

THE CANCER PROBLEM (2016-2017 Spring)

- Instructor: **Lipsick, Joseph**
- Subject: **THINK**
- Catalog & Section: **23 1**

- Enrollment: **93**
- Responses Incl Declines: **85**
- Declines: **1**

Comments

[\(65 comments\)](#)

Q: What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 1 [Economical and political relations to cancer](#)
- 2 [My overall knowledge about cancer and our healthcare system](#)
- 3 [learned good deal about the complexity surrounding cancer](#)
- 4 [Discussion skills](#)
- 5 [I improved on my discussion/presentation skills from section](#)
- 6 [Learned a lot about cancer, how to treat it, targeted therapy, tumors, getting patient consent, HeLa cells](#)
- 7 [Analyze ethics of cancer problems](#)
- 8 [I improved my ability to think critically about issues surrounding cancer.](#)
- 9 [I learned to be skeptical of information I here, to think for myself, and to wait for long term results](#)
- 10 [I learned about all of the issues surrounding cancer including politics, ethics, biology, etc.](#)
- 11 [I improved my critical thinking skills and broadened my views on many controversial issues.](#)
- 12 [I learned more about the evolution of cancer treatment. I was very interested in the politics behind it and the money in it](#)
- 13 [I learned a lot about cancer, but I do not believe that I developed any skills by taking this course.](#)
- 14 [I really learned to be skeptic](#)
- 15 [discussions](#)
- 16 [A lot about cancer and how complicated it is.](#)
- 17 [I learned a lot about many different cancer types and how to properly address the different cancers.](#)
- 18 [I learned a lot about cancer and modern research.](#)
- 19 [I learned a lot about cancer, specifically regarding its history, its causes, and the political issues involved.](#)

Q: What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 20 [I learned about how the discovery of cancer came to be and the ethics behind science/medicine.](#)
- 21 [Interesting to learn about differences between specific cancers and the industry of chemotherapeutic drugs. Was interesting to think about cancers stigma in our culture.](#)
- 22 [All about cancer](#)
- 23 [I learned how cancer is a very complex disease and not as linear as the media may make it appear.](#)
- 24 [I learned a lot about the ethics of cancer, and the implications of it socially and not just scientifically.](#)
- 25 [I learned more about cancer and the factors associated with the disease beyond just scientific terms.](#)
- 26 [I learned to be more aware of the social aspects of medicine and become more curious about its impact on the sciences.](#)
- 27 [I learned how to see the world from a different lense. Discussion allowed me to understand that people come from different backgrounds and that is why they have varying opinions.](#)
- 28 [General knowledge of cancer](#)
- 29 [I learned about how multifaceted the issue of cancer is. There is so much more to study than just the science.](#)
- 30 [I learned how to examine cancer as more than just a scientific disease. There are many aspects of cancer, including economics, treatments, screenings, and disparities.](#)
- 31 [I learned a lot about being able to read data and decipher between causation and correlation.](#)
- 32 [I learned the basic history of cancer and its statistics, ethical and controversial issues, economics, etc.](#)
- 33 [Presentation and analysis of scientific data.](#)
- 34 [think about the different aspects of a single problem](#)
- 35 [I learned a lot about the interconnected complexities of cancer](#)
- 36 [understing of the complexity of cancer as a topic](#)
- 37 [Scientific analysis, ethical discussion, critical thinking](#)
- 38 [I learn about many of the topics surrounding cancer that do not have to do with science. I had always had a scientific perceptive towards cancer, which takes away the human nature of it. That is why I really liked this class.](#)
- 39 [I learned an immense amount of things about cancer](#)
- 40 [I learned about the ethics behind science and medicine as well as various types of cancer and the current drugs used to treat them.](#)
- 41 [Participating in discussions from multiple perspectives.](#)
- 42 [How to look at the presentation of data, such as a chart, and think about what point is trying to be conveyed and how the data might be twisted or scale skewed.](#)

