

Term Spring 2021 **Course** HUMS 411 02 - Life Worth Living **Primary Dept** HUMS **Primary Division** Humanities **Enrolled:** 13
Responded: 11

Instructors
 Blake-Turner, Joanna (P)

#1-a Which of the following best describes your mode of learning in this course?

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 0

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average 3.6 ±0.8 **Dept** 3.6 ±1.2 **Div** 3.4 ±1.7 **School** 3.0 ±1.9

Choice Label	Counts
recorded lecture	0
live virtual lecture	2
in-person lecture	0
virtual seminar or other discussion format	9
in-person seminar or other discussion format	0
virtual lab	0
in-person lab	0
other or multiple (please describe below)	0

#1-b Please list any other mode of learning, including any combination or variation of the above options.

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 7

Respondent	Answer
1488405	None other
1496690	n/a
1497909	only the one listed above
1508659	Recorded lecture.

#2 What knowledge, skills, and insights did you develop by taking this course?

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 4

Respondent	Answer
1488405	An overview of the meaning of Life according to some important traditions like Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Utilitarianism, Individualism, etc.
1496690	I learned about various texts that aid the creation of a strong life worth living.
1496796	I learned a lot about the way different traditions and philosophies regard what makes life worth living.
1497909	learned a lot about myself as well as got a great overview of a bunch of different religions and traditions
1498108	I learnt about various faiths and ways of thinking about life. Moreover, I had the opportunity to learn about my peers' views of what a life worth living is, whilst reflecting on the question on my own throughout the semester.
1498525	Life Worth Living is a great survey of a ton of different traditions. I really enjoyed learning about them because there were some I was unfamiliar with and some I was familiar with, but I learned a ton of new information about (ex. Christianity). You will learn a ton and read some very interesting readings, the best readings I've had at Yale so far. It really makes you think. I loved the class because of the wild stuff I learned and how I could apply it to my life.
1508659	LWL is basically a survey course of major world religions / belief systems, which is super cool. You ask yourself the BIG question, which is, "what do I want do with my life?" The answer, you'll probably find, is "definitely not what I'm doing now." You'll confront death every day, which is wild, but worth confronting.

#3 Your level of engagement with the course was:

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average

4.2 ±1.0

Dept

3.9 ±1.0

Div

4.0 ±0.9

School

3.7 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
very low	0
low	1
medium	1
high	3
very high	5

#4 What are the strengths and weaknesses of this course and how could it be improved?

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 3

Respondent	Answer
1488405	Strengths: does a very good job introducing students to some important traditions and religions. Participation and engagement are high in the small group sections. Actually tries to help students improve their life -- which is not something that many (if any) other classes at Yale do. Readings are manageable and almost always interesting. Papers are short and pleasant to write. Weaknesses: none really!
1495416	Incredible class, no suggestions
1496690	The course is really individualized and caters to the needs of the students!
1496796	Strengths: everything. Weaknesses: none.
1497909	loved the prof and the readings we did. discussions were great.
1498108	This course is brilliant! I needed to reflect on my Yale experience and my vision of a life worth living before graduating. This class was wonderful for both introspection and personal growth.
1498525	Strengths: Unbelievably good readings! I usually hate readings but I actually did them for this class because I loved them so much. We had really cool conversations in a really safe space. Most importantly, Joanna was a strength. A wonderful professor who put so much time into making the class tick. Trust me, you want her as a professor. Weaknesses: None?
1508659	The course is more or less one belief system per week. Some are weird: why did we go so hard for Nietzsche? Even though it's a survey, it could cover a bit more ground. Like, why don't we cover any of the Global South? Or any Indigenous belief systems? Definitely a Euro-centric course, and people outside of the West live lives worth living.

#5 Among the practices in this course geared toward learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, which succeeded and which could be improved? Please comment on course practices that allowed for virtual engagement.

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 6

Respondent	Answer
1488405	My section leader was the best (extremely dynamic, open, funny) which greatly improved engagement and participation in our live Zoom sessions. I don't think the class would have been nearly as enjoyable without her. She managed to make virtual sessions both intimate and engaging.
1496690	The level of engaging the students in the material succeeded during COVID.
1496796	Making the course seminar-only (in terms of what was required) was very useful in not overburdening students with online videos and lectures to watch.
1497909	n/a
1498525	Classic Zoom seminar format. Not as fun as in person, but it was engaging so people weren't losing interest and texting all class. So it worked well.

#6 What is your overall assessment of this course?

