ECON 190
ECONOMICS OF SPORTS
SPRING 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Christina DePasquale
Rich Memorial Building
Office: 320
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TEACHING ASSISTANT: Macgregor Wiener
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CLASS MEETING TIMES: MWF- 9:00-9:50AM Candler Library 114
MWF- 12:00-12:50PM Callaway Center S105

OFFICE HOURS:
Mondays and Wednesdays 1-3PM & by appointment

RECOMMENDED TEXT: Sports Economics by Roger D. Blair

FINAL EXAM DATES: 9AM Section: Monday, May 2, 11:30AM-2:00PM
12PM Section: Thursday, April 28, 3:00PM-5:30PM

PURPOSE OF COURSE:
The purpose of this course is to critically examine the sports industry through the lens of microeconomic principles. This will include learning how to read academic articles, collecting and analyzing data, and relating academic articles and current events in the sports industry to the microeconomic models learned in class. Among the topics we will cover include: sports leagues, revenue sharing, ticket pricing, salary negotiations, cheating, discrimination, and NCAA policies to name a few. Throughout the semester our understanding of the business of professional and amateur sports will be improved as will our understanding of microeconomics and the ability to evaluate evidence and build arguments based on material learned in class.

ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES:
This course is an evidence-focused first-year seminar. In this regard, many of your assignments will be focused on developing the skills necessary to effectively build and support (or challenge) an argument, theory, or claim. Specifically, this course will meet the following objectives:

1.) Distinguish uses of evidence in or between disciplines.
2.) Access, locate, identify, and analyze evidence.
3.) Evaluate evidence.
4.) Build arguments based on primary evidence and assess the arguments of others.

These objectives will be met throughout the semester through a variety of activities and assignments, which are described below.
ACADEMIC ARTICLES AND CLASS DISCUSSIONS:
Academic articles from leading economics journals will be assigned approximately every week (the readings can be found in the course pack). These articles will cover various topics related to the class and are meant to provoke discussion. We will discuss the assigned articles on Fridays and students are expected to come to class having already read the article and prepared for discussion.

*Leading a class discussion:*
Groups of 2-4 students will be assigned weekly to “lead” the class discussion. That is, those in charge of leading the discussion will be expected to summarize the article and relate the article to topics discussed in the class as well as prepare questions that challenge the findings in the paper and also encourage discussion. I will lead the first discussion myself on Friday, January 29 and will provide an example for going forward. Each student must lead two class discussions during the semester. Leading a class discussion will be worth 10 points each time.

*Academic Article Questions:*
One question on each homework assignment as well as on each exam will ask you to defend or argue a position citing information from the academic articles covered in class. As we conclude a topic or section of the course, we will practice example article questions.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
Homework assignments will be posted on blackboard at least 1 week before the assignment is due. These problem sets are graded for accuracy and are worth 10 points each. As mentioned, each assignment will also include an “article question.” These questions will be graded based on the level and strength of support and accuracy of the citations used in developing the argument. You may work with other students in the class but are required to submit your own assignment at the beginning of class.

EXAMS
There will be two short exams given during the semester (30 points each) as well as one final exam (50 points). The short exams will be during the regularly scheduled class time and will be designed to take between 40-45 minutes. The final exam will be given at the scheduled exam time as determined by the university (see below). This final exam will be designed to take approximately 90 minutes. The exam will be cumulative but will be weighted more towards the material covered after quiz #2.

EXAMINATION DATES
The exam schedule is as follows:

Exam 1: Monday, February 15
Exam 2: Monday, March 21
Final Exam (Cumulative): 9AM Section: Monday, May 2, 11:30AM-2:00PM
12PM Section: Thursday, April 28, 3:00PM-5:30PM
RESEARCH IDEA PAPER/PROPOSAL:
During the semester you will get a diverse flavor of different sports economics research papers. You will be asked to think of an economics question in the topic of sports and to begin the process of writing a research paper. To facilitate the progress of a successful and thoughtful paper, it will be developed over four separate assignments and frequent feedback will be given after each assignment is completed. The four assignments are:

1.) Generating a research question and explaining why it is important and how it relates to economic theory.
2.) Identifying and analyzing the related literature to your research question and explaining how your question is different and will add to the literature.
3.) Identifying and collecting data that will help answer your research question.
4.) A complete paper that incorporates assignments 1, 2, and 3. This completed paper should provide a preliminary analysis and evaluation of the data, as well as directions for further research.

You will receive detailed instructions later in the semester on due dates and expectations. The completed paper will be due on the last day of class, Monday, April 25.

As an additional resource, during the first month of class, Chris Palazzolo, the head of data collection at Woodruff Library, will give a presentation on conducting research and data collection at the library.

