



ECO 3006: Sports Economics

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Ji Gu, PhD
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- **Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30PM to 1:30PM
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General Information

Course Description

This course is meant to apply microeconomic theory to the field of sports. Covered topics include the industrial organization of sports, public finance and sports, the labor market of sports, etc. Examinations of the above topics require several fields of specialization within economics, such as industrial organization, labor economics and public finance. **Note this course is about the economics of sports, not sports. We won't spend time on anything in sports that is unrelated to economics. Because of this, students with no prior knowledge of sports will not have a disadvantage.**

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Use economic thinking to explain choices in a field of sports.
- Evaluate applications of supply and demand in the sports industry.
- Understand how efficiency and equity interact in the field of sports.

- Identify how demographic factors relate to the field of sports
- Think critically why local governments are important to sports franchises.
- Understand the incentives that motivate teams and players in professional sports

Expectations of the Course

Attendance/Participation

From my past experience, students who attended classes did well in the end. For that reason, you are expected to attend every lecture. There will be in-class activities that count toward your final grades.

Course Communication

Announcements in this course will be sent via the Canvas Inbox and email. Please check your Canvas Inbox and emails on a regular basis.

Course Layout

We will finish 12 chapters. There is a total of 3 exams.

Late Work Policy

No late submissions will be accepted. Please plan on being able to submit with ample time to handle technical glitches.

Make-up Policy

Excused absences include illness, serious family emergencies, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved. If you miss an exam due to the above reasons, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to schedule a makeup exam.

I reserve the right to ask you to provide valid documentations. Missing excessive days (3 weeks) due to excused absences may lead to failure of the course.

[Course Detail](#)

Course Prerequisites

Required Textbook

The Economics of Sports

Author: Michael Leeds and Peter von Allmen

Homework Assignments

Each chapter has an assignment that can be accessed through the "Assignments" tab on Canvas course page. Assignments are to be completed and submitted online through Canvas. No late submissions will be accepted. Please plan on being able to submit with ample time to handle technical glitches. I will drop the lowest score to correct for unforeseen circumstances that prevent you from submitting homework.

In-Class Activities

There will be many in-class activities throughout the semester. They are random. Please bring a blank sheet of paper to write on with you to every lecture. In case you miss a lecture due to unforeseen circumstances, I will drop the lowest two in-class activities.

Exams

There is a total of 3 exams. Exam 1 covers Chapter 1 to 4. Exam 2 covers Chapter 5 to 8. Exam 3 covers Chapter 9 to 12. There is no final exam.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table	
Course Requirements	Weight
Exam 1	22%
Exam 2	22%
Exam 3	22%
Homework Assignments	22%
In-Class Activities	12%

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Weight
Total	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	89.50 or above	B	79.50 - 83.49	C	64.50 - 69.49
A-	86.50 - 89.49	B-	74.50 - 79.49	D	59.50 - 64.49
B+	83.50 - 86.49	C+	69.50 - 74.49	F	59.49 or less

Course Calendar

Part 1: Introduction and Review of Economic Concepts

Chapter 1: Economics and Sports

Chapter 2: Review of the Economist's Arsenal

Part 2: The Industrial Organization of Sports

Chapter 3: Sports Leagues and Franchises

Chapter 4: Monopoly and Antitrust

Exam 1, Feb 12

Chapter 5: Competitive Balance

Chapter 6: Sports Gambling

Part 3: Public Finance and Sports

Chapter 7: Teams, Stadiums, and Municipalities

Chapter 8: Mega-Events

Exam 2, March 19

Part 4: The Labor Economics of Sports

Chapter 9: An Introduction to Labor Markets in Professional Sports

Chapter 10: Labor Market Imperfections

Chapter 11: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Sport

Part 5: Sports in the Not-for-Profit Sector

Chapter 12 The Economics of Intercollegiate College Sports

Exam 3, April 16

Academic Misconduct Statement

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

AI Policy

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all assignments should be prepared by the student.

Developing strong competencies in this area will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, AI-generated submissions are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism.

Ethics still matter and plagiarism is a serious offense.

Classroom Policy

FIU prides itself as a community of diverse backgrounds: ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, social, political, economic, gender, sexual orientation, age, and ability. The University encourages, supports and appreciates these differences, and discourages all forms of prejudice, bias, bigotry, discrimination, and intimidation in the process of learning.

Disruptive behaviors are prohibited in classroom. They include behaviors that substantially and materially disrupt, disturb, impair, interfere with or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the classroom.

Accessibility and Accommodation

If you have a documented disability and are a client of the FIU Disability Resource Center (DRC), please have the DRC send any pertinent information directly to my FIU email address so any necessary accommodations can be made in a timely fashion. The FIU Disability Resources Center strives to promote student success by working collaboratively with students, faculty and staff to create an inclusive educational environment. The university is committed to advancing students learning and enhancing personal development. Any information provided will be kept confidential. Documentation of your disability will need to be sent to the Disability Resource Center (GC 190).

Religious Observance

Accommodations will be made for students who wish to observe their religious holidays. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester if you need to excuse your absence due to religious holidays.

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.
