

Economics 323-001 Course Syllabus
Spring 2014

Time: MW 2:00-3:15pm

Location: McClelland Hall 131

Instructor: Mike Matheis

Email: matheis@email.arizona.edu

OH: MW 11am-12pm and by appointment, McClelland Hall 401C

Preceptor: Min Hu

Email: minhu@email.arizona.edu

OH: Th 11am-12pm, McClelland Hall 401

Course Website: <http://blackboard.eller.arizona.edu>

Text Book (not required but highly recommended): Leeds & Allmen, The Economics of Sports 5th Edition. Addison Wesley.

Course Objective: Use and develop economic tools and intuition to analyze the economics of professional and intercollegiate sports and gain a deeper understanding of how the world around us beyond sports functions.

Prerequisites: Major or minor: ECON or BNEC. ECON 200 or (ECON 201A and ECON 201B). Familiarity with US major sports and leagues (e.g. MLB, NFL, NBA, NCAA, etc.) is strongly recommended to be successful in this course.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is essential in order to learn the material of this course. You are responsible for all material presented in class, whether you are present or not. To avoid distracting others it is requested to be in the class on time and not leave it before it is ended.

Grading: The entire grade for the course will be weighted as follows: Quizzes (10%), Reading Report & Presentation (10%), Exam 1 (25%), Exam 2 (25%), Final (25%), Participation (5%).

Schedule: The following dates are tentative and subject to change, but plan on the following: Exam 1 (Wed Feb 19th), Exam 2 (Wed Apr 9th), Final (Friday May 9th 3:30-5:30pm).

Exams: All exams are closed book/closed notes. There will be no make-up exams. Students must take the exams at the scheduled times. Students with an excused absence will have his or her other 2 exam grade percentages increased by 12.5% the original percentages. The student must provide evidence/documentation deemed sufficient by the instructor that his or her absence is excusable. If a student has an excused absence he or she must contact the instructor before the scheduled date of the exam. Missing two exams will result in an E for the course. **The final exam is mandatory and cumulative.** Failure to take the final exam will result in an E for the course. Students who wish to appeal an exam grade must do so within 24 hours of the time the graded exam is returned and need to ask for an appointment with the instructor to discuss the issue.

Quizzes: Starting the week of Feb 3rd students should expect to take an online quiz once a week. The quizzes will be administered on Blackboard, will be completed anytime from Th-Sun, and will cover material from previous class lectures. The lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped so students will not have an opportunity to make up a missed quiz.

Reading Reports/Presentations: Each student will be required to write a paper that is at least two pages (double-spaced, 12 point font) and do a presentation to the class that is at least 5 minutes on a book or

academic paper that involves sports and economics. The paper will be due Wednesday April 23rd and presentations will begin Monday April 28th. All books and articles must be pre-approved by me by Wednesday March 5th. For a book you need to provide a synopsis of the book, how economics plays a role, and your evaluation of the material. For an academic paper discuss the question being answered or central innovation of the paper, why the question is important, how they try to answer the question, the results of their research, and if the results were what you expected before you read the paper. When you do the presentation imagine you're teaching a (very) short lecture to people not familiar with your topic. More information regarding this project will be provided the week of February 3rd.

Do not plagiarize for this project in any way! Including material in your write up that is not cited will be taken as plagiarism and is an academic integrity violation. If you want to use excerpts from your source material, cite them (doesn't have to be perfect), and it won't count towards your page total.

Participation/Current Events: Once a week students need to come to class ready to describe to the class a recent article from a print or online publication (NY Times, ESPN.com, etc.) relating to the economics of sports (due dates will be defined during class, but will likely occur every Monday starting Jan 27th). The student should summarize the content of the article and describe to the class how it relates to the economics of sports and/or any specific recent class material. The class will have a short discussion regarding the articles where participation may be required. I will call on students randomly each week. If you are not present or don't have an article, you will lose part of your participation grade in the class. The students called each week will provide me with a hardcopy of the article or send me a link to the electronic version via email after class.

Homework: Periodic homework is assigned, but it will not be collected or graded. However, doing the homework problems will help you on the exams and quizzes.

Course Topics: Topics may include, but are not limited to the following:

Review of Economic Concepts (Supply and Demand, Production Theory, Market Structure, Individual Decision Making), Industrial Organization of Sports (Profit Maximization, Monopoly and Anti-Trust, Competitive Balance), Public Finance of Sports, Labor Economics of Sports, Econometrics and Regression Analysis, Game Theory in Sports, and the NCAA, Amateurism, and College Sports.

Accessibility and Accommodations: It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources ([520-621-3268](tel:520-621-3268)) to establish reasonable accommodations. Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

Other course policies: Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Group studying and working on homework in groups is encouraged; however, directly copying other's work is plagiarism and will be punished harshly. Any attempts to cheat in any way, shape, or form will result in an E for the course and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.