

# ECP 3006: ECONOMICS OF SPORTS

## SUMMER B 2018 SYLLABUS

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<b>Professor:</b>	Christina DePasquale	<b>Class Location:</b>	Heavner Hall 240
<b>Office:</b>	MAT 336		
<b>Class Email:</b>	cdepasqu@ufl.edu	<b>Class Time:</b>	MTW, 11:00AM - 1:45PM R, 11:00AM - 12:15PM
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M: 2:00PM - 3:00PM TW: 10:00AM-11:00AM		

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### IMPORTANT DUE DATES

All exams are 75 minutes long and run from 11:00AM-12:15PM  
Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class (11:00AM)

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#### EXAMS

**Exam I: Monday, July 16**  
**Exam II: Thursday, July 26**  
**Exam III: Thursday, August 9**

#### HOMEWORK

**HW1: Thursday, July 12**  
**HW2: Tuesday, July 24**  
**HW3: Tuesday, August 7**

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**Required Text:** *Sports Economics* by Roger D. Blair, First Edition.

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to critically examine the sports industry through the lens of microeconomic principles. Additionally, this course is an evidence-focused first-year seminar. In this regard, many of your assignments will be focused on developing the skills necessary to effectively build and support (or challenge) an argument, theory, or claim. This will include learning how to read academic articles, collecting and analyzing data, and relating academic articles and current events in the sports industry to the microeconomic models learned in class.

Among the topics we will cover include: sports leagues, revenue sharing, ticket pricing, salary negotiations, cheating, discrimination, and NCAA policies to name a few. The course will focus on the four major US sports leagues and the NCAA. Throughout the semester, our understanding of the business of professional and amateur sports will be improved as will our understanding of microeconomics and the ability to evaluate evidence and build arguments based on material learned in class.

**Course Format:** During class meetings, I will work from lecture slides while doing additional work on the document camera as necessary. Copies of the lecture slides will be uploaded to Canvas. I encourage all students to ask questions. Important announcements and the posting of homework assignments will be accompanied by either a Canvas-generated announcement or an email from myself. Students are expected to check Canvas and their email regularly.

**Instructor Contact:** Please use my email address (cdepasqu@ufl.edu) to ask me any class related questions and **please put ECP3006 in the subject line**. I will respond to emails on school days within 24 hours. I will work to respond to holiday and weekend emails in the same time-frame, but responses may be slower. Please note: any student who has a need for accommodations based upon the impact of a disability should contact me as soon as possible. Contact the Disability Resource Center to coordinate appropriate accommodations.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

### Academic Articles and Class Discussions

Academic articles from leading economics journals will be assigned throughout the course (the readings can be found on Canvas). These articles will cover various topics related to the class and are meant to provoke discussion. On discussion dates, students (even those not presenting) are expected to come to class having already read the article and prepared for discussion.

*Presenting an article/Leading a class discussion:* Groups of 3-5 students will be assigned to present and discuss an one academic article during the course. That is, those in charge of leading the discussion will be expected to present a summary of the article and relate the article to topics discussed in the class as well as to prepare questions that challenge the findings in the paper and also encourage discussion. The presentation is expected to be done using Powerpoint or a similar presentation making software. These presentations and discussions should take no more than 30 minutes. I will lead the first discussion myself on Thursday, July 5, and will provide an example for going forward. Each student must present one academic article during the course. This presentation will be worth 30 points.

*Academic Article Questions:* Each exam will have one or two questions about the academic articles discussed in class. These questions will address the overarching themes and conclusions of each article.

### Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be posted on canvas approximately 1 week before the assignment is due. These problem sets are graded for accuracy and are worth 20 points each. You may work with other students in the class but are required to submit your own assignment. These assignments are due at the beginning of class.

### Exams

There will be three exams given during the course (70 points each). Each exam will be given during class time and will be 75 minutes in length. While the exams are not cumulative, the content itself is cumulative in nature so you will likely have to use skills acquired from earlier in the course.

## COURSE GRADE

Exams (3): 70 points each

Academic Article Presentation (1): 30 points

Homework Assignments (3): 20 points each

Total: 300 points

## GRADE SCALE:

The following scale (representing the percentage of points earned) is used to determine your final grade.

A	92.5-100	C	72.5-77.5
A-	89.5-92.5	C-	69.5-72.5
B+	87.5-89.5	D+	67.5-69.5
B	82.5-87.5	D	59.5-67.5
B-	79.5-82.5	E	Below 59.5
C+	77.5-79.5		

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MAKEUP EXAMS:

Homework: All homework assignments must be turned in by the beginning of the class period (i.e. 11:00AM) on the due date. If you plan to be absent, you may email me your assignment, but it must be in my inbox by the start of the class period. Solutions will be posted following the end of class. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

Exams: No makeup exams will be given except for valid excused absences. Missed exams with no valid and verified excuse will result in a zero for that exam. **Please note that previously scheduled travel is not a valid excuse.**

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The following is a statement from UF regarding academic honesty: "UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, 'We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.' The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class."

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

## STUDENT ATHLETES

Student athletes are responsible for reporting any days they are unable to attend class due to conflicts with their athletic schedule by the second week of class. If this is not possible (tournaments, other unforeseen athletic schedule changes) please notify me as soon as possible so I have time to make appropriate accommodations.

## ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION

Students in this course can provide feedback on the quality of my instruction by completing evaluations online at: [evaluations.ufl.edu](http://evaluations.ufl.edu). These evaluations are typically open during XXX, but I will remind you of the specific times when they are open. These evaluations help me become a better instructor so I strongly encourage you to complete them.

**BRIEF/TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

SECTION 1: The Demand for Sport

- Demand and Profit-Maximization
- Valuing a Sports Franchise
- Competitive Balance
- The Market for Sports Broadcasting Rights
- Labor Supply and Monopsony in Sports (if covered in time)

***Exam 1: Monday, July 16***

SECTION 2: Sports Labor Market and Antitrust Issues

- The Sports Labor Market
- NCAA as a Cartel
- Cheating and Misconduct in Sports
- Gambling

***Exam 2: Thursday, July 26***

SECTION 3: Decisions and Other Economic Issues in Sports

- Economic Impact of Sporting Events
- Pricing Decisions and Price Discrimination in Sports
- Economic Value of Multiyear Contracts
- Should an Athlete Turn Pro “Early”?

***Exam 3: Thursday, August 9***