COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Course: Econ 6295 Economics of Sports
       Section 17
Semester: TBD
Time: TBD
Location: TBD

INSTRUCTOR
Name: Richard Prisinzano
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This applied economics course explores various aspects of the economics of sports and
sports leagues, with a major focus on empirical analysis. We will consider a number of
topics, including competitive balance, player pay, public financing of stadiums and
collegiate sports.

The objective of this course is to reinforce and enhance the economic concepts you have
acquired thus far in your education. This course will examine issues pertaining to
professional and amateur sports, including market structures (monopoly and monopsony
power) and labor markets (salary caps, collective bargaining, free agency, discrimination).
The course uses the microeconomic theories of industrial organization, public finance,
and labor economics extensively. The course will focus on evaluating issues that arise in
the sports industry empirically as an economist. By doing so, we will be able to evaluate
the decisions made by owners, athletes, consumers, and municipalities. *Note: Being a
sports fan is not a prerequisite for this course. It may help if you are but it will not hurt if
you are not.*

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S)
All students should have taken Microeconomics (ECON 6300) and either have taken
Econometrics (ECON 6375) or currently be enrolled in econometrics.

TEXTS
Author             Title
Fort, Rodney       Sports Economics (required)
Scully, Gerald     The Market Structure of Sports (optional)
LEARNING OUTCOMES.
As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:
1. learn how to use available data sets to perform research;
2. learn how to apply and evaluate theories of labor, industrial organization and public finance using data;
3. learn how to identify a research project, conduct a literature review, and present their research to the class;
4. learn how to evaluate and explain the actions of economic agents.

AVERAGE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF INDEPENDENT, OUT-OF-CLASS, LEARNING EXPECTED PER WEEK
In a 15 week semester, including exam week, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes of out-of-class work for every 50 minutes of direct instruction, for a minimum total of 2.5 hours a week. A 3-credit course should include 2.5 hours of direct instruction and a minimum of 5 hours of independent learning or 7.5 hours per week.

GRADING
  Mid-Term Exam (20%)
  Data Project (20%)
  Paper (40%)
  Presentations (20%)

Note: In accordance with university policy, the final exam will be given during the final exam period and not the last week of the semester.

CLASS POLICIES
Attendance is not required in class (except for the day the student will present) but highly encouraged. I expect all work to be submitted on time. The dates of the exams are TBD. If you know of a conflict, please contact me ASAP.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

[NOTE: for other university policies on teaching, see http://www.gwu.edu/~academic/Teaching/main.htm ]

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, submitting
the work of others in whole or part without crediting them and without appropriate authority, and the fabrication of information.” Please note that allowing another student to copy your work is defined as cheating under the Academic Integrity code.

Examples of academically dishonest behavior include, but are not limited to:
1) Cheating
2) Fabrication
3) Plagiarism
4) Falsification and forgery of University academic documents
5) Facilitating academic dishonesty

Sanctions range from failure of the assignment, to failure of the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.

For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals
  http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY
In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.
Preliminary Calendar:

Week 1/2: Sports as Big Business/ Demand and Sports Revenue. We’ll be evaluating the efficacy of various measures that sports leagues have adopted to promote competitive balance, including revenue sharing, luxury taxes, salary caps, reverse order of finish drafts, and so forth.

Week 2/3: Demand and Sports Revenue. Price Elasticity (and Price Discrimination). This section will also evaluate Total and Marginal Revenue of Teams. We will begin looking at the market for Broadcast Rights.

Week 3/4: Broadcast rights and Profit maximizing owners. We will discuss what the outcomes of Sports Leagues are and how they affect negotiations and where the economic competition in sports leagues lies.

Week 5: Preliminary research presentations. I also expect to assign a ‘data project’ to make sure students can use econometric tools.

Week 6/7/8: The market for sports talent. This section will deal with labor relations in sports, the history of player pay and discrimination.

Week 9/10: Economic Impact of Subsidies. We will consider the cost-benefit concept in sports. This analysis will include the consideration of municipality funded stadiums etc.

Week 11/12: This section will consider the anti-trust provision and competition policies.

Week 13: College Sports. We will consider the impact of ‘amateurism’ in collegiate and Olympic sports.

Week 14: Final research presentations.