Q: What skills or knowledge did you learn or improve?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- [I learned more about examining statistics about cancer and how they can be manipulated.](#)
- 43 [The fact that survival rates are not the exact opposite of death rates, for example, was something new.](#)
- 44 [Analyzing data/trends, thinking about problems on a larger scale as well as a small one](#)
- 45 [How cancer works and how it effects society](#)
- 46 [Data gathering, critical thinking, morality](#)
- 47 [I learned a lot about the societal side of cancer. Instead of studying cancer biology, we learned more about the ethical, social, and moral issues associated with the disease.](#)
- 48 [discussion skills](#)
- 49 [Ability to think critically about health-related ethical issues](#)
- 50 [I have a deeper knowledge of biomedical ethics and I've improved at the skill of reading quickly for meaning.](#)
- 51 [I learned about the contrasting morals behind cancer: how far can we go "for the sake of science"?](#)
- 52 [I learned a lot about the different types of cancer, the worldwide ethical issues of the disease, and how expensive it is to treat](#)
- 53 [A lot about how to think deeply about one subject](#)
- 54 [over knowledge about history.](#)
- 55 [Think about ethical issues when it comes to research and medicine and my argumentative and communication skills, the economics of drugs, the history of cancer research.](#)
- 56 [I was expecting to learn a lot about the science of cancer which I did. However, I also learned more about the economics and politics of cancer which was a great experience.](#)
- 57 [understanding cancer through a social/ethical lens](#)
- [I have a much deeper understanding of the different aspects of cancer. Whereas before I](#)
- 58 [mostly thought of it as a combination of disease, chemotherapy, and radiation, I now see it as a subject relating to healthcare, politics, economics, and social issues.](#)
- 59 [cancer](#)
- 60 [About how cancer develops and the implications of developing cures](#)
- 61 [Correct use of scientific skepticism, critical thinking about cancer issues beyond purely medical, group work and discussion skills](#)
- 62 [The history of cancer and the misperceptions.](#)
- 63 [I learned how to process information and use that to form my own opinions on matters, such as, in this case, cancer.](#)
- 64 [I improved my ability to lead a discussion section.](#)
- 65 [None](#)

[Open-Ended Questions \(111 comments\)](#)

Q: Were there any topics that we missed or that you would like to have covered in more depth?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 1 [I wish we covered more of the biology behind cancer](#)
- 2 [I felt like we could talk more about the chemical compounds that make up chemo drugs](#)
- 3 [more on the biology of cancer, too focused on ethics](#)
- 4 [I would have liked to learn more about clinical trials not just in humans, but other resources such as animals](#)
- 5 [Feel like we spent a lot of time on ethics, which is good, but in doing so, I don't know if we covered other topics as thoroughly.](#)
- 6 [I wish that a more biological perspective on cancer were covered in the class.](#)
- 7 [No](#)
- 8 [I wish we covered "non-profit" cancer outreaches and what they do](#)
- 9 [Nope](#)
- 10 [Cancer issues around the globe.](#)
- 11 [I believe that all of the topics were covered in depth.](#)
- 12 [I would have liked to explore more of the societal perspective of cancer in today's society.](#)
- 13 [More scientific cutting edge stuff maybe?](#)
- 14 [I feel like the course was very focused on specific cancers. Even though the group projects focus on one cancer, the class should also try and incorporate more types of cancer.](#)
- 15 [None!](#)
- 16 [Race, gender, socioeconomics. Address racism in HeLa!](#)
- 17 [I would have liked to learn more about the current progress in finding a cancer cure.](#)
- 18 [No](#)
- 19 [I wish we would have analyzed cancer across demographics more.](#)
- 20 [No](#)
- 21 [More bio](#)
- 22 [No!](#)
- 23 [I thought that the topics covered in class were widely covered. I do not have anything else in mind that could have been covered.](#)
- 24 [I would have liked a little more coverage of the health care system in the US & the impact of recent developments such as Obama care.](#)
- 25 [No](#)
- 26 [no](#)
- 27 [Nope! Very comprehensive](#)
- 28 [I would like to have a section on personal experiences. Maybe have an interactive learning in lecture. Also, we could also encourage students not only to lead section but lead lecture. This would encourage students to come more often.](#)
- 29 [n/a](#)
- 30 [Main reasons for why cures have not been discovered](#)

