

1. Please comment on the individual instructors with regard to effectiveness and attitude toward students:

Strengths

- I really like Joe. He is very personable and clearly really intelligent. He does a great job of connecting science and a broader social perspective. I also loved that he took us into the lab in the med school to look at organs
- He was always enthusiastic.
- fascinating content, reading, and classes! loved the class!
- Very interesting and informative
- Knows a lot was patient
- Prof Lipsick is a chill guy. He presents himself such that he is very approachable even though he is brilliant.
- seemed invested in wanting us to learn
- Even though it was a big lecture, teacher was very involved and students felt comfortable to go up to him and speak
- GREAT attitude towards students :)
- You were always available to answer questions about assignments, and I appreciated that you followed up on anything you couldn't answer in class with an email
- Always made sure people could get their questions answered.
- He was very respectful of his students and wanted his students to learn about cancer and enjoy it
- Good lecturer. Was usually engaged and found the material very interesting. Also knew what he was talking about.
- Knew what he was talking about
- Professor Lipsick is extremely devoted to his students. His work is extremely interesting and he is so willing to share it with us.
- Joe is clearly incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about cancer research and topics surrounding cancer. He is also very friendly and personable when approached one on one, very easy to ask questions to and very good at explaining things.
- Professor Lipsick was very interesting and knew a lot about cancer. Every lecture was exciting and I learned something new each time.
- Great lecturer
- Knowledgeable and efficient
- The guest lecturer for smoking was hilarious.
- Joe clearly knows a ton about cancer and did a good job bestowing some of his knowledge upon us.
- Knowledgeable. Honest. Open to questions
- Awesome.
- Effective instructor, very clear and great sense of (dry) humor.

The guest instructors were ok as well.
- Dr. Lipsick was a great lecturer. Always made his lectures interesting and informative. Appreciated his jokes. Did a good job of explaining the science as well as other aspects of the material.
- Very good lectures. informative and intriguing
- great
- Concise teaching with easy to understand explanations.
- Dr. Lipsick gave good lectures, tying various course topics together to give interesting perspectives at the different facets of cancer. He always encouraged us to think about what we were talking about and come up with our own opinions and understandings.
- Joe Lipsick was an excellent lecturer, always very clear in explanations and often making interesting/witty remarks during lectures.
- The instructor was very efficient in teaching the material and stayed on track making sure to cover everything on the syllabus.
- very nice
- Professor Lipsick was an excellent professor and showed a lot of interest and focus in students and teaching them well
- Excellent Lecturer. Really knowledgeable in his field, and was also super approachable and friendly. Effective communicator

Suggestions for Improvement

- Asked too many questions in lecture.
- None
- It would be great if we were encouraged to speak with Prof Lipsick more often. Knowing how smart and renowned he is, it was a bit intimidating at first to interact with him.
- could have had more engaging lectures

- None
- Maybe focus more in depth on fewer topics.
- N/A
- I think it could have been a little bit more concretely structured. IE having a laid out course plan.
- sometimes it got dull and repetitive and was hard to pay attention
- To focus less on the intense science because that is hard to understand.
- I think at the start of the quarter he may have come across as a bit bored or uninterested because of the way he lectures. It became clear to me after eating lunch with him and getting to know him better that that is the farthest thing from the truth: Joe is incredibly passionate about the topics and cares deeply about us as students. But I think because he is not a "showman" as he said early on, he came across differently at first.
- The projects and sections were less valuable.
- Not very engaging
- The lectures were a bit dry at times and it was easy to zone out and not pay attention.
- More enthusiasm?
- None.
- Lecture was a bit boring at times, but I'm not sure how it could be made 'exciting.'
- None.
- none
- It was very easy to not pay attention in lecture, being guilty myself of losing attention several times. I knew a number of people who were consistently not engaged and working on or doing other things in lecture. It was easy for people to attend but not really gain anything from lecture.
- None.
- The instructor could have a slightly more enthusiastic approach to teaching the students.
- sometimes class was a bit dull
- None
- Ok.

2. Please comment on the strengths and weaknesses, if any, of the textbook(s) and reading(s).

What materials were most and least valuable? Why?

