



**Course Requirements:** This course is fairly 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)

2 Midterms	40% (the lowest exam will carry a 15% weight and the highest 25%)
Cumulative Final Exam	30%
Group Project & Presentation	25%
In-Class Polls	5%

**Exam Format:** There will be two mid-term exams given during the semester (**September 25<sup>th</sup>** and **November 6<sup>th</sup>**) and a cumulative final exam (**December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00am**). 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 (p. 1) 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. An exception will be made for University-approved absences (see <http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/>); students with this type of absence may request a make-up examination at a time convenient to both student and instructor.

If you do not have a University-approved absence, then to qualify for a transfer of credit, you must contact me **before** the start of the missed midterm examination and provide me with an acceptable explanation. You are required to support your explanation with documentation within 2 business days of the exam. For example, if you miss an exam on a Tuesday, then you will have until Thursday to provide your documentation. If the explanation and documentation are approved by Dr. 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 60%, i.e. a 10 percentage point penalty applies. If you are unable to attend the final exam, then you will need to provide me with an “Exam Excuse” from the Dean’s Office no later than Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.

“**In-class polls**” will be conducted during each lecture by using the response system known as *Poll Everywhere*. Participation requires that you have access to a cell phone texting plan or a device that can logon to the University’s Wi-Fi (e.g. tablet, laptop). Prior to our first poll you must register your device with Poll Everywhere (PE). Registration instructions and other FAQ can be found by following this link: [poll.unc.edu](http://poll.unc.edu). Note: a new sign-in system is being used this semester for PE. An explanation of how the polls will be graded can be found on p. 6 of the syllabus. Note: these questions are to be done in class, you will receive a zero on this portion of your final grade if you are found to be answering questions from a distant location.

**Group Project and Presentation:** You will work on a project with 2 to 3 other students based on a common interest from a course topic. A list of topics will be provided by September 15<sup>th</sup> and you the group assignments by September 30<sup>th</sup>. General guidelines will be provided for all groups on September 30<sup>th</sup>, but each group will be required to meet with me to discuss explicit details of their project. All group projects will be due at 8am on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. Presentations will be held during class on November 27<sup>th</sup>, November 29<sup>th</sup>, and December 4<sup>th</sup>. All projects and presentations will be graded based on a rubric which will be provided to you by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

- You may use your notes and textbook to complete polls, but keep in mind that polls will be timed. Sometimes you will be permitted to consult with your classmates when answering a poll. I will let you know when you can consult with a classmate versus when you are expected to do the poll alone.

- No assistance is permitted on exams. During the exam, however, feel free to ask me for clarification. You are permitted to use a basic calculator as described on p. 1 of the syllabus. Consider the use of any other calculator a violation of the honor code.

**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		

Letter grades are computed from the total points earned during the semester and assigned based on the scale given above. If necessary, final grades will be curved so the course grades have a similar distribution to previous versions of this class. In previous semesters roughly 20% of the class earned in the A-range and 35% of the class earned in the B-range.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is strongly recommended. You are responsible for any announcements that you may have missed if you choose not to attend class or if you cannot attend class. You should get the missed notes/announcements from one of your peers. Discuss any questions you have on the content with a classmate or stop by during my scheduled office hours. 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.**

In the event that you must miss or anticipate missing at least 2 *consecutive classes* because of an *extenuating circumstance*, notify me and the Dean of Students immediately. Upon receipt of notification from the Dean of Students and your return to campus, it is your responsibility to contact me and we will discuss any adjustments to your course grade calculation. Reminder: read the email etiquette section for when you should/should not contact your professor.

**Electronic Device Policy:** Students may not use laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices during the lecture, except when doing polls or when I specifically permit it. First, it disrupts your classmates. Second, it interferes with your learning (see <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom>). The first time you violate the restriction, you will be warned. For each subsequent time a 5%-point penalty will be applied to your final Poll Everywhere grade. If you are expecting an important phone call (job interview, family illness, etc.), please notify me before class then sit in the back of the room near the exit.

**Counseling and Psychological Services:** CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

**Accessibility Resources & Services:** UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information: <https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us>

**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 Economics (August 21 – August 23)**

- Berri, Chapters 1 and 2 (including appendix)
- Kesenne, Chapter 1

**II. What is a Team's Objective (August 28 – August 30)**

- Berri, Chapter 3 (including appendix)
- Anthony C. Krautmann and David J. Berri. (2007). "Can We Find it at the Concessions? Understanding Price Elasticity in Professional Sports." *Journal of Sports Economics*, Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 183-191.