Q: Were there any topics that we missed or that you would like to have covered in more depth?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 31 [Maybe we could have talked about international cancer treatments, regulations, and difference more.](#)
- 32 [I wish we had learned more about how the public perception of what cancer is, how it spreads, and how dangerous it is has evolved over time.](#)
- 33 [How we can get involved](#)
[I would have liked to explore the economic side of cancer a little bit more. We talked about it a lot in the last few lectures, but it was very one-sided and it would have been nice to hear the other side of the story \(for example bring in a speaker from a pharmaceutical company to see how they deal with this ethical issue\).](#)
- 34 [I would have liked to explore the economic side of cancer a little bit more. We talked about it a lot in the last few lectures, but it was very one-sided and it would have been nice to hear the other side of the story \(for example bring in a speaker from a pharmaceutical company to see how they deal with this ethical issue\).](#)
- 35 [Nope, a lot was covered!](#)
[I would have liked to discuss the politics and economics of cancer research and treatments more in-depth. We only did a very brief overview of these topics, and I still don't know how funding for research works or where all the money from pink-branded breast cancer awareness products goes, for example. I would have liked to have spent more time on this subject so we could have gone more in-depth.](#)
- 36 [funding for research works or where all the money from pink-branded breast cancer awareness products goes, for example. I would have liked to have spent more time on this subject so we could have gone more in-depth.](#)
- 37 [More case studies \(specific examples\) would help solidify my understanding of another perspective or technique.](#)
- 38 [no](#)
- 39 [Maybe more biology related lectures? But in general, I can't really think of anything I think they were all covered quite well. Perhaps more time could have been spent on the politics of health care in respect to cancer.](#)
- 40 [I think they were all covered quite well. Perhaps more time could have been spent on the politics of health care in respect to cancer.](#)
- 41 [no](#)
- 42 [I think it would have been interesting to look at cancer in countries outside of the U.S. It would be interesting to do an in-depth exploration of healthcare disparities pertaining to identities beyond race, gender, and socioeconomic status \(e.g. sexual orientation, domestic vs. foreign\).](#)
- 43 [identities beyond race, gender, and socioeconomic status \(e.g. sexual orientation, domestic vs. foreign\).](#)
- 44 [no](#)
- 45 [More of the business side of the cancer problem](#)
- 46 [I thought all topics were well-balanced and covered](#)
- 47 [International cancer.](#)
- 48 [No.](#)
- 49 [I was really hoping you were going to talk in depth about cancer itself but this was more of an overview a very broad overview](#)

Q: From which readings did you learn the most? The least?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 1 [The most: Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#)
[The least: some of the articles](#)
- 2 [I like the articles the best](#)

Q: Were there any topics that we missed or that you would like to have covered in more depth?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 3 [the emperor of all maladies was great](#)
- 4 [I learned more from emperor of all maladies, however I also learned a lot of clinical trials and informed consent from ILHL](#)
- 5 [I learned the most from henrietta lacks. Learned the least from the readings we had during the week without a discussion guide.](#)
- 6 [Learned from the book Henrietta Lacks the most. Mostly because it was easier & more fun to read than the Emperor of All Maladies](#)
- 7 [I learned the most about cancer from the articles selected. However, I feel that some of the books could have been approached in ways that better contribute to understanding of cancer rather than analysis of text.](#)
- 8 [I think the Newspaper articles were always extremely informative. I found that the opinion pieces were especially interesting and made me think the most.](#)
- 9 [The learned the most from the Emperor of All Maladies \(even though it was a lot of info\) and I am glad I read it. I found it very interesting. I learned the least from a couple of the articles.](#)
- 10 [I learned most from the articles about court cases/ ethical disputes.](#)
- 11 [Emperor of all Maladies- great overview of cancer and its history](#)
- 12 [I learned the most from The Emperor of All Maladies, and learned the least from the Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.](#)
- 13 [I really liked the books, some of the articles seemed a little off](#)
- 14 [most: the emperor of all maladies](#)
- 15 [Most from the Immortal Life book. I learned the least from a few of the lengthier articles.](#)
- 16 [I learned the most from the articles because they were short and to the point. I learned decently large amount from all of the readings!](#)
- 17 [I learned the most from reading many of the assigned articles and from Skloot's book. I probably learned the least from Mukherjee's book. Although I found it interesting, it was hard to keep track of the names and get through that much text.](#)
- 18 [I learned the most from the books assigned especially The Emperor of Malice.](#)
- 19 [I feel like I learned something different from each reading!](#)
- 20 [Learned most from Emperor of All Maladies and Henrietta Lacks](#)
- 21 [The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#)
- 22 [I really loved the Henrietta Lacks book. It was a perfect combination of personable and scientific. Emperor of all maladies was less of a book and more of a textbook, but I did learn a lot from it.](#)
- 23 [I learned the most from Emperor and HeLa, often didnt do extra article readings. too much assigned reading](#)
- 24 [I liked the Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks the most in addition to some articles. I liked The Emperor of All Maladies the least.](#)

