

Economics 344 Course Syllabus, Fall 2015
Dr. Mike Matheis

Time: TR 2:30-3:45pm

Location: 105 Poisson Hall

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Phone: 641-7390

OH: 207 Joseph Hall, T 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm, W 9:30-11:30am & 1:30-3:30pm, and by appointment

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: Economics 141. 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 mandatory and 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. After your second absence, your participation grade will be reduced by one full letter grade per absence. 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%).

Final Grades will be based on the following guidelines:

A: 93 A-: 90 B+: 87 B: 83 B-: 80 C+: 77 C: 73 C-: 70 D+: 67 D: 63 D-: 60 F: below 60

Schedule: The following dates are tentative and subject to change, but plan on the following: Exam 1(Th Oct 8th), Exam 2 (Th Nov 9th), Final (Mon Dec 14th 1pm).

Exams: All exams are closed book/closed notes. **The final exam is cumulative.** 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 me to discuss the issue. Make-up exams will be provided in approved circumstances. Students must provide sufficient evidence/documentation that his or her absence is excusable and a make-up exam is warranted. If you know ahead of time that you will be missing an exam, notice must be provided one week in advance of the scheduled exam date. Missing two scheduled exams will result in a F for the course.

Quizzes: Starting the week of Sept. 14th students should expect to take an online quiz once a week. The quizzes will be administered on Sakai, will be completed anytime from Th-Mon, and will cover material from previous class lectures. The lowest quiz grade 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 3-5 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font) and do a presentation to the class that is at least 5 minutes on a book (or approved set of academic papers) that involves the economics of sports. The paper will be due Thursday December 3rd and presentations will begin Tuesday December 8th. All topics must be pre-

approved by me by Thursday October 29th. For a book you need to provide a synopsis of the book, how specific economic concepts are related to the topic of the book, and your evaluation of the material. For a set of academic papers discuss the question(s) being answered, central innovation of the literature, why it is important, how they try to answer the question(s), the results, and if the results were what you expected before you read the papers. 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 September 22nd.

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 Tuesday starting Sept. 15th). 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, your participation grade in the class will be reduced a full letter grade. 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:

Saint Anselm College is committed to meeting the needs of students with documented physical, sensory, psychiatric, and learning disabilities. To disclose a disability and request academic accommodations, please see Kenneth Walker in the Academic Resource Center (ARC) in Lower Cushing, who will assist you in making contact with appropriate faculty members and arranging support services and accommodations available within the ARC and elsewhere. To ensure that accommodations are arranged in a timely manner, you are encouraged to make your request at the beginning of each semester.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Group studying and working on homework in groups is encouraged; however, directly copying other's work is plagiarism. Academic misconduct in any form will be reported and punished accordingly.