc. landscape surrounding it. Section really had me debating the morality and ethics regarding cancer treatment in our past, present, and future. Quick tangent but I watched a video from Ted-Ed regarding why donating DNA and creating a database of individuals' DNAs across the world could speed up drug development and I thought of this class and one section we did regarding privacy, transparency, and responsibility.
8. I learned more about the history of cancer and the current state of the American Healthcare system.
9. Learned about how cancer works
10. I engaged in some really interesting societal and ethical discussions of cancer.
11. ethics of biomedical research, patient-doctor relationships, medical ethic framework, writing/communicating, taking a stance/argument
12. I knew nothing about cancer before taking this course, so I learned just about everything! I learned about how modern-day cancer treatments came to be, the complexities behind cancer itself, and the moral and ethical dilemmas of treating cancer throughout history.
13. I improved my ethical reasoning.
14. I learned more about cancer from both a disease and a social standpoint.
15. Thinking about cancer from a biological, social, and cultural perspective.
16. Learned a lot about cancer from many different perspectives
17. I learned how to think critically about treatment and preventative care.
18. I learned about the emotional side of cancer and the societal effects of the disease.
19. op ed writing
20. Understanding the cultural nuances of "The Cancer Problem", and placing cancer and our war on cancer in the proper perspective. Learned about people's attempts to eliminate cancer; what worked, what didn't work, and why.
21. Learned more about examining cancer in society from a public health perspective.
22. Interpretation of scientific articles, looking from multiple perspectives on an issue, respectful debate over complex topics.
23. Learned how to see issues from multiple perspectives (physician, patient, family, etc.).
24. Logical reasoning, writing and research skills.
25. I learned how to approach cancer from a wide variety of perspectives -- political, medical, and economic, just to name a few. The class truly opened my eyes to how complex cancer is and how it deeply affects us all in different ways.
26. I learned a lot more about the medical, social, and economic factors that surround cancer. I also strengthened my critical thinking and analysis skills.
27. Ethical reasoning, general biology knowledge, writing and reading
28. I improved my reading skills the most through the books we read and then taking notes.
29. I improved my critical thinking skills and wrestled with a lot of interesting philosophical and ethics questions that I had never thought about before. My research and writing skills also improved with the final paper, and my presentation and discussion-leading skills improved with the TLD.
30. Learned about cancer and things relating to it like, economics, healthcare, access, HELA.
31. I learned a lot about cancer that I hadn't known before, including the fact that there are different types of cancers even within cancer subgroups. I also learned about how economics impacts the cost of cancer treatment and how the US regulates cancer drugs a lot differently compared to other countries.
32. I learned so much about the workings of cancer itself and its history.
33. After this course I now have a better understanding of how difficult it is to solve the cancer problem, the lack of ethics that have existed throughout the history of the development of cancer treatments, as well as the inequalities that have existed and exist for certain groups of people when it comes to cancer treatment.
34. I learned a lot about cancer and all of the ways it is prevalent in society. -how and why people react certain ways when diagnosed -how it plays a role in government and health care industry -different types of cancers and treatments -ethics of cancer treatments - causes and prevention of cancer
35. I learned a lot about cancer and got some writing practice.
36. I learned a lot about cancer, from scientific, economic, and social perspectives.

