

Course Requirements: This course is designed to be very rigorous and demanding. You are expected to work hard, actively participate, ask questions when you have any doubts, and perform to the very best of your ability. Still, the purpose of this course is to teach you something about the economics of sports, not to destroy your GPA.

The grading breakdown follows: (percentage of final grade)

Midterm #1 (June 28th @ 8:00am)	25%
Midterm #2 (July 10th @ 8:00am)	25%
Data Assignments (2 total)	10%
PeerWise	5%
Cumulative Final Exam (July 26th at 8:00am)	35%

Exam Format: Each exam will cover material presented in class, as well as readings and assignments scheduled outside of class. The exam format will be provided in the class prior to a given exam. You should bring your UNC ID, and a “basic” calculator (for a description see the “Required Materials” section of the syllabus) with you to each exam.

Missed Exams: There are no make-up midterm examinations. You are forewarned well in advance to properly schedule your time and make proper arrangements for other potential conflicts. If you must miss a midterm exam, say due to illness, you may be permitted to transfer the missed credit to the final examination. To qualify for a transfer of credit, you must contact Professor Balaban **before** the start of the missed midterm examination and provide her with an acceptable explanation. You will be required to support your explanation with documentation within 2 business days after the exam. For example, if you miss an exam on a Friday, then you will have until Tuesday to provide your documentation. If the explanation and documentation are approved by Professor Balaban, then the weight of the midterm will be placed on the final exam.

If you miss both midterm exams, then your final exam will only carry a weight of 75%, i.e. a 10 percentage point penalty applies. If you are unable to attend the final exam, then you will need to provide Professor Balaban with an “Exam Excuse” from the Dean’s Office and a make-up exam will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Data Assignments: Two data assignments will be given during the semester. You will have some time to start these assignments during class and you will be asked to complete them for a grade within 24-48 hours. My expectations and requirements will be explicitly stated in each assignment. These assignments must be turned in by their deadline or a 25 percentage-point penalty will be assessed for each day they are late. Students should be prepared to discuss their results on the due date of each assignment.

PeerWise: "PeerWise is an online repository of multiple-choice questions that are created, answered, rated and discussed by students. By the end of the term, you are required to write 3 questions and rate 15 others. Specific instructions, links to help videos, and due dates can be found on Sakai. Here are some important logistics that you will need to register on the PeerWise website. Registration and use is free.

PeerWise Site: http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/at/?unc_edu

Course ID: 7564

Identifier: UNC PID (insert without any hyphens)

Grading Scale: I will use the following scale, which is based on a percentage of total possible points, to assign your final grade.

A	= 93-100	C	= 73-76
A-	= 90-92	C-	= 70-72
B+	= 87-89	D+	= 67-69
B	= 83-86	D	= 60-66
B-	= 80-82	F	< 60
C+	= 77-79		

In previous semesters roughly 20% of the class earned in the A-range and 35% of the class earned in the B-range. Although the grade distribution may change this semester, the past scores should give you a sense of my grading standards.

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code (<http://instrument.unc.edu>). Any violation will result in an **F** for the course, and other sanctions may apply.

Other Important Policies:

Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is strongly recommended. You are responsible for any announcements and assignments that you may have missed if you choose not to attend class. You should get the missed notes/announcements from one of your peers. It is expected that you will respect your peers and the instructor with appropriate behavior while in class and that you will arrive to class on time. **Students who are not willing to attend regularly should drop the course.**

Laptop/Cell-Phone Restrictions: Unless you have a documented visual, auditory, or learning disability requiring the use of a laptop, all laptops and cell-phone usage is restricted during class. If you are expecting an important phone call (job interview, family illness, etc.), please notify me before class then sit near the exit. The only exception to this rule is if I ask you to bring your laptops to class so we can work on a data assignment.

Contacts and Email Policy: I prefer that you address all questions/concerns to me in person. However, if you must email me, then please use proper email etiquette (see <http://www.usm.edu/chemistry-biochemistry/e-mail-etiquette-adapted-academia> for details).