Strengths

- Picked interesting books and articles.
- fascinating reading...at times a bit lengthy but worth it most of the time
- Readings and video clips very interesting
- Sometimes assigned readings and videos were just 100% busy work. Just made me busy but weren't useful at all.
- Henrietta Lacks, journal articles, and emperor of maladies were interesting reads
- Readings were very interesting
- interesting readings
- I really enjoyed the articles we read. They supplemented the books and lectures really nicely.
- A wide variety of interesting readings.
- I really liked the Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks because it provided a personal account of cancer while also addressing the logistical side
- The Emperor of All Maladies was great. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks was sort of boring.
- interesting
- All of the readings were very interesting and pertinent.
- Both of the books were awesome, as were most of the supplementary articles and videos.
- The readings, for the most part, were great. It was fun to read for class, but sometimes I felt like there was an unnecessary amount of reading.
- Great readings & materials
- The readings were pretty great and I actually learned a lot from them. They opened my eyes to different aspects of cancer that I had never previously considered.
- Loved the most of the readings.
- Readings were fantastic and provided depth. I especially loved the fact that optional readings were added for those wanting to delve deeper into concepts.
- Interesting books/readings, I enjoyed the course material
- Both books were good.
- Cool information
- He's pretty funny, which helps
- Very relevant to the class and very interesting
- Emperor of All Maladies was a great reading, very valuable.
- The readings were generally very relevant to the course.
- The readings were very helpful in solidifying the concepts we learned in class. The most valuable of the readings was the Emperor of All Maladies.
- Readings were very interesting

- Great textbooks, really valuable, relevant to course and enjoyable
- Very interesting and thought provoking. Made me think of aspects of the material that I hadn't considered, or even known about before.
- Books were both very good. Readings were interesting and varied.
- I really enjoyed the infographic!

Suggestions for Improvement

- Way too much reading.
- Venngage is a very difficult and ineffective program to use for the final infographic. I suggest using powerpoint and maybe providing some templates, but Venngage is extremely hard to work with, and we spend more time trying to work with the program than to actually prepare the content.
- I would have less an emphasis on emperor of all maladies, while interesting at first it did hold my attention the entire course, probably because of the amount of weeks we spent reading the text
- Way too much reading, much was repetitive/irrelevant it seemed
- Time-consuming reading
- readings were a bit long at the beginning of the quarter
- Emperor jumps around a lot, and was pretty confusing

HeLa had the flaws that were described in that article in week 9. I think it would be nice to discuss that in section earlier.
- Amount of reading per week could be a bit heavy.
- N/A
- they were so long I was unable to finish the books! (with the other classes I was taking, the reading was a lot.)
- Sometimes we were assigned too much reading.
- Emperor of Maladies is a bit long--it was a challenge, at least for me, to get through 100 pages of that book in a week (which we were assigned at least once.) And the week that we had to watch like five videos was also a bit much--too time consuming.
- Too much reading for a thinking matters class.
- I didn't see the point of this class. It was a requirement that entailed getting up early in the morning. Lots of the work was busy work, so I didn't enjoy the class.
- Didn't actually enjoy the HeLa book. It was a bit slow, and after much internal debate, I don't see why the family deserved compensation. But maybe it was a good book after all.
- None.
- None.
- Might want to relate class more to assignments and project
- He gets a little too technical sometimes which is rough for some
- N/A
- There should be more scientific/technical literature that could be assigned for reading, to give students a deeper understanding of many of the course topics.
- Have a better balance of videos and readings.
- Sometimes there were too many readings that you could not appreciate all of them.
- None
- I thought the discussion guides weren't clear connections to the readings. For example, many of my classmates didn't even have to read to do the assignment and I felt like I was wasting my time reading.
- Would be interesting to see contrasting viewpoints on some of the readings

3. Please comment on assignments and exams (difficulty, length, frequency, usefulness, and their success at testing conceptual understanding rather than recall):

Strengths

- I thought discussion guides were well tied into the course content and readings.
- loved the idea of the final project but the final infographic wasn't explained too well at the beginning. working in teams was very hard because not everyone contributed equally and it was hard to tie everything together since everyone had different topics. but besides for that, it was a great way to explore a specific type of cancer and its problem!
- Very helpful in reinstating the material
- Final project was never very clear as to what it would be
- Discussion guides often posed interesting questions
- Assignments were fair and posed interesting questions
- Helped with critical thinking about topics.
- The discussion guides took a good amount of time and really tested our learning. They did a good job of breaking the final project into several steps
- Discussion guides were good.
- Assignments were fair in difficulty.
- The infographic/essay project is a good culmination. But the assignment itself could have been better designed--was a bit confusing what parts were meant to be argumentative or not.

