

Economics 334 – Economics of Collegiate Sports

Western Oregon University, Fall 2009

MWF: 8:00-9:20, OMA 101

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Syllabus

College sports has become a business, carried on too often by professionals, supported by levies [taxes] on the public, bringing in vast gate receipts, demoralizing student ethics, and confusing the ideals of sport, manliness, and decency. Frederick Jackson Turner, 1906

This course offers students the opportunity to learn how economic theories are used to understand intercollegiate sports in the United States. Topics include: the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); an economic analysis of the NCAA; the labor markets for student-athletes and coaches; the relationship between the Athletic Department and the University; the role of the media and the commercialization of college sports; gender, racial and legal issues; and the desirability of reform of college sports.

Prerequisites

Economics 201 and 202

Office Hours

M&W: 1400-1600; T, 1300-1500 (or by appointment)
West House 209, 838-8244.

There is no class on Friday, 6 November and Friday, 27 November.

The last day to drop is Friday, 6 November.

Readings

The following textbook is available from the campus bookstore or on-line sellers like Amazon or Powell's. Buy the paperback version, it's cheaper:

The Economics of Intercollegiate Sports. R.R. Grant, J.C. Leadley and Z.X. Zygmunt. World Scientific, 2008.

Students are responsible for completing the assigned reading prior to class. This allows class sessions to be used for clarifying and extending ideas presented in

the readings rather than repeating them. Successful classes depend on students being familiar with the assigned readings (and all class handouts).

Students should be familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy implemented by the Division of Business and Economics. The policy applies to all classes taught in the division. A copy of the policy is provided to you. The policy is also available here: <http://www.wou.edu/las/business/>

Exams & Assignments Deadlines and Grading

1. Exam #1 (Monday, 26 October).
2. Exam #2 (Monday, 7 December, 0800-0950).
3. Paper Assignment #1 & presentation (Friday, 30 October).
4. Paper Assignment #2 (Monday, 23 November).
5. Paper Assignment #3 (due at exam #2).

Each requirement will contribute 20% to your final grade. Class participation will also be a factor in determining your final grade.

The exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. The exams are cumulative. One week prior to the exams I will provide a list of potential exam questions to you. The questions will help you gauge your understanding of the material and prepare for the exams. Actual exam questions will be *similar* to these questions - “similar” means the exam questions will be *variations* of the questions. You are permitted (and encouraged) to discuss potential exam questions with other students in the class. You are not required to submit your answers to me; however, if you encounter difficulty with these questions please consult me during my office hours.

Please bring an unused and approved bluebook (available from the bookstore) to the exam (make sure your bluebook has no torn or missing pages). ***Failure to use an approved bluebook will result in a 10% reduction in your exam score. A bluebook with torn or missing pages, or a previously used bluebook, will not be accepted.***

Please notify me at the earliest opportunity if I make an arithmetic error in calculating your score on an exam.

When each exam is returned to you it will accompanied by an answer key. If you have any questions on how a particular question was graded, *you must notify me in writing*. Please resubmit your exam with a typed statement, one or two paragraphs in length, explaining in as much detail as possible why you believe your answer should be awarded more credit.

If you cannot take the exams on the dates they are scheduled you should not enroll in this course (this includes the final examination; you should

not make any travel or other arrangements which require you to leave campus prior to the date of the final examination). If you remain enrolled in this course you are agreeing to take the final exam on the date and time at which is scheduled. If you miss the examination, it will not be rescheduled for you unless you provide documentation and evidence describing the event or circumstance that legitimately prevented you from taking the examination at the scheduled time.

Please do not consume any food in the classroom at any time.

Turn off all electronic devices during class. **Any student who uses any electronic device during class will be expelled and given a grade of “F.”**

Make sure you get a copy of the notes from a classmate for any days you are absent.

A grade of “incomplete” may only be used in those extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances in which the student cannot complete the course requirements during the term. Incompletes cannot be used because of poor academic performance by the student.

Note: All assignments will be reduced in grade by 10% for every day they are late. Saturday is a day. So is Sunday.

Assignment #1 – Discussion and Analysis of a Rules Violation

In this assignment you will write a short paper about a NCAA violation at a Division I university. You will also present your findings to class in a short (10 minute) presentation beginning on Friday, 30 October.

You must provide each student in class with a photocopy summarizing the information that you have found (i.e., the information in items 1-8 below).

You may use PowerPoint for your presentation if you wish (but it is not required).

Your paper should include the following information:

- I. At which university did the violation occur?

One potential source to identify violations is the NCAA’s Major Infractions Database which is accessible here:

<http://www.ncaa.org/>

<https://web1.ncaa.org/LSDBi/exec/miSearch>

2. When did the violation occur?
3. What is the alleged violation?
4. Who committed the violation (e.g., players, coaches)? List the names of all parties involved, their sport, position, year in school, and remaining years of eligibility.
5. Which NCAA rule(s) were violated?