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average

4.8 ±0.4

Dept

4.3 ±0.8

Div

4.2 ±1.0

School

3.9 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
poor	0
fair	0
good	0
very good	2
excellent	8

#7 The course was well organized to facilitate student learning.

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average
4.8 ±0.6

Dept
4.3 ±0.8

Div
4.2 ±0.9

School
4.0 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	0
neutral	1
agree	0
strongly agree	9

#8 I received clear feedback that improved my learning.

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average

4.6 ±0.7

Dept

4.3 ±0.8

Div

4.2 ±0.9

School

3.8 ±1.1

Choice Label	Counts
strongly disagree	0
disagree	0
neutral	1
agree	2
strongly agree	7

#9 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the level of intellectual challenge of this course was:

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average

2.3 ±1.1

Dept

2.8 ±1.0

Div

3.2 ±0.9

School

3.3 ±0.9

Choice Label	Counts
much less	3
less	2
same	4
greater	1
much greater	0

#10 Relative to other courses you have taken at Yale, the workload of this course was:

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Average and Standard Deviation

Question Average

2.1 ±0.9

Dept

2.5 ±1.1

Div

3.1 ±1.0

School

3.1 ±1.0

Choice Label	Counts
much less	3
less	3
same	4
greater	0
much greater	0

#11 Would you recommend this course to another student? Please explain.

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 1

Respondent	Answer
1486093	100% yes. Especially for second semester seniors.
1488405	YES YES YES! Of course, this is a fairly easy class and the workload is very manageable. However, it is truly interesting and educational. You will learn about traditions and religions that you might know very much about, and this will help you understand the world and the people around you better. It might also help you figure out the meaning of your own life (that in and of itself should be reason enough to convince you!).
1495416	Yes. Great class. You learn a lot about yourself.
1496690	I'd recommend this course to anyone who wants to learn more about various cultural and religious norms for a better life.
1496796	Absolutely! If you want to get some insight about what other people and traditions think makes life worth living, and if you want to discuss these ideas in a safe space with other curious students, I highly recommend this course.
1497909	yes. chill course and fun cuz u get to look back and reflect on Yale, life, yourself
1498108	I would most definitely recommend this class to another student! A must take for any senior before graduation.
1498525	Yes!! Totally! Apply and then email the professors to get on the waitlist if you don't get in (that's how I got in!) Best class decision I've ever made. Really commit yourself to the class and it will be worth it. The readings are excellent and you'll get a lot out of the class if you read them and participate. Totally recommend this. A good example of a gut that is worth your time.
1502570	yes
1508659	Yes! Try to get into it if you can when else will you have a space dedicated to figuring out your life? It obviously depends on who the instructor is, and I have only good things to say about the genius Joanna Lawson.

#12 Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor. In what ways was their teaching effective and in what ways could their teaching be improved?

Instructor: Blake-Turner, Joanna

Declined to Answer Question: 2

Respondent	Answer
1486093	Joanna is wonderful. She is a gem of an instructor!
1488405	Joanna made the world of a difference in my experience in this class. I don't think our (virtual) sessions would have been nearly as intimate, engaging and interesting without her. She was dynamic, funny and sweet. Her amazing personality greatly facilitated the high engagement and participation level of all students in our section. We managed to become close as a group despite the Zoom setting. I think we all learned a lot from her and from each other, and all grew a lot personally though the semester. I am so grateful I randomly chose Joanna's section because she helped make this class one of the highlights of my semester!
1495416	One of the best instructors I've ever had in terms of facilitating learning and nurturing personal relationships.
1496690	She really cared about her students and really tried to make the class engaging!
1496796	Strengths: Joanna was incredibly approachable, kind, understanding, engaging, fun, and just overall amazing. Weaknesses: None. At all. Seriously.
1497909	really fun and very receptive to class feedback
1498108	Joanna was truly a joy! She gave us the opportunity to reflect and work through difficult questions in class. Most importantly, she created such a welcoming space, one in which we could get vulnerable and share our experiences with our peers. I always felt comfortable sharing deeply personal information and that was because of her kind, empathetic nature.
1498525	Strengths: She did a good job of creating a warm and safe environment. She always spoke with us honestly about her life, which made it easier for us to speak about ours. She also clearly put a ton of time into the class, creating examples, etc. So thank you! Weakness: n/a
1508659	Joanna is an excellent instructor who is as insightful as she is genuinely kind. Joanna was flexible in her teaching while also setting high bars for her students.

