

# EconS 321- Economics of Sports in America

## Spring- 2019

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**Jugal Marfatia.** Office: Hulbert 207C

**ECONS 321**

**Office Hours:** MW 1-2 PM and by appointment.

**MWF:** 12:10-1:00PM

**Email:** [jugal.marfatia@wsu.edu](mailto:jugal.marfatia@wsu.edu)

**Location:** FSHN T101

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### Course Overview:

Economic aspects of American sports; fan demand; advertising; team output decisions; league/conference organization; government and sports

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### Teaching Assistants:

We have 3 TA's for this class. TA's are responsible for grading and helping students with course material. However, they do not have official office hours but you can setup appointments with them via email. Please contact the TA corresponding to your last name.

1. Liam O'kelley: [liam.okelley@wsu.edu](mailto:liam.okelley@wsu.edu) (For students with last name A - F)
2. Gabe Brookshier: [Gabriel.brooksier@wsu.edu](mailto:Gabriel.brooksier@wsu.edu) (For students with last name G - S)
3. Kainoah Thompson: [kainoah.thompson@wsu.edu](mailto:kainoah.thompson@wsu.edu) (For students with last name T - Z)

TA's for this class are designated to only clarify doubts pertaining to the course material. If you are having difficulties understanding major concepts please contact me or stop by during my office hours.

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### Required Resources:

Sports Economics by Roger D. Blair (ISBN: 9780521876612).

<https://www.amazon.com/Sports-Economics-Roger-D-Blair/dp/0521876613>

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### Learning Outcome:

Success in this course is contingent upon your ability to master the following learning outcomes:

- Improve critical thinking skills.
- Sharpen analytical problem solving abilities.

- Apply economic concepts to professional sports management.
  - Understand different market structure in sports.
  - Solve optimization problems.
  - Answer a research question related to sports economics using data.
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### Grading:

The final grade for the course will be based on the below weightage.

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Problem Sets</b>           | <b>_____ 20%</b> |
| <b>Pop Quizzes</b>            | <b>_____ 10%</b> |
| <b>3 Midterms</b>             | <b>_____ 40%</b> |
| <b>Final Exam</b>             | <b>_____ 20%</b> |
| <b>Short Individual Paper</b> | <b>_ 10%</b>     |

The grading scale will be the usual college grading scale. i.e. A- corresponds to 90 - 92, B+ is 87 - 89, B is 83 – 86 and so forth. In determining the final grade, I will take into consideration the class average and decide whether or not there is a need for a curve to be applied. The curve that I will be using is based on an expected class average of 78 and standard deviation of 10 points. Therefore, if the average falls below 78 %, then the final grade will be curved upwards. In case the average is higher than 78 a downward curve will NOT be applied. **Individual exam, quiz, or any assignment will NOT be curved.**

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### Exams:

There will be three exams in this course at below dates:

**Exam 1: Wednesday, Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Exam 2: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Exam 3: Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Exam: Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> (1:00- 3:00 PM)**

Each exam will contain a combination of multiple choice questions and short questions. The exam will be closed book and students may use a simple calculator (not graphing). Exam 1, 2 and 3 will be independent of the preceding one (i.e. not cumulative) and will only cover topics covered in class until the date of the exam. There will not be any alternate adjustments to the exams, i.e. a student will not be allowed to take the exam on an alternate date than specified above. However, if a student misses an exam the weightage of that exam will be added to the final.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative; however, focus will be on the important topics covered during the semester and I will provide a study guide for the final exam.

In addition, I will provide a study guide for each exam and I will also hold a review session before each exam.

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### **Problem sets:**

There will be a total of 10 problem sets assigned during the entire semester. I will post the problem sets on blackboard and they will be due Friday at the **beginning of class**. You will have one week to work on each problem set. Below are the due dates for the first two problem sets.

Problem Set 1: January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Problem Set 2: January 25<sup>th</sup>

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### **Pop Quizzes:**

There will be approximately 5 to 7 pop quizzes during the semester. They will be short quizzes based on the material already covered in class and the reading assignment.

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### **Reading assignment:**

At the end of each class I will assign reading for the next class. Typically, it will consist of material from the textbook and occasionally a journal or media article on sports economics.

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### **Individual Paper:**

An individual research paper will be due at the end of the semester. For the paper, I want you to use publically available data from any sport of your choice to answer a research question. I will provide sample dataset and further guidelines on the paper in February.