Q: Were there any topics that we missed or that you would like to have covered in more depth?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 25 [I learned most from the short articles since they were the most interesting, engaging, and easy to read.](#)
- 26 [I learned a lot from the Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. Some of the other assigned readings were not relevant.](#)
- 27 [The articles the most, Henrietta Lacks the least](#)
[I learned the most from The Emperor of All Maladies, but I enjoyed reading The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks more. The supplemental weekly readings were more effective when they were short and digestible. Some of the longer articles were difficult to navigate and didn't give as much insight.](#)
- 29 [Emperor was great](#)
- 30 [I learned a lot from the readings about e-cigarettes. I did not really know much about them and this was really helpful.](#)
[The main two books - The Emperor of All Maladies and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - helped me learn the most as well as a few articles. Some of the other articles, however, I felt didn't help me.](#)
- 31 [Most - Emperor of all Maladies.](#)
- 32 [Least - Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.](#)
- 33 [I enjoyed the articles the most](#)
- 34 [I learned the most from the book, Emperor of all Maladies](#)
- 35 [The most useful information from articles; the most interesting/unusual information from the books](#)
- 36 [Henrietta Lacks](#)
- 37 [I learnt the most about e-cigarretes. I learnt least about death rates misconceptions.](#)
- 38 [I just think that there was a little too much reading in general](#)
- 39 [Most: Henrietta Lacks](#)
[Least: The Emperor of All Maladies](#)
[Most: Emperor of all Maladies](#)
- 40 [Least: Some short news articles that reported on the problem but didn't explain why it was happening](#)
- 41 [I liked the short articles the most. I wasn't able to complete the long readings often because they were so long and took a long time, although I did like the books.](#)
[I learned more from "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" than from "The Emperor of All Maladies". "Emperor" was interesting, but the discussions that the HeLa cells brought up \(morality of taking cells, who should have ownership of cells\) were more lively.](#)
- 42 [I learned the most from the readings about cancer drugs and cancer disparities. I learned the least from readings that focused more on history.](#)
- 43 [I learned a lot from the Henrietta Lacks book and the articles. Some of the videos/audio clips I didn't learn too much from](#)
- 44 [HeLa](#)
- 45

Q: Were there any topics that we missed or that you would like to have covered in more depth?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 46 [I didn't have time to do all the readings because I took way too many units this quarter, but I really liked HeLa and Maladies. The readings were a lot, but they were both really interesting and I wanted to read them.](#)
- 47 [Emperor of all Maladies](#)
- 48 [Most = The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#)
- [Least = some of the additional readings](#)
- [Most: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, The Emperor of All Maladies](#)
- 49 [Least: We often had multiple news articles about the same topics and themes, and one would have sufficed.](#)
- 50 [The books were definitely the most useful; the videos were nice to watch, but the videos in the latter half seem to not be useful.](#)
- 51 [I learned the most from the articles rather than from the book. I guess I can say that, even though I learned from the books, they did not necessarily help me think as critically as the articles did.](#)
- 52 [The Emperor of All Maladies](#)
- [I liked The Emperor of All Maladies and many of the articles we read \(particularly on ethics and social aspects of cancer\), but was not a huge fan of The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#)
- 54 [I really enjoyed The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. I also liked the stories of people in the Emperor, but parts of the Emperor got very science based and it got hard to read.](#)
- 55 [I learned a lot from both books; they were both well worth my time. The articles were always interesting as well. I think that the readings in this class were all well-selected.](#)
- 56 [emperor of maladies](#)
- 57 [idk](#)
- [Emperor of all Maladies provided the most historical information; Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks 'humanized' the cancer problem and provided great information on ethics in medicine](#)
- 59 [The least from Henrietta Lacks. Definitely the most from Emperor of All Maladies.](#)
- 60 [Henrietta Lacks-most](#)
- 61 [I learned the most from The Cancer Problem.](#)
- 62 [most: breast cancer diagnosis](#)
- [Least: emperor of all maladies](#)

