



The grading breakdown follows: (percentage of final grade)

Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Current Event Presentation and Discussion Board Posts	10%
Quizzes	10%
Problem Sets (6 total, weight of each may vary)	30%

**Exam Format:** There will be a single mid-term exam given during the semester (**February 28<sup>th</sup>**). The final exam (**May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 8AM**) is *not* cumulative *unless* you should miss the mid-term examination (see the “Missed Exam” section below). 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 with you to each exam.

**Missed Exam:** There is no make-up midterm examination. You are forewarned well in advance to properly schedule your time and make proper arrangements for other potential conflicts. Regardless of the reason, if you miss the midterm exam, then you will take a *cumulative* final exam that will count toward 50% of your grade. If you should be unable to attend the final exam, then you will need to provide me with an “Exam Excuse” from the Dean’s Office. The make-up for the final exam will be held at my convenience. Note: a cumulative final exam will cover the *content from the entire course*.

**Current Event Presentation and Discussion Board Posts:** In each class, we’ll devote the first 10 minutes or so of class time to the discussion of a relevant issue. The discussion will be led by a team of two students (team assignments will be posted on Blackboard on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>). The team leading the discussion may want to prepare a brief set of “talking points” (five bullet points max) to guide and focus the discussion. To provide a sense of how this might work, I’ll do the first two presentations on January 10<sup>th</sup> and January 14<sup>th</sup>.

After your presentation – and before the start of the next class – I would like you to start a Blackboard discussion thread on your issue. The thread should give a brief background of the issue and list the “talking points.” Feel free to attach a link to a website or an article that may provide more background information on the issue. It will be your responsibility to monitor this thread (e.g. stop the discussion when it becomes redundant and keep the discussion on-topic). One-half of your grade for this exercise (i.e. 5% of your total grade) will be based on your selection of a narrow, well-defined topic, your presentation of the topic, your selection of talking points, your monitoring of the discussion board, and your ability to meet the stated deadlines. Since this is a current event exercise, your issue should be no more than 2 years old. Furthermore, it should be significantly different than any topics that have already been covered.

The other one-half of this grade – 5% of your total grade – will be based on your contribution to other discussion threads. In all, you will be required to make 5 posts on 5 different threads. Please only make 5 posts! If you make more than 5 posts, then I will only grade the first five. An acceptable post will: 1) be clearly written *in your own words* and have minimal grammatical errors; and 2) be written in the voice of an economist! This implies that your answers will not contain “smack-talk” or be subjectively based. Your response will be based on solid economic reasoning and draw on what you have learned in this class or your other economic classes.

**Quizzes:** The textbook provides the basic structure and foundation for the course. We will be working through the different chapters of the text as we progress through the course. Students are expected to keep up with the reading and will be quizzed on the chapter readings *prior* to class discussion. These quizzes will be announced in advance and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There are no make-up quizzes.

**Problem Sets:** Six problem sets will be distributed during the semester. These assignments will be given to you at least 5 to 7 days before their due date. My expectations and requirements will be explicitly stated in each assignment. These assignments must be turned in by their deadline or a 15 percentage-point penalty will be assessed for each day they are late.

**Grading Scale** (as a percentage of total points)

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		

I do not distribute any grades via email or over the telephone. If you are not in class when an assignment is returned, then you will have to stop by during office hours in order to get your grade. As a rule, I do not curve final grades.

**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.

**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 with your cell phones turned to the off position. This means that you should refrain from reading the paper, browsing the web, instant messaging, playing games, etc. during class time.

**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://science.kennesaw.edu/~hmattord/email.htm> for details).

**Tips for Being Successful in ECON 499**

Attend all lectures and exam Q&A sessions.

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.

Dedicate at least three hours of study time outside of class for every hour in class.

Start the problem sets immediately and do not wait until the last minute to get help.

Work through the multiple choice quizzes that are available on the publisher's website. A link to this site can be found on Blackboard.

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.

**Preliminary Calendar:**

Part I: January 10 – January 21

Review of microeconomics and linear regression  
Chapters 1 and 2

Part II: January 24 – February 11

The Structure of Professional Sports Leagues  
Competitive Balance  
Chapters 3, 4, and 5

Part III: February 14 – February 25

Public Finance of Sports  
Economic Impact Studies  
Chapters 6 and 7

**Midterm – February 28**

Part IV: March 2 – April 8

Labor Markets in Professional Sports  
Discrimination  
Chapters 8, 9, and 10

Part V: April 11 – April 27

Amateur and College Sports  
Chapter 11

**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.