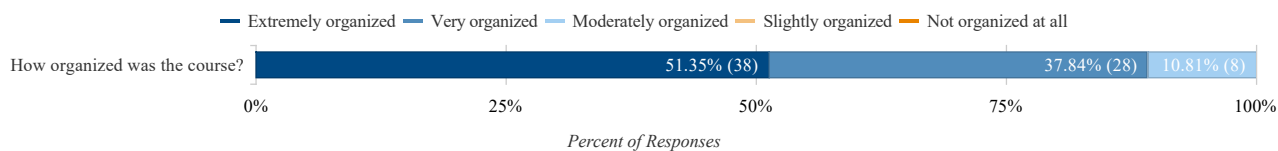
37. Knowledge regarding history of and current research regarding cancer. Knowledge on ethical controversies and understanding of the healthcare system, as well as economic barriers in accessibility of care.
38. I learned a lot about cancer and this class changed my perception of a death sentence of a disease to something that can be treated and recover from. Delving into the history behind the research, studies, etc was very fulfilling because I got to understand how certain people were components to where research has come to. I was especially interested in the ethics behind the choices pharmaceutical companies and even other key figures had in consent and privacy of personal data.
39. I learned about the history of cancer and how it has shaped our perception of cancer in present time.
40. I learned to analyze scientific data and medical phenomenon qualitatively and entertain different points of view on difficult topics.
41. Critical thinking and oral communication.
42. I learned about the many aspects of cancer - societal, economics, biology, environment, and so much more.
43. Critical thinking and reading
44. I learned that cancer is very much a multifaceted topic with influence in economics, health & medicine, policy, and many other sectors.
45. I didn't know anything about cancer research before so this was a super mind blowing class, and I learned so much.
46. I learned more about cancer as a disease and the history of cancer therapeutics. I also learned about different aspects of clinical research, such as clinical trials and the role of informed consent in research.
47. Cancer, critical thinking and analysis, sharing ideas/opinions
48. Ability to think critically about topics in medicine and healthcare, and the ability to investigate how issues in healthcare intersect with other fields such as economics and law
49. I learned a lot about the history, controversies, treatments, types, and future of cancer. I learned a lot from the social science aspect, such as considering what is moral in cancer research, or evaluating the mindset of a person with cancer. I improved on learning about real-world examples and history.
50. This course was incredibly interesting, I learned a lot about cancer, its progression, and treatment options. I would like to continue to learn more about cancer in the future.
51. I learnt about the various worlds that surround the world of cancer - from treatment options, ethics, emotions, relationships, politics to economics, cancer has a great impact on the lives of those it affects.
52. I learned a lot about past, current, and future cancer treatments. I also learned a lot about the society we live in, and the profit centered nature of the healthcare system.
53. I learned how to interpret cancer data accurately. I also learned the reality of the future of cancer treatments and how current treatments work.
54. I learned about the history of cancer treatments and how developments such as chemotherapy came into place.
55. I challenged my assumptions of cancer and its current state in the United States. This course opened up my eyes to the many complexities revolving around cancer treatments, onset and progression, social impacts, etc.
56. I got to learn a lot about the history of cancer, how it was developed, and the ethical questions that surrounds it.

How many hours per week on average did you spend on this course (including class meetings)?



How organized was the course?





Question	Number of Responses	Response Rate	Course Mean	Course Median	STDEV	5	4	3	2	1
How organized was the course?	74	83%	4.41	5.00	0.68	51%	38%	11%	0%	0%

Note: 5: Extremely organized; 4: Very organized; 3: Moderately organized; 2: Slightly organized; 1: Not organized at all

What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future? All comments are subject to Stanford's Terms of Use for Sites. Answers to this question will be viewable by other students, as well as instructors.

(56 comments)