- Assignments did involve critical thinking and gauged our understanding of the material
- Great assignments
- Guides were very though provoking.
- Good assignments. Tested reading and comprehension.
- Assignments were fair.
- Good.
- No exams good assignments
- Fair in difficulty
- Simple but effective assignments that were thought provoking and inspired discussion.
- Assignments were good at shaping our understanding of the readings and ensuring that we understood what was covered.
- No Exams. Assignments were very appropriate in complementing the course topics.
- The assignments were all distributed equally and we had plenty of time to finish each.
- There was no written exam/midterm.
- Assignments were creative and good
- Assignments were very appropriate for the class. Weekly discussion guides were a good way to more deeply understand the material that was discussed in class and section. The final project was informative and fun.
- Assigned readings motivated thought about important topics

Suggestions for Improvement

- I can only come up with so many discussion questions of my own.
- TAs need to be more consistent with their grading. An 8/10 with one TA is equivalent to a 10/10 with another.
- Final project (infographic) very poorly designed... expectations and instructions not clear, hard to understand, very confusing and not sure why this was a relevant project to what we learned in the class
- None
- Maybe more questions but with shorter answers.
- N/A
- No
- Discussion guides were kind of annoying, honestly. If they had been more casual, they might have not been such a pain, but as it was, I felt like I spent a lot of time on them without gaining a whole lot more understanding. I always learned more in section than i did writing on my own.
- Sometimes the assignments were try and tedious.
- Readings and discussions were very time consuming.
- None.
- None.
- The grading on the discussion guides feels pretty arbitrary
- N/A
- Reading guides sometimes seemed a little tedious and/or asking obvious questions that simply generated more work to be done.
- None.
- Have more assignments based on videos.
- Too specific to only one aspect of the readings. Were marked very harshly.
- Improve the final infographic editing software
- Essay and Infographic felt clunky and unnecessary for the course. Did not seem to add anything.

4. Do you have any additional comments on the course over-all?

Strengths

- Interesting course!
- Great course, learned a lot of key things about cancer
- really enjoyed this class
- Really enjoyed guest lectures and outside perspectives
- Very interesting course!
- interesting course!
- Really interesting content, good integration of both science and social science.
- I really enjoyed the course. Thanks for a great year
- This has been an extremely interesting course that taught me a lot about a subject that I knew nothing about before.
- Fun, interesting, engaging course. Learned a lot.
- Make it a little more engaging
- Great and informative course in which sections were really very helpful.
- I really learned a lot. Thank you.
- Fantastic course. You are very well informed and are incredibly passionate about this topic. It was humbling to hear your story about melanoma as well as the guest lecturers. Thanks!

- Very well run course and great instructor!
- Great class overall!
- No.
- Great
- I really felt like I got a lot out of section, but not so much out of lecture.
- Great and fascinating course.
- None.
- This course was very eye opening and showed me different perspectives that make cancer a difficult problem to solve.
- Excellent course, one of my favorite all year and learned very much
- This was my favorite class this year!

Suggestions for Improvement

- Would have loved to have heard Siddharth Mukherjee give a talk about his experiences, etc.
- I would keep it less technical due to the nature of the class
- Could be really interesting/awesome, unfortunately busywork assignments and poorly designed final project provided a worse experience
- None
- N/A
- None
- Assignments weren't the greatest.
- Slides could be a little more visually appealing.
- None.
- None.
- None
- N/A
- None.
- None
- None
- The lectures were compelling and interesting, but seemed disjointed from the rest of the content we were learning about and discussing in section. A suggestion for improvement would be integrating the lectures to the rest of the work more.