

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
Econ 254
The Economics of Sport
Fall 2014
T Th 1:00PM – 2:20PM, MC 4021

Instructor Information

Instructor: Phil Curry

Office: HH 126

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Office Hours: 10:30-11:30am Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment

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Course Description

This course examines the sports industry using the economic way of thinking, focusing on the four major North American leagues: the NHL, NBA, NFL and MLB. The course is divided into three sections. First, we will consider the industrial organization of sports. This section considers what the output is in the sports industry and whether it is more fruitful to think of the team or the league as the “firm”. We will consider a monopolistic model and examine how well it does in explaining several “stylised facts”. In the second section, we will examine the labour economics of sports, focusing on the collective bargaining agreements of the different leagues and looking at the issues behind several strikes and lockouts. Finally, we will examine the public economics of sports, looking at competition between cities for sports teams. We will look at how and why cities spend public money on professional sports teams. While a knowledge of sports is not necessary, students may find this course difficult if they are not familiar with the above leagues.

Recommended Text

- Leeds, Michael and Peter von Allman, *The Economics of Sports*, 5th edition, Boston: Pearson, 2014.

Note that this text is recommended, not required. The course material will follow along with the text somewhat, but will be presented quite differently. A good set of lecture notes is what is really required to do well in this course.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Assignment 1	Sept. 25	7.5%
Assignment 2	Oct. 9	7.5%
Assignment 3	Nov. 6	7.5%
Assignment 4	Nov. 20	7.5%
Midterm Exam	Oct. 21	30%
Final Exam	TBD	40%
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Total		100%

Assignments

For your assignments, you will be asked to collect data and analyse it for a question that you will be given.

Midterm Exam

Your midterm exam will be comprised of short answer and essay-style questions.

Final Exam

Your final exam will be comprised of short answer and essay-style questions.

Course Outline

The table below represents how I expect the course will proceed. We may take more or less time on any topic, as appropriate.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
1	Sept 9, 11	Industrial Organization of Sports	Chap 3
2	Sept 16, 18	Industrial Organization of Sports cont'd	Chap 3
3	Sept 23, 25	Industrial Organization of Sports cont'd	Chap 3
4	Sept 30, Oct 2	Industrial Organization of Sports cont'd	JR 2.4.3, V 11.9
5	Oct 7, 9	Labour Economics of Sports	JR 8.1, V 25.6-25.8
6	Oct 14, 16	Labour Economics of Sports and review	JR 8.2, V 25.4-25.5
7	Oct 21, 23	Midterm and Labour Economics of Sports	None
8	Oct 28, 30	Labour Economics of Sports cont'd	JR 9.1-9.2
9	Nov 4, 6	Labour Economics of Sports cont'd	JR 9.4
10	Nov 11, 13	Public Economics of Sports	JR 6.1-6.2
11	Nov 18, 20	Public Economics of Sports cont'd	JR 6.3
12	Nov 25, 27	Public Economics of Sports and review	None

Late Work

Assignments are due by the time designated in the dropbox. Late assignments received less than 24 hours after the deadline will be given a 25% penalty. Assignments received after 24 hours will not be marked.

No make-up tests will be provided for the midterm exam. Students who do not have a relevant medical certificate or other documentation will receive a mark of zero. Students with a valid documented reason for missing the exam will have the weight of the midterm added to their final.

Electronic Device Policy

It is acceptable for students to bring laptops to class, especially for the purposes of taking notes and to look up facts that are relevant to the topic of discussion. Please make sure your cell phones are on silent, however.

Attendance Policy

While the recommended textbook does cover the material of this course, it do so in a manner that is different (and complementary) to the lectures. The exams will be based on the material as it is presented in the lectures. As such, students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and take good notes.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage \(https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the [Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage \(http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility\)](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) for more information.

Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm).

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals \(http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm\)](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to

lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.