1. I personally realized that I am not interested in the medical field so I didn't enjoy this class all too much. However, I can see people liking medicine also liking this course. Course staff is helpful and you get what you put into this class.
2. I'd recommend picking a different THINK if you have the chance. This class was quite boring and section discussions often seemed disconnected from lectures.
3. I think the course teaches students a lot about cancer, so for those interested, pay attention and read the weekly required reading. They help a lot.
4. This course is pretty interesting and calm. There is a decent amount of reading so make sure that you make time for it
5. Light work load, interesting lectures
6. This course is so much fun! Be ready to dive into some deep topics that aren't discussed very often.
7. Amazing class! I originally had a different Think class in mind, but I am so glad I ultimately ended up with this one. This is one of my favorite classes of the year. It really made me consider ethics and morals in a context I had never really thought deeply of before.
8. I think this is a great class to take even if you aren't interested in pursuing a career in the healthcare field. The staff (Shizuka Yamada was my TA) is incredibly understanding and kind, and the work is reasonable.
9. Really interesting class, especially if you are interested in medicine / cancer in particular.
10. It's a lot of reading and I wouldn't recommend taking it unless you have an actual interest for medicine and bioethics. Don't get me wrong, the class is amazing, but the course material is sensitive and the people teaching it are very passionate, so it's not just a course you can take to knock your THINK requirement out of the way.
11. Loved it! opened my eyes to cancer research and all the ethics/debates surrounding it like how there are so many nuances in cancer prevention and we can't patient-blame. Loved learning about cancer research, history of cancer, and talking about biomedical ethics
12. I highly recommend this course! You will learn just about everything relating to cancer - the basic biology, the history of treatment, the current ethical dilemmas, and disparities in health care. If you are at all interested in delving into the history of cancer, this course is for you.
13. It is an interesting course with interesting material. However, I think the learning goals of a THINK course may be better achieved in a more humanities-themed course. And I am majoring in STEM.
14. I highly recommend this class to anyone—it is super low workload and stress and the content is incredibly interesting. A great way to cover your THINK requirement.
15. Super interesting lectures and great sections as well. All the homework is meaningful and interesting.
16. Great class, you are supported throughout the entire course! Both the Professor and TA's are considerate and make the touchy subject of cancer much less scary.
17. Try to engage in the lectures as much as possible by answering and asking questions. Dr. Lipsick does a great job explaining the material.
18. good class but kind of boring
19. Very interesting course! In this THINK, you'll thoroughly explore all facets of cancer; be it from a medical perspective or a socio-cultural one. Highly recommend this course for students who are fascinated to not just learn about cancer (which you definitely do!), but who are also curious about the unseen nuances of "The Cancer Problem" in society and in our homes.
20. Take it! I'm interested in public health and I really enjoyed this course. The op-ed assignment is broad and allows you to write about whatever interested you. We also had very interesting discussions about cancer and topics such as privacy, racism, and the health care system.
21. I loved this course! It is a great overview of cancer biology taught by an amazing team of professors; there is a greater focus on the social impacts of cancer over the science behind it, as you might expect from a Think class. The workload was moderate, and very doable; we read two books, several articles and listened to some podcasts as well as did a few discussion threads. The largest assignment was a paper due at the end of the quarter, which was not difficult to manage. The lectures were incredible and very informative. Overall, this class is very engaging and I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in cancer in society to fulfill the Think requirement.
22. Awesome course for students from any major/interest! Super light work-load, but you learn a lot! Would highly recommend!
23. Discussion leaders will make or break your experience. Dr. Amy Braun was an amazing discussion leader and made the course super enjoyable. Assignments are clear and material is engaging. Some material will be more interesting than others depending on personal interests (for example, prescription pricing was more interesting to me than history of cancer). Too each their own.
24. This class is amazing. It opens your eyes to what cancer is and how it affects us all.
25. Amazing course for those interested in learning about cancer and examining the historical and current factors that make it such a complex issue.
26. Lectures are not the most useful for the class but still interesting. Engage in sections to get the most out of the class
27. This is a great course that talks about the biology and ethics of cancer. It is a great way to begin your interest in cancer as every discussion is extremely fascinating. The workload is not overwhelming, so you can really enjoy the material and spend time researching your own interests.

