

SYLLABUS

ECON 493X - Economics of Professional Sports - Spring 2016

Instructor:

Office
Phone
e-mail
Twitter
Office Hours

Brad Humphreys
412 B&E
293-7871
brhumphreys@mail.wvu.edu
@Humphreys_Brad
TR 4:00-5:00pm and by appointment

Course Information:

ECON 493X - Economics of Professional Sports
CRN 16759
Business and Economics Building (BUE) 428
T-Th 10:00am-11:15am
Method of Instruction: Lecture

Course Description: Course focuses on the application of economic theories to sports and the sports industry and understanding the behavior of economic agents in sports. Students who complete the course will gain insight into economics, understand how to apply economic models to explain observed behavior in sport, and appreciate empirical economic evidence generated from sports-related data.

Prerequisite: ECONOMICS 201. Students who have not taken Econ 201 or an equivalent course will be dropped from this class. I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do about this. *For questions about enrolling, see Karen Smith in B&E 419.*

Required Materials:

Textbook: Humphreys, Brad R., *Economics of Professional Sports* 1st Edition, 2013. BRH Publishing. ISBN 0-615-90935-3

Expected Learning Outcomes: After completing the course the student will be able to:

- understand the broader economic and financial environment in which the sport industry operates
- identify the key economic issues in professional sport
- analyze outcomes in professional sports using economic models
- understand how sport provides economists with a “laboratory” to test economic theories
- identify key topics in the research literature in sports economics

Course Grade Determination

Element	Date	Weight
Exam #1	Thursday 25 February	40%
Exam #2	Thursday 21 April	40%
Group Project Presentation	26 & 28 April	10%
Group Project Report	Due 29 April at 5:00pm	10%

Exams: The exams will consist of a variety of question types, such as calculation problems, short answer questions, short case analysis, multiple choice questions, etc. The sample questions at the end of each chapter in the textbook are representative of exam questions - these questions have appeared on past exams in this class.

Grade Scale: 90-100 % A, 80-89% B, 70-79 % C, 60-69 % D, below 60 % F.

Missed Exams: For Exam #1 there are **NO MAKEUPS** with the following exception:

1. you are a member of a WVU club/team with a scheduled road trip AND
2. you have **an excuse in writing** from that club/team AND
3. you arrange a makeup with me **at least one week beforehand**.

If ANY of the above are not fulfilled, you are out of luck!

There will be no makeups or rescheduling of Exam #2 with no exceptions.

Group Project: The group project will provide students with some hands-on experience working with sports economics data and doing quantitative economic research. The general topic of the group project is *Analyzing Competitive Balance in Sports Leagues*. Each group will be assigned a sports league to analyze. The group will (1) collect data on outcomes in that league, (2) use the competitive balance measures discussed in Chapter 7 to analyze the outcomes in this league, (3) use the model developed in Chapter 5 to explain the league outcomes, (4) write up and discuss the results, and (5) make a class presentation describing the league and the results. Each group will develop a written report and an oral presentation based on their research. Details about the content of the report and presentations will be distributed later in the semester. Each group will contain 3-4 students. Key dates for the group project are as follows:

Milestone	Date
Groups Formed	Tuesday 2 February
League Assigned to Groups	Tuesday 9 February
Group Project Presentations	26-28 April
Group Project Report Due	29 April

Attendance: Attendance is not required and does not affect your grade directly. I will not take attendance during class. However, learning economics is difficult for most students. It is much easier if you come to class. Coming to lecture and taking good notes will help you study efficiently.

Electronic Devices: Many students find that utilizing electronic devices to take notes is productive. However, these devices are also potentially distracting to the student using them and potentially disruptive to classmates. This requires some ground-rules. The class rules for electronic devices are

1. All use of smart phones is prohibited in class.
2. If you wish to use a laptop or tablet for note-taking, you must sit in the front two rows of the classroom (or the first row with an available seat).
3. Any use of the Internet on a laptop or tablet during class for IMing, updating your Facebook status, Tweeting, or any other non-academic activity is prohibited.

If I detect the use of a prohibited device, or the use of an approved device in a prohibited way, I will ask you to leave the classroom and expect that you comply with this request.

Academic Dishonesty: The integrity of classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code at http://studentlife.wvu.edu/office_of_student_conduct/student_conduct_code.

Any student who commits any act of academic dishonesty will automatically receive a grade of “F” in this course. If an Academic Dishonesty form is submitted to OSJA, I will recommend that the “F” be “unforgivable”.

Social Justice: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700).

Class Expectations:

- I expect students to prepare for class in advance
- Students should expect me to come to class prepared
- I expect students to show up for class regularly and on time
- Students should expect me to show up for class on time and hold class as scheduled
- I expect students to treat me, and other students with respect, and help to foster a positive and open environment in this class
- I expect students to comply with the class policy on electronic devices, and to not behave in a way that disrupts class
- Students should expect me to treat them with respect and to actively foster a positive and open environment in class
- I expect students to adhere to the Student Conduct Code at all times, including during exams
- Students should expect me to develop reasonable assessment mechanisms and evaluate them according to the Syllabus
- Students should expect me to regularly seek feedback about their understanding of the material
- I expect students to provide me with verbal and written feedback about their understanding of the course material when requested
- I expect students to assess my teaching in a reasonable way, based on my teaching and not simply on the grade they expect to receive
- Students should expect me to be accessible outside of class time, including holding office hours as scheduled and responding to reasonable email queries in a timely fashion

Important Dates:

- **January 19:** First class meeting
- **January 15:** Last day to drop a course without a "W" on your transcript
- **January 27:** Groups Formed
- **February 3:** Leagues assigned to groups
- **February 25:** Exam #1
- **March 18:** Last day to drop a course
- **April 21:** Exam # 2
- **April 26-28:** Group Project presentations
- **April 29:** Group Project report due

Tentative Course Schedule/Outline

Tentative Course Schedule - Dates Approximate for Topics and Chapters

Week of		Topic	Reading
January	18	The Sports Industry/Short Run model	Chapter 2/3
January	25	Long Run Model of Team Decision Making	Chapter 4
February	1	Long Run Model of Team Decision Making (continued)	Chapter 4
February	8	Sports Leagues: The two-team model	Chapter 5
February	15	Sports Leagues: The two-team model (continued)	Chapter 5
February	22	Exam #1 Thursday 25 February	Chapters 2-5
March	1	Outcome Uncertainty and Consumer Choice	Chapter 6
March	7	Measuring and Analyzing Competitive Balance	Chapter 7
March	14	Analyzing Competitive Balance (continued)	Chapter 7
March	21	Spring Break - No Class	
March	28	Stadiums, Arenas and Subsidies	Chapter 8
April	4	Sports Betting Markets	Chapter 9
April	11	Pay and Performance in Professional Sports	Chapter 10
April	18	The Economics of Individual Sports	Chapter 11
April	18	Exam # 2 Thursday 21 May	
April	27	Group Presentations	