COURSE GRADE:

Exams 1 and 2: 30 points each
Final Exam: 50 points
Research Idea Paper: 80 Points
  • Early Stage Assignments (3): 10 points each
  • Final Draft: 50 points
Leading class discussions (2): 10 points each
Homework Assignments (3): 10 points each

Total: 250 points

The final grade distribution will follow the recommended guidelines for BBA elective courses set forth by Emory:

A- and above: not to exceed 40% of the class
B-, B, B+: not to exceed 50% of the class
C+ or below: at least 10% of the class
LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSING EXAMS:

*Homework*
All homework assignments are required to be turned in by the beginning of the class period on the due date. If you plan to be absent, you may email me your assignment, but it must be in my inbox by the start of the class period. No late assignments will be accepted.

*Research Idea Paper*
Similar to the homework, early assignments related to the paper are required to be turned in by the beginning of the class period on the due date. If you plan to be absent, you may email me your assignment, but it must be in my inbox by the start of the class period. No late assignments will be accepted.

The final paper is due Monday, April 25 at the beginning of class or must be in my email inbox by the start of the class period. Each day the paper is late, 10 points will be deducted from the grade.

*Exams*
Exams 1 and 2 as well as the final exam may not be made up or taken at a different time except for valid excuse verified by the Dean’s Office in White Hall, Office 300. Missed exams with no valid and verified excuse will result in a zero for that exam. Please note that previously scheduled travel is not a valid excuse.

Additional Administrative Information
Information from the Office for Undergraduate Education
- The Office for Undergraduate Education (OUE) central office is located in White Hall 300
- Please visit or call 404.727.6069 with questions about academic affairs, concerns or policies.
- All Emory College of Arts and Sciences policies may be found in the College Catalog: College Policies

Academic Advising and Class Deans
If you have any academic concerns or questions about Emory College of Arts and Sciences policies, you should first meet with an OUE academic adviser. If an academic adviser is unavailable to meet with you, you may meet with an OUE dean during open hours.
- OUE Academic Adviser appointments: Visit White Hall 300 or call 404.727.6069
- Deans’ Open Hours: http://college.emory.edu/home/administration/office/undergraduate/hours.html

Academic Support
There are a range of resources available to Emory undergraduates designed to enrich each student’s educational experience.
- Visit http://college.emory.edu/advising for a list of support programs and appointment directions
**Important Spring Semester Dates**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 12th</td>
<td>First day of Classes – Emory College, Business School</td>
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<td>Monday, January 18th</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – University closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 19th</td>
<td>Last Day for Schedule Changes (Drop/Add)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 28th</td>
<td>Last Day for Grading Basis changes (4:00 p.m.) [Letter Grade-Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory] (L/G - S/U)</td>
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<td>Friday, January 29th</td>
<td>Deadline for Completion of Incomplete Work</td>
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<td>Friday, February 5th</td>
<td>Degree Applications Due in College Office by 4PM</td>
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<td>Summer school pre-registration begins at 7:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, March 4th</td>
<td>Last Day to Withdraw without penalty</td>
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<td>March 7-11</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, March 28th</td>
<td>Pre-registration begins for Seniors for Fall 2016 (75+ hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 1st</td>
<td>Late withdrawal deadline for first-year students-one time partial withdrawal</td>
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<td>Monday, April 18th</td>
<td>ADD/DROP/SWAP opens for Fall 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, April 25th</td>
<td>Last Day of Classes, UCOL, UBUS, LGS</td>
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<td>April 26-May 6th</td>
<td>Final Exams for Emory College, Business School</td>
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<td>Monday, May 9th</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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**Access and Disability Resources**

Students with medical/health conditions that might impact academic success should visit Access, Disability Services and Resources (ADSR formerly the Office of Disability Services, ODS) to determine eligibility for appropriate accommodations. Students who receive accommodations must present the Accommodation Letter from ADSR to your professor at the beginning of the semester, or when the letter is received.

**HONOR CODE**

*The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher’s instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.*

Upon every individual who is a part of Emory University falls the responsibility for maintaining in the life of Emory a standard of unimpeachable honor in all academic work. The Honor Code of Emory College is based on the fundamental assumption that every loyal person of the University not only will conduct his or her own life according to the dictates of the highest honor, but will also refuse to tolerate in others action which would sully the good name of the institution. Academic misconduct is an offense generally defined as any action or inaction which is offensive to the integrity and honesty of the members of the academic community.

- The Honor Code, a list of offenses and the Honor Council process may be found at: [http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/policy/honor_code.html](http://college.emory.edu/home/academic/policy/honor_code.html)
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION 1: Leagues and Organizations
- The Business of Sports
- Sports Leagues and Organization
- Valuing a Sports Franchise
- Competitive Balance
- The Market for Sports Broadcasting Rights

Exam 1

SECTION 2: Sports Labor Market and Antitrust Issues
- Salary Determination: Competition and Monopsony
- Measuring Market Power of Leagues
- Players’ Unions and Collective Bargaining
- The NCAA as a Cartel
- Antitrust Issues in Sports

Exam 2

SECTION 3: Decisions and Other Economic Issues in Sports
- Cheating and Deterrence in Sports
- Economic Impact of Sporting Events
- Ticket Pricing
- Economic Value of Multiyear Contracts
- Should an Athlete Turn Pro “Early”? 
- Discrimination in Sports

Final Exam