28. Cancer is such a complex issue and you will get to learn all about it through this course. This class not only covers the scientific bases and vast treatment options for different cancers, but the history of cancer and medicine, the injustices in healthcare and the pharmaceutical industry, the ethics of clinical research, political mobilization towards cancer research and screening, and the modern frontiers of genetic testing and targeted immunotherapies. Super interesting class for both stem/premeds and non-stem majors alike.
29. It's a fun course. Not a lot of time needed to study.
30. Take this class!! As a pre-med student, this class made me extremely interested in conducting research in cancer and made me consider a career as an oncologist. The workload is not heavy, and section is great! This class doesn't have any tests so it isn't stressful, but I still learned a lot during lecture and section. I would highly recommend!
31. Take this course. That is all I have to say.
32. A great course to take if you want to know more about cancer, its treatments, and its history. It is not very heavy in workload and the work that is given is very enjoyable to do.
33. Great class with great teachers! Super interesting and very applicable to real life. It has a good balance of lecture and discussion and not overwhelmingly time consuming
34. As far as lectures go, the teaching style isn't too fancy but it gets the job done; you'll learn quite a bit about cancer if you pay attention and do the readings. In section we discussed some interesting questions, but it didn't seem like they expected a high degree of intellectual rigor.
35. Super cool course. Learned alot about cancer that I had never thought about before. Contract grading during the pandemic was also SO SO helpful and nice because it helped us focus on learning and enjoying the content, instead of stressing about points. Professor Lipsick is amazing!
36. Read the additional articles recommended. They are interesting to read and help broaden your perspective.
37. It is a very interesting THINK class to take even if you are not particularly searching for a class about cancer. It is worth learning about this because it can change your persepective on a topic that can affect many people around you.
38. The books in this class and really engaging! To get the full potential out of these books, make sure to read all the required chapters ahead of time!
39. I thought the course well paced and provided a wide range/diversity of materials to learn from. Sometimes the sheer amount of required and optional readings felt overwhelming
40. This was a neat THINK course for those wanting to learn more about cancer. There's a little bit of work to do weekly combined with long readings, but other than that, this was an enjoyable class.
41. Take it!! You hear from amazing speakers and Joe Lipsick is such a wonderful instructor. You gain so much insight about cancer, not only how it behaves but its impact and other factors that affect it. It is one of my favorite classes thus far. The teaching team is also very supportive and kind. I would 100% take it again if I could.
42. Amazing course very supportive staff. Not stressful
43. To those who are interested in a deep-dive into cancer research, this is not your class. It is, however, a relatively smooth sailing introduction to cancer.
44. I knew nothing about cancer research before, and I wasn't even planning on taking this class. At first, I was only taking it because I had to, and then I really started to enjoy myself and the information provided. This class radically changed my perspectives on cancer, and it wasn't a super technical class either (so if you're worried about that, don't be.) It was absolutely fantastic, and Joe Lipsick was a great professor and was able to simplify topics so that anyone could understand them, regardless of their science background.
45. I would really recommend this course! Lecture and disucssion are both really thought-provoking and introduce you to the aspects of medicine and disease outside of biology, such as the economics, statistics, and history of it. I learned a lot!
46. You'll learn a lot about cancer (every aspect, from cancer itself to treatment to environmental factors to epigenetics)
47. Great THINK course. I learnt a lot about Cancer, it's causes and the future course of action. Workload is light - a must take.
48. This is a fantastic course that is very well-taught, and I learned so much about not just cancer biology and treatments, but also healthcare economics, media portrayal, and different ethical issues. Overall, I would highly recommend this course because the material is super interesting and the course is very engaging.
49. This is a very interesting course, especially for someone who is interested in medicine. You are presented a variety of perspectives and events with regards to cancer, from the history of radical surgeries, to a patient's story, in The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. I really enjoyed the course and its content.
50. Definitely take it you will find yourself fascinated as you explore the topics covered in this class
51. Apart from the readings, this THINK class is rather manageable! Professor Lipsick's lectures covered a variety of aspects of cancer, and Dr Braun was a great TA for the class. Writing assignments are short and simple, final writing task is worked incrementally over the quarter and is manageable as long as you manage your time well. Overall a great class if you're interested in learning more about cancer and the ethics of medicine, and you don't need to be a biology major to take this (most of the content observes greater trends of cancer and its impact on the world of medicine, and the scientific content was explained really clearly). Remember to pace yourself for the readings which can get pretty intense.
52. The lectures are essential to telling your story about cancer and finishing assignments. They are also a great source of information from an experienced person.
53. You get out of this class what you put in. You can learn a lot if you pay attention and remain involved both in lectures and discussion sections.
54. To help understand the lectures, I would stay on top of the readings. There were great guest speakers that shared wonderful outside perspective on topics we had discussed before.
55. Professor Lipsick is really knowledgable and great
56. This is just so much fun. If you love biology and debating about ethics in the context of research, take this course.

Would you like to provide any other comments about this course?

(12 comments)

1. N/A no further comments.
2. Not too demanding.
3. Thank you!
4. Thank you!
5. NA
6. Amazing course!
7. n/a
8. I absolutely loved it!

9. No.
10. Great way to learn a lot, but hard to stay engaged with lecture.
11. no
12. Thank you for the guidance throughout the quarter and for all the insightful lectures!