Course Objective: In this course we investigate how economic principles apply to professional and amateur sports. The topics include team decision making, league structures, officiating and managerial decisions, labor markets and labor relations, college sports, stadium financing, and economic impact studies. The course is designed to illustrate economic principles using sports as a vehicle to represent these ideas. By the end of the course, it is expected that you will have a greater appreciation for how economics can be applied to sports and beyond.

Texts: *The Economics of Sports* by Michael Leeds and Peter von Allmen (LVA) is the suggested textbook for this course. However, I stress that the book is NOT required and I do NOT teach from the book. All of the course notes and recommended readings will be posted to the course moodle site and these notes can serve as a substitute for the textbook. If you feel that a textbook would help you in understanding the material, I strongly recommend saving money and purchasing a used/older version.

Course Web Page: Course materials will be posted on moodle at moodle2.uncc.edu.

Grading: Grading will proceed in the following manner.

- Class participation worth 200 points
  - 50 pts: In-Class Discussion and Participation
  - 50 pts: In-Class Quizzes (5 quizzes)
  - 100 pts: Homeworks (best 4 of 5)
- 2 Exams worth 125 points each

Out of the possible 450 points in the class, the grades are assigned as follows:

A 450-405  B 404-360  C 359-315  D 314-270  F 269-0

Test scores are NOT rounded up. Rounding of final course scores follow standard practice (only .5 or above will be rounded up to the next whole number).

Extra Credit: Individual extra credit projects are not offered in this class.

Class Participation: As class participation is an important input to the learning process, this class will have a participation component. Class participation will include in-class discussions, pop quizzes, and homework assignments. Pop quizzes must be taken during the class period they are administered. If you miss a pop-quiz you will be given a zero (0) for that particular assignment.
Academic Honesty: Please note that academic misconduct (cheating) will NOT be tolerated. In addition, students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student’s work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

Make-up Exams and Tardy Projects: Make-up exams are generally not offered. Make-up exams will be offered if you miss an exam while officially representing the University at an off-campus event. If you miss an in-class exam, without prior consultation with me, you will be given a zero (0) for that exam, and the weight of the missed exam may be placed on the final exam. Any out-of-class project turned in late can earn a maximum of 60% of the project’s original value.

ADA Compliance: As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Cell Phones: All beepers, pagers, and cell phones should either be turned off prior to class starting or placed in silent mode. The proliferation of cell phones and other communication devices only adds to and does not mitigate the negative externalities imposed on others when they activate during class.

Statement on Diversity: The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to, ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

Some important dates:
- Classes begin: August 24
- First Day of Class: August 25
- Labor Day Holiday: September 7
- Fall Break: October 12-13 (No Class)
- Thanksgiving Break: November 25-28 (No Class)
- Classes End: Wednesday December 9
- Last Class: Tuesday December 8
- Exam #1: Thursday, October 8
- Exam #2: December 15 (2-4:30PM) [subject to change: see university exam schedule]
Course Outline (Subject to Change)

1. Introduction (LVA Ch 1 and 2)
2. The Franchises
   • Profitability I: Ticket and concession pricing (LVA Ch. 3)
   • Profitability II: Team Quality (LVA Ch. 3)
3. The Leagues
   • The role of leagues (LVA Ch. 4)
   • Competitive balance (LVA Ch. 5)
   • League rules, institutions, and incentives (handouts)
4. The Managers and the Referees
   • Managerial quality and team performance (handouts)
   • Why fire the coach? (handouts)
   • What’s up with the referees?
   • Defalqegate - Econometrics defends Tom Brady?
5. The Players
   • The Market for Sports Labor (The Baseball Players Labor Market, LVA Ch. 8)
   • Player value and salary determination (LVA Ch. 9, handouts)
   • The Impact of the Reserve Clause (handouts)
   • Age and race in sports labor markets (LVA Ch. 10, handouts)
6. The Amateur Players:
   • Role of sports on campus
   • The economics of the NCAA
   • Is Paying players a viable option? (LVA Ch. 11, handouts)
7. The Cities
   • Stadium economics (LVA Ch. 6 and 7, handouts)
   • Economic impacts of franchises and events (LVA Ch. 7)
   • Sports Sponsorships (handouts)
8. Additional topics (time permitting)
   • PGA: The Tiger Effect
   • NASCAR: Award structure and incentives
   • Soccer  Referee Bias in the FIFA world cup, Impact of the FIFA World Cup on World Economy (handouts)
   • Performance under pressure: Soccer, NHL, NCAA, NFL (handouts)
   • Tennis: Rewards to effort and Best of N tournaments