



**Instructor:** Dr. Kerry Tan  
**Email:** [kmtan@loyola.edu](mailto:kmtan@loyola.edu)  
**Office Hour:** By appointment

---

**Course Website:** <http://moodle.loyola.edu/>

Lecture notes, paper prompts, and other course materials will be posted on the course website.

**Course Overview:**

This course is designed to introduce and apply microeconomic concepts to issues that arise in professional and amateur sports with a particular emphasis on baseball, football, basketball, and soccer. The semester will be split into three sections. We will start by connecting basic economic concepts like supply and demand, comparative advantage, and business statistics to the world of sports. The second third of the class will focus on the industrial organization of sports, in which we discuss why sports leagues exist, antitrust issues associated with sports, and competitive balance. Finally, we will cover the connection between sports and both public finance and labor economics. We will discuss issues like why players earn such high wages, why players organize into unions, and the arguments for/against paying student-athletes.

**Course Prerequisites:**

The prerequisite for this course is Economics 102 (Microeconomic Principles) and Economics 220 (Business Statistics). However, EC 220 can be taken concurrently with this course. Students with an interest in how economics and sports are related will find this course especially interesting.

**Recommended Textbook:**

Michael Leeds, Peter von Allmen, and Victor Matheson  
*The Economics of Sports* (6th Edition), Routledge (2018)  
ISBN: 9781138052161

**Grading:**

Grades for this course will be assigned as follows:

Paper #1: 25% (October 5)

Paper #2: 25% (November 16)

Paper #3: 25% (December 11)

Current Events: 20%

Surveys: 5%

*Papers:*

Three papers will be assigned during the semester and will provide an opportunity to develop critical thinking skills and apply analytical techniques learned in class. For each paper, I will provide two prompts and you select one. Each paper should be five pages long (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced). You must turn in your case study through Moodle by the beginning of class on the due date.

### *Current Events:*

There will be three current events assignments, in which you will type a two-page (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced) current event on two news articles from a reputable news source (published within the last 1 year) that pertain to the course material. Your grade will be based on how well you briefly summarize the two articles (3 pts), specify how they relate to the course material (3 pts), and provide insightful commentary on the issue (4 pts). Be sure to include a Works Cited section at the end of your current event with a link to your news articles. You must turn in your current event assignment through Moodle by the beginning of class on the due date.

### *Surveys:*

At the end of each week, you will fill out a survey on Moodle that provides feedback on your understanding of the course material. I will address your survey responses at the beginning of each class on the following Monday.

### *Grading Scale:*

Generally, final letter grades will follow the typical structure of: A (93-100), A- (90-92.99), B+ (87-89.99), B (83-86.99), B- (80-82.99), C+ (77-79.99), C (73-76.99), C- (70-72.99), D+ (67-69.99), D (60-66.99), and F (below 60). However, this breakdown is not set in stone and can vary according to the distribution of raw grades.

### **Help with Writing Papers:**

The Loyola Writing Center will be open for synchronous online appointments this Fall. Their full staff will be conducting tutoring appointments via Zoom every day except Saturdays. For information about the mechanics of online appointments or other questions concerning the Writing Center, please visit the website: <https://www.loyola.edu/department/writing-center>

### **Academic Misconduct:**

All students are expected to understand the meaning of the Loyola Honor Code, which states:

“All students of the Loyola Community have been equally entrusted by their peers to conduct themselves honestly on all academic assignments.

The students of this University understand that having collective and individual responsibility for the ethical welfare of their peers exemplifies a commitment to the community. Students who submit materials that are the products of their own minds demonstrate respect for themselves and the community in which they study.”

Ignorance of the Code is not a valid reason for committing an act of academic dishonesty. The following constitute violations of the Code: cheating, stealing, lying, forgery, plagiarism, and the failure to report a violation. Violations of the Honor Code will be handled by the Honor Council.

### Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability requesting accommodations for this course, please submit your Faculty Notification Email (FNE) request to Disability Support Services as soon as possible. After the FNE has been sent, please schedule a brief meeting with me during my office hours to discuss accommodations. If you need additional academic accommodations because of remote learning, please contact your DSS advisor immediately.

If you are not registered with DSS, but feel you might need accommodations or modifications for my course because of a physical, medical, emotional, or learning impairment, you must register with Disability Support Services. To register with DSS, or if you have questions about disability accommodations, please contact the Disability Support Services Office at [dss@loyola.edu](mailto:dss@loyola.edu).

### Due Dates and Tentative Schedule:

- Papers:
  - Paper #1: October 5 at 4:30pm
  - Paper #2: November 16 at 4:30pm
  - Paper #3: December 11 at 6:30pm
- Current Events:
  - Current Event #1: September 14 at 4:30pm
  - Current Event #2: October 26 at 4:30pm
  - Current Event #3: December 7 at 4:30pm
- Surveys: Fridays at 4:30pm

Date	Topics Covered
Aug. 31	Ch. 1 - Economics and Sports
Sept. 2, 9	Ch. 2 - Review of the Economist's Arsenal
Sept. 7	No Classes: Labor Day
Sept. 14, 16	Appendix 2B - Regression Analysis in Brief
Sept. 21	Cox - Outcome Uncertainty
Sept. 23, 28	Ch. 3 - Sports Franchises as Profit-Maximizing Firms
Sept. 30, Oct. 5	Ch. 4 - Monopoly and Antitrust
Oct. 7, 12, 14	Ch. 5 - Competitive Balance
Oct. 19, 21	Ch. 6 - The Public Finance of Sports: Who Benefits and How
Oct. 26, 28	Ch. 7 - The Public Finance of Sports: Who Pays and Why
Nov. 2, 4	Ch. 8 - Mega-Events
Nov. 9, 11	Baade and Matheson - Major League Baseball's All-Star Game
Nov. 16, 18	Ch. 9 - An Introduction to Labor Markets in Professional Sports
Nov. 23, 30	Ch. 10 & 11 - Labor Market Imperfections & Discrimination
Nov. 25	No Class: Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2, 7	Ch. 12 - The Economics of College Sports
Dec. 9	Knittel and Stango - Tiger Woods Scandal