



ECO 4934: Special Topics: Sports Economics

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Ji Gu, PhD
- **Contact:** Canvas messages or email (jgu@fiu.edu)
- **Office Hours:** by appointment on Zoom

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.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives

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

- Use economic thinking to explain choice in a field of sports
- Evaluate applications of supply and demand, including price floors, price ceilings, and taxes
- 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

Recommended Textbook

The Economics of Sports

Author: Michael Leeds and Peter von Allmen

Edition: 5th. 6th edition (more expensive) also works.

ISBN-13: 978-0133022926

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.

Homework Assignments

Each module 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 doing homework.

Discussion Forums

You'll need to submit 3 reading reports in the "Discussions" tab throughout the semester. Follow the instructions of each discussion assignment. Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Grading

| Course Requirements | Weight |
|----------------------|--------|
| Homework Assignments | 30% |

| Course Requirements | Weight |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Discussion Posts | 30% |
| Research Paper | 40% |
| Total | 100% |

| 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

Module 1 Introduction and Review of Economic Concepts

Module 2 The Industrial Organization of Sports

Module 3 Public Finance and Sports

Module 4 The Labor Economics of Sports

Module 5 Sports in the Not-for-Profit Sector

Key Dates

June 20, Classes start

June 27, Last Day to Add/Drop

July 4, Independence Day

July 18, Last Day to Drop with a DR Grade

July 29, Last Regular Class Day

August 4, Grades Available for Students

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.

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.

Excused Absences

Excused absences include illness (related or not related to COVID), 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 due to excused absences may lead to failure of the course.

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.