[\(59 comments\)](#)

Q: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 1 [Read the books and actually think about the discussion guides since that will enhance the section discussions](#)
- 2 [Take it but its a lot of reading](#)
- 3 [Great think class](#)
- 4 [The course contains a lot of reading however the material is interesting.](#)
[Great class. Very interesting topic. The class can be whatever you make out of it. If you really want to learn a lot, the lectures teach a lot. If you don't care that much, the lectures arent useful to your success in the class so you really don't need to go. The homeworks dont take too long unless you really want to read the entire amount](#)
- 5 [Class is really interesting. Discussion is especially great & you learn so much from your classmates and from the materials presented. Quite a bit of reading](#)
[This class does require significantly more work than other THINK courses, so be wary about taking this class with other difficult classes. Be sure to spend time on the discussion guides, as they are often very detailed and require you to find information buried in the texts. The information overall is quite captivating, and I hope that they shift the focus towards more of a scientific approach to cancer in the future. The section leaders are your best resource in the class, and my TF was very helpful with any questions I had.](#)
- 6 [If you need to satisfy AQR or SMA but are not incredibly sciency, this is the course for you. I do feel as though the writing component of the course was a joke and did not think it was worth my time in that regard but learned a lot of interesting things I would have never learned otherwise. Overall, I'm glad I took this class.](#)
- 7 [Lectures are not required but I find them very interesting](#)
- 8 [It is more of a medical ethics course that a course about the scientific aspects of cancer.](#)
- 9 [As far as THINK courses go, I would say this is one of the better ones. The material is fascinating and the readings are very accessible.](#)
- 10 [it feels a lot like a high school class, like they hold your hand through a lot of it. Just do the assignments and readings and have fun](#)
- 11 [go to lecture](#)
- 12 [This is a great class. Very interesting & well organized.](#)
- 13 [It's very fun and interesting.](#)
- 14 [It is a decent amount of work, but you will learn to love it and it is graded kind of harshly so be careful.](#)
- 15 [It is a good and interesting class. Since you have to take Think you might as well take this one.](#)
[I would highly recommend this course. This originally wasn't the THINK class I was enrolled in, but I believe that choosing this class was the best academic decision I made spring quarter.](#)
- 16 [TAKE THIS CLASS!!! Fun and interesting, the work doesn't feel like work, super fun and useful](#)
- 17

