

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 254
The Economics of Sport
Fall 2016
MWF 10:30 – 11:20AM, QNC 2502

Instructor Information

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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.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to introduce students to basic economic models in industrial organization, labour economics and public economics. It is also intended to provide an introduction to research methodology and how theory and data interact.

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.

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. This technology allows access to slides, and the submission of answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. While no assessments will require Top Hat, I would encourage you to purchase it as the technology will be used in class.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/050676>

Note: our Course Join Code is 050676

Top Hat will require a paid subscription of \$24 (although if you are already using it in another course, you should not have to pay again), and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: www.tophat.com/pricing.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, due to the fact that they require specific user information to troubleshoot these issues, please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Assignment 1	Sept. 26	10%
Assignment 2	Oct. 31	10%
Assignment 3	Dec. 5	10%
Midterm 1	Oct. 7	20%
Midterm 2	Nov. 11	20%
Final Exam	TBD	30%
Total		100%

Assignments

For your assignments, you will be asked to solve mathematical problems pertaining to the material covered in the lectures.

Midterm Exams

Your midterm exams will be comprised of problems as in the assignments, true/false questions and definitions.

Final Exam

Your final exam will be the same format as the midterms: problems as in the assignments, true/false questions and definitions.

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, 12,14,16	Industrial Organization of Sports	Chap 2
2	Sept 19, 21, 23	IO continued	Chap 3

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Due
3	Sept 26, 28, 30	IO continued	Chap 4
4	Oct 3, 5, 7	IO cont'd and Midterm	Chap 5
5	Oct 14,17,19,21	Labour Economics of Sports	Chap 8
6	Oct 24, 26, 28	Labour Economics continued	Chap 8,9
7	Oct 31, Nov 2, 4	Labour Economics continued	Chap 9,10
8	Nov 7, 9, 11	Labour cont'd and Midterm	Chap 10
9	Nov 14, 16, 18	Public Economics of Sports	Chap 6
10	Nov 21, 23, 25	Public Economics continued	Chap 7
11	Nov 28,30, Dec 2	Public Economics continued	Chap 11
12	Dec 5	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 other midterm (in the case of midterm 1) or the final (in the case of midterm 2).

Electronic Device Policy

Since we are using Top Hat in the course, students are encouraged to bring laptops and smartphones to class. Please make sure your cell phones are on silent, however.

Attendance Policy

While the recommended textbook covers the material of this course, it do so in a manner that is different (and complementary) to the lectures. The assignments and 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](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (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. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties\)](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/guidelines/guidelines-assessment-penalties).

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-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

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 \(https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72\)](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Faculty of Arts-required statements for undergraduate course outlines

Cross-listed Course (if applicable)

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.