Sports Economics

ECON 4500

Spring 2011

Professor: Dr. Hauge
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00 and 1:00 – 2:00; also by appointment
Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30 – 12:50 in Wooten Hall 215

Course Objectives
The sports industry offers countless opportunities to study broad economic principles that govern the actions we so frequently observe taking place in the sports world around us. Using sports as a focal point, students can become better economists and simultaneously enjoy the process of doing so. Students will incorporate the economic subfields of industrial organization, public finance, and labor economics as we pursue greater understanding of economic theories and of how such theories impact an important part of many peoples’ lives. The goals for this course are to provide students with tools needed to analyze the sports world around them, and to learn to apply these tools to other aspects of their environment. The course will rely heavily on classroom participation, independent thinking, and the development of creative problem-solving skills.

A basic knowledge of microeconomics is essential in order to master the material in this course, as is a working knowledge of fundamental calculus.

Prerequisites
Completion of Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 3550) and either Business Calculus (MATH 1190) or College Math with Calculus (MATH 1400) are prerequisites for enrolling in this course.

Course Material
There is no required textbook for this course. Handouts and publicly available articles will be distributed or referenced accordingly.

Course Requirements
Each student is expected to complete the assigned reading before coming to class. Given that we do not have a textbook, keeping up with readings and attending class are imperative. If at any point during the term you have missed more than 15% of classes, you may be dropped for nonattendance. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain from your classmates the relevant class notes and assignments. Please note the following guidelines.

1. No homework assignments will be accepted late. No make-up exams will be given. Please note the exam dates. If you have an emergency and cannot take an exam at the scheduled time, you must contact me by e-mail, phone, or in person before the start of the exam to discuss possible alternatives. There is no assurance that an alternative will be granted. Requests for medical reasons must be supported by a doctor’s note.
2. Do not come to class late. Tardiness will result in one point deducted from your final course grade each time you are late.
3. Turn off cell phones and pagers prior to entering the classroom. Texting during class will result in one point deducted from your final course grade each time you are seen texting.
4. Computer use is not permitted during class.
5. Cheating will not be tolerated and will result in an immediate zero on the relevant assignment. Consult the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline for what constitutes unacceptable behavior, and for information on any further penalties that may be imposed by the Committee on Student Conduct.
6. If you have special needs, please advise immediately so that I can make any necessary arrangements.

Grading
There will be three exams, one paper, and ten written assignments. All assignments will require that you understand and synthesize information rather than simply memorize material. The final exam will be cumulative. Grades will be calculated as follows.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Portion of Final Grade</th>
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<td>Exams 1 and 2</td>
<td>15% each (30 percent total)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>30 percent total</td>
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Research Paper
Research papers are to be five to seven double-spaced pages (with one-inch margins). Additional details on specific requirements are provided separately from the syllabus. A report on the same topic as another student chooses will not be permitted (in the unlikely event this occurs we will address the issue together).
Written Assignments
Each assignment must be submitted to www.turnitin.com by the beginning of class on the date that it is due. There will be ten essays by which students will earn one written assignment grade. Each essay will receive a plus, a check, or a minus. The written assignment grade will be determined as follows.

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<th>Number of Checks and Pluses</th>
<th>Written Assignment Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 or more</td>
<td>95</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 or 7</td>
<td>82</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>70</td>
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<td>Fewer than 5</td>
<td>60</td>
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While students may work together to understand the material and to proofread one another’s work, each must submit homework independently. The articles used for the written assignment can be accessed from the turnitin class website.

Turnitin Information
Your written assignments, rough draft, and final research paper must be submitted to turnitin.com. The website address is www.turnitin.com. The class ID is 3765737. The password is sports_4500.

Turnitin provides the ability to maintain a grade book that students can access to review and confirm their grades on all assignments. It also includes a calendar that lists all due dates for the semester. Please refer to the calendar and assignments regularly, and please register promptly. Your grades will be entered on the turnitin website for your convenience.

Note: You must name your documents by the convention: last name_4500_assignment.

Please note that you cannot submit multiple files. You must have your title page, text, and references all in the same document, as turnitin.com does not allow multiple submissions.

You must submit your paper by the deadline. Turnitin.com does not allow late submissions.

Research Paper Due Dates
* Research paper rough draft: Monday, April 18. The paper must be e-mailed to me, and the draft uploaded to www.turnitin.com by the beginning of class. You may submit graphs or figures in hard copy during class. Failure to submit a rough draft will result in a failing grade on the research paper.
* Research paper final draft: Wednesday, May 4. A hard copy in its entirety must be turned in during class, and the paper uploaded to www.turnitin.com by the beginning of class.