Q: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 20 [The course is good and provides a lot of real-world applications, by bringing in speakers and visiting the pathology lab.](#)
- 21 [The class is very interesting. Take it if you are genuinely interested in learning more about cancer, even beyond just the biology of the disease. This class does require a fair amount of reading and writing.](#)
- 22 [This is an incredibly engaging and interesting course. It may seem like there is a lot of reading, but they end up not being so bad as time goes on. You learn about all the different aspects of cancer, not only the biology.](#)
- 23 [You will get out of it only as much as you put in.](#)
- 24 [This think class is a pretty good one. The material is interesting, and the work load is manageable. There is a lot to do at some points in the quarter, but for the most part it's easy to manage everything.](#)
- 25 [Really chill class, what every THINK should be](#)
- 26 [This course will make you think about all the different aspects of cancer that make it such a complicated disease. You also will learn how we can move towards solutions in dealing with cancer.](#)
- 27 [This course is probably more work than other THINK courses, but it is really worthwhile! I learned a lot and the work went by quickly because it is really interesting.](#)
- 28 [Do the readings and pay attention in class. The concepts and topics that are gone over this class are very quite interesting.](#)
- 29 [I enjoyed learning about cancer. That is proof of how well the class is structured.](#)
- 30 [Do it! Not much work and really interesting.](#)
- 31 [The class has too much busy work.](#)
- 32 [the essay is a great way to learn more about the topic you are interested in, so choose the topic carefully](#)
- 33 [Take it if you're interested in a broader view of cancer than just the cellular level!](#)
- 34 [I highly recommend this class](#)
- 35 [Fascinating course and great instructor---but a lot of work.](#)
- 36 [This course covers all of the basics about and some very interesting social/political implications of the cancer problem. Very interesting course!](#)
- 37 [Joe's lectures are incredible. His blending of cancer knowledge, economics, current events, and public figures is fascinating and engaging. Overall the course teaches you a lot about cancer. But there is a lot of reading](#)
- 38 [This is a really interesting, low-work class. It can get a little overwhelming if you wait until the end of the week to do the reading assignments, but if you start them early you can get them out of the way without being too stressed. Some lectures have a lot of very specific information about the mechanisms of certain drugs/cancers that might go in one ear and out of the other, but the books we read and the discussions about the readings were really interesting. Prof/TA's are easy to talk to and care about students. I learned more from "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" than from "The Emperor of All Maladies". "Emperor"](#)

Q: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- [was interesting, but the discussions that the HeLa cells brought up \(morality of taking cells, who should have ownership of cells\) were more lively.](#)
- 39 [Definitely take it! Very interesting and offers information that everyone should know, especially those considering a medical profession.](#)
- 40 [This class was my favorite class I've taken so far. The lectures are interesting and connect the cultural concepts from the reading to scientific concepts. You will learn so much about medicine, cancer, and ethics.](#)
- 41 [Very interesting class, well taught. Awesome professor and TA](#)
- [I would highly recommend this class if you are interested in biology or medicine. It's a fair amount of work with the readings, but it's really interesting and if you do the readings then you get a lot out of it \(although I think you can definitely getting away with not reading absolutely everything\).I would have liked to explore the economic side of cancer a little bit more. We talked about it a lot in the last few lectures, but it was very one-sided and it would have been nice to hear the other side of the story \(for example bring in a speaker from a pharmaceutical company to see how they deal with this ethical issue\).](#)
- 42 [Great course! Lots of reading, but it's usually pretty interesting and not an unreasonable amount.](#)
- 43 [I would choose a different Think class unless you want to fulfill a science ways requirement without doing any actually science. The lectures were rather simplistic and never went into as much detail as I had hoped for. The most interesting topics, the politics and economics of cancer, are relegated only to one lecture each.I would have liked to discuss the politics and economics of cancer research and treatments more in-depth. We only did a very brief overview of these topics, and I still don't know how funding for research works or where all the money from pink-branded breast cancer awareness products goes, for example. I would have liked to have spent more time on this subject so we could have gone more in-depth.](#)
- 44 [An interesting class if you are "new" to the world of cancer.](#)
- 45 [Very interesting class; you learn a great deal about cancer, and it is a very engaging class.](#)
- 46 [it is a very interesting course if you are interested in cancer. On the downside, there is a substantial amount of reading required.](#)
- 47 [Honestly, take it. I learned a lot of things that are important to know and consider, regardless of your field, but specially if you want to go to medicine and research.](#)
- 48 [It's a great think, with not that much work.](#)
- 49 [Great class!](#)
- 50 [take it! provided a new context and perspective to understand cancer](#)
- 51 [I would highly recommend this class! The readings may take a while, but it is really worth your time to go through them carefully because you will learn a lot and enjoy the course more. This is definitely one of the best Thinking Matters classes, especially if you are pre-med.I have a much deeper understanding of the different aspects of cancer. Whereas before I mostly thought of it as a combination of disease, chemotherapy, and radiation, I now see it as a subject relating to healthcare, politics, economics, and social issues.](#)
- 52

Q: What would you like to say about this course to a student who is considering taking it in the future?