**III. Competitive Balance (September 4 – September 11)**

- Berri, Chapter 4 (including appendix)
- Dennis Coates, Brad R. Humphreys and Li Zhou, 2014. "Reference-Dependent Preferences, Loss Aversion, and Live Game Attendance," *Economic Inquiry*, Vol. 52, No. 3, pp. 959-973.
- Brad R. Humphreys, 2002. "Alternative Measures of Competitive Balance in Sports Leagues," *Journal of Sports Economics*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 133-148.
- Treber, Janet, Rachel Levy, and Victor Matheson. 2013. "Gender Differences in Competitive Balance in Intercollegiate Basketball." In *Handbook on the Economics of Women in Sports*, edited by Eva Marikova Leeds and Michael Leeds, 251-68. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

**IV. Labor: The Key Input to Sports (September 13 – September 20)**

- Berri, Chapter 5
- Kesenne, Chapter 3 (pp. 48 – 58; pp. 65-71; and skim remarks on pp. 58 – 62) and Chapter 5 (pp. 103-113)

**Exam #1 (September 25)**

**V. Analysis of League Policy in Professional Team Sports (September 27 – October 9)**

- Kesenne, Chapters 6 and 7 (ignore "two-decision variable model")
- Stefan Kesenne (2000). "The Impact of Salary Caps in Professional Team Sports," *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 47, No. 4, pp. 422-430.

**VI. Determining the Economic Value of Playing Talent (October 11 – October 25)**

- Berri, Chapter 6
- Lane, E., Nagel, J., & Netz, J. S. (2014). Alternative Approaches to Measuring MRP: Are All Men's College Basketball Players Exploited? *Journal of Sports Economics*, 15(3), 237-262.

**VII. Women and Sports (October 30 – November 1)**

- Berri, Chapter 8 (including appendix)
- Gilsdorf, Keith F. and Vasant A. Sukhatme. 2013. "Gender Differences in Responses to Incentives in Sports: Some New Results from Golf." In *Handbook on the Economics of Women in Sports*, edited by Eva Marikova Leeds and Michael Leeds, 251-68. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

**Exam #2 (November 6)**

**VIII. The Economics of College Sports (November 8 - November 13)**

- Berri, Chapter 9
- Roger D. Blair and Joseph Whitman, 2017. “The NCAA Cartel, Monopsonistic Restrictions, and Antitrust Policy,” *The Antitrust Bulletin*, Vol 62, No. 1, pp. 3-14.
- Lawrence M. Kahn, 2007. “Cartel Behavior and Amateurism in College Sports,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 209-219.

**IX. Sports and the Public Purse (November 15 – November 20)**

- Berri, Chapter 10
- Baade, Robert and Victor Matheson. 2012. “Financing Professional Sports Facilities.” In *Financing Economics Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, edited by Zenia Kotval and Sammis White, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 323-42. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

**X. Class Presentations (November 27 – December 4)**

**Final Exam (December 13 @ 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.

### **Explanation of “In-Class Polls” Grading**

Below is an explanation of how the Poll Everywhere questions will be graded. Essentially there will be two types of questions asked: 1) graded questions; and 2) polling questions.

“**Graded questions**” are multiple choice questions where there is only one correct answer. “**Polling questions**” do not have correct answers. Examples include questions like, “What would you be doing – right now – if you weren’t in class?” and “What is the opportunity cost of going to a class that meets at 7pm?”

Grading Procedure:

- I understand that you may not be able to participate in some polls because you missed class, forgot your polling device, and/or had technical difficulty. Missed polls cannot be made-up. This holds regardless of your excuse (e.g. university/athletics commitment, job interview, sickness, technical malfunction, etc.). It’s OK though because only the highest 85% of your polls will be allocated toward your “In-Class Polls” grade. I expect to do at least 100 polls during class this semester. In the event that we do 100 polls, for example, your poll grade will only be based on your highest 85 polls. In other words, you can miss 15 polls without incurring a penalty.
- Possible scores on any given “graded question” include:
  - 100% (you answered the question correctly)
  - 50% (you answered the question incorrectly)
  - 0% (you did not answer the question)
- Possible scores on any given “polling question” include:
  - 100% (you answered the question)
  - 0% (you did not answer the question)

**Starting Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**, all poll responses will be graded according to the procedures outlined in this document.

**Registration instructions for Poll Everywhere** : All students, including those who have registered previously for Poll Everywhere, should go to [poll.unc.edu](http://poll.unc.edu), click **Student Account Registration** and log in via “Single sign-on.” In addition, please take the time to read the Student FAQs before our first class meeting.

**Using Poll Everywhere in Class**: Students may log in at either [polleverywhere.com](http://polleverywhere.com) or by using the Poll Everywhere mobile app. With either method, you will enter your official UNC-CH email address, select the Single-Sign-On link and enter your Onyen and Password.

- Note: these questions are to be done in class, you will receive a zero on this portion of your final grade if you are found to be answering questions from a distant location and a report will be submitted to the Honor Board.

**If you encounter technical issues, you can contact ITS Help or refer to the Help options at the bottom of the [poll.unc.edu](http://poll.unc.edu) page.**