

Economics of Sports  
ECONOMICS EC2182A-001  
Department of Economics  
Western University

September 2024

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**Office Hours:** Thu 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Delivery mode:** In-person  
**Meeting time(s):** Tue 4:30 – 5:30 pm, Thu 4:30 – 6:30 pm  
**Classroom:** SSC 2036  
**Course website:** <https://westernu.brightspace.com>  
**Undergraduate inquiries:** 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4078 or [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca)

**Registration:**

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

**Prerequisite Note:**

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022 A/B, or Economics 2001A/B**

*Prerequisite(s) for your course can be found in the Western Calendar at:*  
<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ECONOMIC&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

## **Course Objectives:**

This course provides an in-depth study of sports economics, with a focus on applying fundamental economic principles to sports industries' specific issues and questions. The course covers a range of core economic concepts, including supply and demand analysis, basic game theory, wage determination in both competitive and monopsonistic models, and theories of the firm. Additionally, models of imperfect competition and probability will be studied. A significant part of the course involves data analysis, supporting students in making sense of complex economic data within the sports industry context.

## **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful conclusion of the course, students will gain the capacity to:

1. Recognize the crucial role of mathematics and statistics within the field of sports economics.
2. Utilize economic models of human behaviour and utility optimization to comprehend the dynamics of sports markets.
3. Comprehend the concept of competitive balance and its significance in maintaining the health of a sports league.
4. Apprehend the processes and mechanisms involved in labor negotiations within sports industries.
5. Unfold the economic theory of discrimination and its manifestations within sports.
6. Understand the influence of government expenditure on sports markets.
7. Analyze and interpret labor market data within sports industries using learned economic principles and techniques.
8. Implement game theory principles to assess and predict decisions in the sports sector.

## **Textbook(s):**

Sports Economics, by David Berri. Worth Publishers 2018

## **Topics Covered:**

Supply and demand  
Revenue, profit and elasticity  
Monopoly and Oligopoly  
Game theory  
Labor markets  
Labor negotiations  
Basic econometrics

## Technical Requirements:

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone (for potential online exams)
- Webcam (for potential online exams)

## Software Requirements:

Students may utilize Gretl for statistical analysis in this course. Alternatively, any other statistical software with which the student is comfortable can also be used.

## Evaluation:

The evaluation for this course will comprise of several key elements: an assignment, a presentation, a midterm examination, and a final examination. Together, these components will form the structure of the course grading, each contributing to the final course grade.

The material for all exams consists of the topics covered in the textbook, as well as **materials covered in the lectures that are not necessarily in the textbook**. The distribution of the marks and tentative dates for the exams are:

Assignment:	(10%) (Due date: Tue Oct 22)
Midterm Exam:	(30%) (Thu Oct 24)
Project and Presentation:	(20%) (Due date: Thu Nov 21)
Final Exam:	(40%) (TBA by registrar's office)

All times are ET. All dates and times are tentative and subject to change.

## Assignment and Project:

The assignment component encompasses a set of problems relating to profit maximization and fundamental regression analysis. The homework assignment can be submitted by Thu, Oct 24 without penalty.

For the project, students engage in data analysis tasks. Groups of three to four students develop a thesis, collect and analyze data using basic regression techniques, report on their findings, and present their work to the class. Some project topics from previous iterations of this course include:

- Comparing player salaries to performance levels
- Examining team performance in relation to spending
- Analyzing draft orders versus college performance
- Assessing professional performance against college performance
- Investigating instances of discrimination in sports

Project submission deadline is set for two weeks before the term's end. The project can be submitted by Tue, Nov 26 without penalty. The project component is a crucial part of the course, and all students are expected to complete and submit their projects. Missed assessments related to the project will not be accommodated.

Please note that because of the flexible submission deadlines for the assignment and the project, the instructor reserves the right to deny self-attested considerations for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

### **Make-up Policy:**

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Please note that the midterm is considered to be central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. That is, the midterm is not eligible for self-attestation.

Students who are granted academic consideration for this assessment will be provided with the following opportunity to make up this work. Students with conflicts in schedule with the midterm (other exams, religious reasons, varsity sports etc) will be given a make-up exam conditional on approval by the academic counselling office in advance. Students seeking religious accommodation for any coursework must make such requests to academic counselling at least one week in advance (and at least two weeks in advance for final exams). After academic counselling has been contacted, you must then notify your instructor.

For all other approved absences, including medical and compassionate, the weight of the missed midterm will be transferred to the final exam weight. Students who have an approved absence from the final exam will be given a make-up for the final exam. The make-up exams may differ in length and format from the original ones. The make-up final exam may be an essay format.

If you miss an exam due to medical or compassionate grounds, you must submit your valid documentation to Academic Counselling within 48 hours of the exam date. You must also notify your instructor prior to the test or at least within 24 hours of the exam date. Students who miss an exam and do not provide valid documentation will receive a grade of zero for the exam.

## Email and Communication Policy

Students must use their uwo email address when emailing the instructor so it does not end up in spam and can be verified. **Subject line must include course and section number and should include the topic of the email.** Emails need to be respectful and concise listing your issues, what you have done to solve it, and what you hope the faculty member can help you with.

All course changes and updates will be communicated via the OWL course website, so please check the website frequently.

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024**

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. A [\*new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment\*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students **cannot** self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/administration.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf).
4. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20)).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 4.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14). **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: [https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_counselling/responsibilities\\_policies.html#appeals](https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals). The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made

to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed to submit an appeal to [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca). Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to **DROP/WITHDRAW** first term full or half course: **Mon, Dec 2, 2024**

### **Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations**

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

### **Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation**

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html)
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca). **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:  
[https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation\\_rtw/appeals.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html)
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

**Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement:** If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

**Statement on Mental Health and Support Services:** Students under emotional/mental distress should visit [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

**Statement on Remote Proctoring:** While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unity may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.