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 53 [good](#)
- 54 [You will learn a lot about cancer which is great, but the hw is annoying](#)
[Really excellent course; probably one of the best Think classes out there \(especially for](#)
55 [someone with a busy schedule\). Exposes you to a vast amount of information and](#)
[perspectives on the cancer problem. Really interesting and fun class with a very reasonable](#)
[workload! Take it!](#)
- 56 [It's great. Not too much work but a lot of learning, both material and insight.](#)
- 57 [It's very interesting!! I would definitely recommend. It makes you reflect on a lot of things in](#)
[daily life as well.](#)
- [There is a lot of reading and writing each week. Having a basic background in science meant](#)
58 [that most of the learning goals and content were not new to me. Also, The first draft of the](#)
[final essay is worth 12% of the grade, which is ridiculous.](#)
- 59 [This class is a joke.](#)

[\(34 comments\)](#)

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

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 1 [None](#)
- 2 [It's exceptional in the way it presents a rather depressing topic in a very interesting and](#)
[exciting manner.](#)
- 3 [No](#)
- 4 [no](#)
[I would say to make the lectures needed to help me succeed in the class. Since they aren't](#)
5 [required and there aren't any tests, I had no incentive to go to lectures. The sections were](#)
[great, but lectures were not important / useful to me](#)
- 6 [no](#)
- 7 [Learned about interesting topics that I did even think would be covered in the course--but I](#)
[am glad I did.](#)
- 8 [All is good](#)
- 9 [I love how enthusiastic, kind, and helpful all of the instructors were!](#)
- 10 [Take it if you are interested in public health, medicine, bioethics, etc.](#)
[Since it is a thinking matters course, I do feel as though there should have been more of a](#)
11 [stress on the writing component. Also, your rough draft should NOT be worth 12% of your](#)
[final grade; it is a writing class and you should have room for improvement and not have to](#)
[worry about your rough draft seriously impacting your final grade.](#)
- 12 [Very informative](#)
- 13 [Great class. I really appreciate Dr. Lipsick offering faculty lunches, teaching section at the](#)
[med school, and being one of the most engaged professors I've interacted with.](#)

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

(ONLY SHOWING FIRST 30 RESPONSES [CLICK HERE TO VIEW FIRST 30 RESPONSES](#))

- 14 [Joe Lipsick is an awesome lecturer and very knowledgeable](#)
- 15 [Loved the class!](#)
- 16 [no](#)
[The lectures were honestly a waste of time. Attendance at lectures was about 30-40% of the total course enrollment, and I heard the instructors planning to solve that problem by making attendance mandatory. That's an inadequate solution. The root cause is that the lectures just aren't very interesting -- they give a general overview of the topics, at best, and often merely re-hash the reading without providing new insights. I felt that I learned a lot in my discussion](#)
- 17 [section, but not in lecture. This component of the course needs to be revamped because I found it quite disappointing. All of my other lectures have been so engaging that I looked forward to going to them. This one, I did not. I felt like I was in high school again, waiting for the bell to ring so I could be done with this class for the day -- not a student at Stanford University. This class falls below the standard of excellence I've come to expect from my other classes.](#)
- 18 [The lab section was really cool!](#)
- 19 [nope](#)
- 20 [Saumya is an absolutely incredible TA, truly a talented instructor and always a pleasure to be around.](#)
- 21 [Professor Lipsick is fantastic! I thoroughly enjoyed his lectures and wish I'd had more interactions with him.](#)
- 22 [no](#)
- 23 [Thank you for running a great class!](#)
- 24 [no](#)
- 25 [none](#)
- 26 [One of my favorite courses so far at Stanford; much appreciation to Prof. Lipsick and the teaching staff](#)
- 27 [Sometimes I feel that lecture can be repetitive.](#)
- 28 [nope](#)
- 29 [No](#)
[The canvas page was not organized very well and it took a really long time to figure out](#)
- 30 [where everything we needed was. I still don't think I understand everything about the page. It could be structured better for future classes.](#)
- 31 [I liked how this was a fun class where I could explore something I'm tangentially interested in without being rigorous and demanding](#)
- 32 [Change the weight of the first draft of the final essay. 12% is way too high.](#)
- 33 [Professor Lipsick was a very knowledgeable lecturer and communicated ideas and information about cancer very effectively.](#)
- 34 [Really eye-opening and enjoyable!](#)