ECO 359.001 Sports Economics (Spring 2020)

**Instructor:** Dr. Stephen Kosovich  
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**Department:** Economics and Finance  
**Office:** 303G  
**Office hours:**  
Monday/Wednesday: 11 a.m. – noon and 3:45–4:45 p.m.  
Tuesday/Thursday: 9 a.m. – noon

**Class meeting time and place:** Monday/Wednesday: 9:30-10:45 a.m., McGee 121  
**Class website:** [https://d2l.sfasu.edu/](https://d2l.sfasu.edu/)

**Catalog Description:**  
A survey of the economic theory and literature relevant to the various economic issues in professional and amateur sports. Topics include public funding of sports arenas, labor relations and compensation of athletes, and antitrust issues in sports markets.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn how basic economic principles can be applied to sports markets. Upon successful completion of this course students will learn how to apply concepts and models such as opportunity cost, supply and demand, profit maximization, competitive markets, and monopoly power within the context of sports economics. In addition, students will become familiar with the economic history of various sports leagues. Through the completion of several article reviews, students will also learn to analyze and write about issues pertaining to sports economics, and discuss policy implications and potential solutions to these issues.

**Prerequisites:** ECO 231 OR 232

**Text and Materials:** The Economics of Sports, Leeds, von Allmen, and Matheson, sixth edition

**Course Requirements/Grading Policy/Attendance:**  
Grades will be based on two regular exams (worth 50 points each), the highest eleven D2L quizzes/in-class assignments (worth 5 points each) and a semi-comprehensive final exam (worth 70 points). The final exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6th at 8 a.m.** Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. Short answer questions will test your ability to apply the concepts presented in lecture. No make-up exams will be given during the semester. If you promptly provide me verifiable evidence that the absence is excused based upon SFA policy (the absence was caused because of health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events) the weight of the excused exam will be placed on the other exams.

I will count the scores of the highest eleven D2L quizzes and in-class assignments. During the term there will be the opportunity to complete at least twelve quizzes/in-class assignments, **so that means at least one of these assignments/quiz scores will be dropped.**

You will have significant weekly reading assignments and will be expected to complete online quizzes, prepare for exams, and complete other assignments outside of class. You should expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours outside of class each week on these activities.

Letter grades are based on the following scale (225 total points):  
90% and above is an A  
80% and above is a B  
70% and above is a C  
60% and above is a D  
Less than 60% is an F
Withheld Grades--Grades Policy (5.5)
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp

General Student Policies: Academic Integrity (4.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Tentative Topic Outline:
1.) Introduction the economics of sports (Chapter 1) and Economists’ toolkit (Chapter 2) : Week #1
2.) Toolkit continued (Chapter 2) and franchises as profit maximizers (Chapter 3): Week #2
3.) Antitrust laws and monopoly in sports (Chapter 4): Week #3
4.) Cartels and sports applications of game theory: Week #4
5.) Competitive balance (Chapter 5): Week #5

Exam #1: Wednesday, February 19th
6.) Introduction to public finance and sports (6) Week #7
7.) The costs and benefits of a franchise to a city and Mega events (Chapter 7/8): Week #8
8.) Introduction to labor markets in sports (Chapter 9): Week #9
9.) Monopsony and anticompetitive forces in labor markets (Chapter 10): Week #10

Exam #2: Wednesday, April 1st
10.) Labor relations and unions (Chapter 10 continued): Week #12
11.) Discrimination in Labor Markets (Chapter 11) Week #13
12.) Amateur Athletics (Chapter 12): Weeks #14/15