

**SPORTS ECONOMICS**  
**ECON 4929-200**  
**Summer 2017**

**Class Meeting:** M-F 9:15-10:50am, ECON 119

**Instructor:** Dr. Neil Metz

**E-Mail:** [metzn@colorado.edu](mailto:metzn@colorado.edu)

**Office:** ECON 06A

**Office Hours:** M-F: 8 am-9 am

**Online Course Access:** You may access the course through <http://learn.colorado.edu>

**COURSE PREREQUISITE:** ECON 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomics) and ECON 3080 (Intermediate Macroeconomics)

**TEXTBOOK:** *The Economics of Sports* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) 2013, Michael A. Leeds and Peter von Allmen

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

This course is a study in sports from an economics perspective. Economic fields covered in this course consist of industrial organization, public finance, and labor economics. Topics include: ticket pricing for sports events, impact of sports teams on cities, professional sports labor markets, and the business of college athletics.

There are several ways to apply economics theory to the real world. This course will use the world of sports to illustrate economic concepts. This is not just a sports class where we discuss the previous evening's Rockies or Buffs game. This is an economics course which uses sports examples to examine important economic concepts. The goal for this course is to provide students with economic tools needed to analyze the sports world around them, and to apply these tools to other aspects of their environment.

**GRADING:**

**1. Quizzes (15%):** Will be administered at the **beginning of class or online before class through D2L**. The quizzes will be over assigned reading. For most cases this will be from the assigned text book, in some cases it will be from outside sources, such as economic journals or newspapers. There will be a total of 10-15 quizzes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**2. Class Participation (10%):** Determined by class attendance, asking questions and contributing to class discussions, participating in discussion of hw problems, seeking help in office hours.

**3. Midterm I (25%):** Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**4. Midterm II (25%):** Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**5. Final Exam (25%):** Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>

**GRADING SCALE:**

92.5-100	A
89.5-92.4	A-
87.5-89.4	B+
82.5-87.4	B
79.5-82.4	B-
77.5-79.4	C+
68.5-77.4	C
58.5-68.4	D
0-58.4	F

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:**

Economics and Sports

Review of Economist's Arsenal

Sports Franchises as Profit-Maximizing Firms

Monopoly and Antitrust

**Midterm I, July 21**

Competitive Balance

The Public Finance of Sports: The Market for Teams

Costs and Benefits of a Franchise to a City

**Midterm II, August 2**

Labor Markets in Pro Sports

Labor Market Imperfections

Discrimination

Amateur and College Sports

**Final Exam, August 11**

Some material from each chapter of the book may be omitted. I may lecture and/or provide supplemental material in addition to the book. The instructor reserves the right to change or omit any part of the course outline as necessary.

**POLICIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Cell Phone Policy- Cell Phones are not permitted during class periods. This includes text messaging and internet access. Yes, I can tell when you are using the phone during class as individuals are not prone to stare into their lap for excessive periods of time under normal circumstances. If you are using the phone during class, you will be asked to leave the room.

2. Attend all classes and take full lecture notes. You should have notes taken from previous classes with you every class. If you miss a class, you need to get the notes from another student, I do not give out the notes from class. Having the notes is your responsibility. If you ask me a question over material that you do not have notes or work for, you can expect me to not answer until you are adequately prepared. The notes should be your first resource for any work done in this class.

3. You are encouraged to come to my office hours to discuss any class related issues and discuss course material. I am here to help you. If you feel like you are falling behind, please talk to me as soon as possible. The sooner you start acting, the better chance you have to complete the class with a good grade. If you are trying hard, studying hard, coming to lectures, completing the reading, completing in-class assignments, you will do great in this class, and I will help you as much as I can. But if you don't want to do work, I will not be able to help you, no matter how hard I try.

4. Emails should have the course title in the name.

5. You are also encouraged to work with other students in preparing for exams.

6. No make-up exam will be given for any reason except illness. Students will be required to bring a medical certificate to be eligible for a make-up exam.

***Students with Special Needs:***

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322 and [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices).

***Harassment Policy:***

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at (303) 492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at (303) 492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

***Religious Observances:***

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please let me know in a timely manner if one of the exam dates falls on a religious holiday you intend to observe and I will arrange for you to take a make-up. See policy details at:

[http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

***Classroom Behavior:***

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences in race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at

[http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

***Academic Integrity:***

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and nonacademic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at:

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>