Tips for Being Successful in ECON 485

- Attend all lectures.
- Complete all assigned readings before they are presented.
- Review the material immediately after it is presented and bring any questions you may have to my attention. I will dedicate the first few minutes of every class to answering questions.
- Do the suggested problems at the end of each chapter. The answers to the questions from Blair are available on Sakai and the answers from Kesenne can be found in the back of the book.
- Dedicate at least three hours of study time outside of class for every hour in class.
- Start the take-home assignments immediately and do not wait until the last minute to get help.
- If you find that you are having particular difficulty with any of the material in this course, then get help immediately. *Do not let it build up.* It is expected that you will have completed the readings and reviewed your notes BEFORE a scheduled meeting. Many students will wait until the last minute to get help and put extraordinary demands on my time. I have weekly office hours so please take advantage of them. It is impossible for me to drop everything and dedicate all of my time before an exam to procrastinating students.

Calendar and Reading List: You are expected to have all assigned readings completed before the material is presented. The entire chapter is to be read unless otherwise noted. Please expect to have additional readings throughout the semester.

- I. Introduction to Sports Leagues and Organizations
 - Blair, Chapters 2 and 3
 - Kesenne, Chapter 1
 - Stephen Morrow and Catherine Idle, 2008. "The Challenge of Modernizing a Professional Sport: A Case Study of Professional Road Cycling," in International Cases in the Business of Sport, edited by Chadwick and Arthur, pp. 45-59.
 - Andrew Zimbalist, 2003. "Sport as Business," *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 503-511.
- II. Ticket Pricing Decisions
 - Blair, Chapter 5
- III. Market for Sports Broadcasting Rights
 - Blair, Chapter 7
 - Kesenne, Chapter 2 (pp. 19 - 28)
- IV. Player Labor Market
 - Kesenne, Chapter 3 (pp. 30 – 42; skim remarks on pp. 42-47)
- V. Restrictions on Player Mobility
 - Blair, Chapter 17 (Sections 3-5)
 - Kesenne, Chapter 5 (pp. 84 – 93)

Midterm Exam 1 is on June 28th at 8:00am

- VI. Defining and Measuring Competitive Balance
 - Blair, Chapter 4 (Sections 1-4)
 - Brad R. Humphreys, 2002. "Alternative Measures of Competitive Balance in Sports Leagues," *Journal of Sports Economics*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 133-142.
- VII. Impact of League Policy on Competitive Balance
 - Blair, Chapter 4 (Sections 5-end)
 - Kesenne, Chapter 6 (pp. 101-114; skim remarks), Chapter 7 (ignore "two-decision variable model")
- VIII. Sports Leagues and Antitrust Policy
 - Blair, Chapter 9
- IX. NCAA
 - Blair, Chapter 18
 - Lawrence M. Kahn, 2007. "Cartel Behavior and Amateurism in College Sports," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 209-219.

Midterm Exam 2 is on July 10th at 8:00am

- X. Rank Order Tournaments
 - Bernd Frick and Rob Simmons, 2007. "The Allocation of Rewards in Athletic Contests," Lancaster University Management School Working Paper.
- XI. Cheating, PEDs, and Misconduct in Sports
 - Blair, Chapters 11, 12, and 13
 - Kjetil K. Haugen, 2004. "The Performance-Enhancing Drug Game," *Journal of Sports Economics*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 67-75.
- XII. Estimating MRP and Measuring Monopsony Power
 - Blair, Chapter 17 (pp. 350-end) and Chapter 19

- XIII. Labor Market Efficiency and Discrimination
- Blair, Chapter 25
 - Jahn K. Hakes and Raymond D. Sauer, 2006. "An Economic Evaluation of the *Moneyball* Hypothesis," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 173-185.
- XIV. Facilities, Franchises, and Public Policy
- Blair, Chapters 14, 15 and 16
 - Andrew Zimbalist. "A Miami Fish Story," *New York Times*, October 18, 1998.

Final Exam is on July 26th at 8:00am

Disclaimer: Although the instructor intends to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, there may be times when deviations from the material presented herein are necessary.