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**Attendance:**

Attendance in this class is not mandatory, which means I will not be taking attendance at the start of each class. **However, it is highly recommended to attend every class in order to do well in the course.** Further, please do not arrive late to class and refrain from using cell-phone during class. If I observe a student frequently arriving late to class or using cell-phone in class, I hold the right to deduct points from their final grade.

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**Blackboard:**

A blackboard page will be dedicated to this course where I will post lecture notes, grades and any announcement or material pertaining to the class. Students must check blackboard on a regular basis to avoid missing deadlines or important announcements.

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**Tentative course outline:**

| <b>Week#. Dates</b>               | <b>Topic covered</b>                                       | <b>Reading</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. January 7, 9, 11               | Review of Basic Math Concepts<br>Intro to Sports Economics | Ch.1           |
| 2. January 14, 16, 18             | The business of Sports                                     | Ch. 2          |
| 3. January 21, 23, 25             | Sports Leagues and Organization                            | Ch.3           |
| 4. January 28, 30.<br>February 1. | Competitive balance  | Ch. 4          |
| 5. February 4, 6, 8.              | <b>Exam 1</b>  | -              |
| 6. February 11, 13, 15.           | Pricing Decisions  | Ch. 5          |

|                                 |  |        |
|---------------------------------|--|--------|
| 7. February 18, 20, 22.         | Advertising in the Sports Industry         | Ch. 6  |
| 8. February 25, 27.<br>March 1. | The Market for Sports Broadcasting Rights  | Ch. 7  |
| 9. March 4, 6, 8.               | <b>Exam 2.</b>                             | -      |
| 10. March 11, 13, 15.           | <b>Spring Break</b>                        | -      |
| 11. March 18, 20, 22.           | Economic Impact of Sports                  | Ch. 15 |
| 12. March 25, 27, 29            | Competing for Sports Franchises and Events | Ch. 14 |
| 13. April 1, 3, 5.              | Financing Sports Facilities                | Ch.16  |
| 14. April 8, 10, 12.            | Salary Determination<br>(if time permits)  | Ch. 17 |
| 15. April 15, 17, 19.           | <b>Exam 3.</b>                             |        |
| 16. April 22, 24, 26.           | Other current issues.                      |        |

**Important Dates:**

January 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ First day of classes

January 21<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_ Holiday Martin Luther King Jr Day

February 6<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ Exam 1

March 6<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ Exam 2

March 11<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ Spring Break Begins

March 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ Spring Break Ends

April 17<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ Exam 3

April 29<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ Final Exam

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**Academic Integrity**

The Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) states that “In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.” The WSU Academic Honesty Policy (based on State of Washington Code) expands the CWPA definition of plagiarism as well as explaining other categories of academic misconduct. As a WSU student, you are bound by these policies and are responsible for being aware of and abiding by them. Students who commit intentional acts of plagiarism will be reported to the Assistant Director of Composition and the Office of the Dean of Students and will fail the class.

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**Reasonable Accommodations**

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities or chronic medical conditions. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Access Center website to follow published procedures to request accommodations: <http://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu>.

Students may also either call or visit the Access Center in person to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. Location: Washington Building 217; Phone: 509-335-3417. All disability related accommodations MUST be approved through the Access Center. Students with approved accommodations are strongly encouraged to visit with instructors early in the semester during office hours to discuss logistics.

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## **WSU Safety Statement**

Washington State University is committed to maintaining a safe environment for its faculty, staff, and students. Safety is the responsibility of every member of the campus community and individuals should know the appropriate actions to take when an emergency arises. In support of our commitment to the safety of the campus community the University has developed a Campus Safety Plan, <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu>. It is highly recommended that you visit this web site as well as the University emergency management web site at <http://oem.wsu.edu/> to become familiar with the information provided.

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## **Sexual Harassment and Discrimination:**

Discrimination at Washington State University, on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, physical, mental or sensory disability, marital status, genetic information, and/or status as a veteran, is prohibited by federal law, state law and WSU policy. All WSU employees who have information regarding an incident or situation involving sexual harassment or sexual misconduct are required to promptly report the incident to the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) or to one of the designated Title IX Coordinators. Students who are the victim of and/or witness sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should also report to OEO or their Title IX Coordinator.