Here is a link to the bylaws for Division I schools:

<http://www.ncaapublications.com/ProductsDetailView.aspx?sku=DI10&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

6. How were the violation(s) discovered? Who reported them?
7. What punishment(s) were imposed?
8. What is your opinion about the alleged violation(s) and punishment(s)?

The paper must consist of three pages of discussion and analysis plus one page of references, and must be typed, double-spaced and stapled. Each student must focus on a unique violation of NCAA rules (no duplications). **Do not choose a criminal case (assault, robbery, rape, etc.).** To ensure that there are no duplications you must notify me of your choice of school and violation no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 12 October. Failure to do so will result in a 10% penalty. **If your paper topic duplicates another student's, you will receive no credit for your paper.**

The paper is due in class on Friday, 30 October.

The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Does the paper include at least three, double-spaced, typewritten pages of text plus one page of references? Font type should be no larger than 12 point.
2. Is the paper clearly written and free of grammatical and typographical errors? A poorly written paper, regardless of quality of content, will result in a poor grade.
3. Does the paper include all the information requested above?

4. Are a wide variety of research sources used?
5. Are all references properly cited?

Assignment #2 - Gender Equity and Title IX Compliance

In this assignment you will write a short paper about a NCAA Division I university athletic department's status with regard to gender equity and Title IX compliance. You will use the same institution as for Assignment #1, and you will compare your institution with data from Western Oregon University. You are encouraged to use a wide variety of research sources including – but not limited to - the U.S. Department of Education's "Equity in Athletics Data Analysis Cutting Tool," which can be found at <http://ope.ed.gov/athletics/index.aspx>.

Your paper should include the following information:

1. Name of Institution
2. Number of full-time undergraduates (break down by gender)
3. Number of intercollegiate sports offered (list by gender).
4. Number of athletes (by gender and sport).
5. Athletic Conference to which the school belongs.
6. Number of athletes in the conference (by gender and sport).
7. Numbers of male and female head coaches of men's teams.
8. Numbers of male and female head coaches of women's teams.
9. Average Annual Institutional Salary per Head Coach (men's/women's)
10. Total athletically related student aid (by gender)
11. Revenue generated by athletic teams (break down by gender and include separate breakdowns for football and men's and women's basketball)
12. Recruiting expenses (break down by gender)
13. Operating expenses (break down by gender and include separate breakdowns for football and men's and women's basketball)
14. Highest and lowest operating expenses per participant for both men's and women's teams
15. Lawsuits (ongoing or resolved) or sanctions against the institution for Title IX violations
16. Recent demonstrations of effort to improve Title IX compliance
17. Assessment of the institution's status with regard to gender equity. How does the ratio of female students to the total student population compare to the ratio of male athletes to the total number of athletes? Are the monetary expenditures proportional to participation? Is the institution in compliance with Title IX?

Does the institution face any problems regarding Title IX compliance? How does the institution compare to WOU with regard to gender equity?

The length of the paper is left to your discretion but it must include a page of references and be typed, double-spaced and stapled. Each student will focus on the same Division I institution as in Assignment #1. **If your paper duplicates another student's, you will receive no credit for your paper.**

The paper is due on Monday, 23 November no later than 5:00 p.m.

With the exception of page length, the paper will be evaluated according to the same criteria as Assignment #1.

Assignment #3 – Questions for GLZ chapters

For each of the chapters assigned, you will write three questions based on the material in each chapter. The questions will be: one review question, one discussion question, and one internet question. Since there are nine chapters, you will write twenty seven questions in total (**nine of each type of question**). You must also answer each question.

You must work independently; if students submit similar questions and answers, I will presume that academic impropriety (i.e., cheating) has occurred.

The assignment is due at the time of the final examination.

Some Comments About Plagiarism

It is important that you understand the issue of plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism is “the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s original work” (*The Random House College Dictionary*, Revised Edition, 1984). Plagiarism is a violation of the university’s academic policy; the *Code of Student Responsibility* includes the following text:

574-31-030 SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND POLICIES

The following list of prohibited forms of conduct is not all inclusive since it is not possible to list all potential violations. The University expects that all students will behave in a manner congruent with established community standards and in a manner conducive to the development of the individual. Actions detrimental to the mission of the University and the legitimate activities of the academic community which constitute the University are in violation of this Code and may be subject to judicial procedures.

Judicial action may be initiated by the University and sanctions may be assigned to any student or recognized student organization found participating in, attempting to participate in, or assisting others in participating in any of the following prohibited forms of conduct:

(I) Academic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to:

(d) Plagiarism - representing without giving credit the words, data, or ideas of another person as one's own work in any academic exercise. This includes submitting, in whole or in part, prewritten term papers of another or the research of another, including but not limited to the product of commercial vendors who sell or distribute such materials, and the appropriation and/or use of electronic data of another person or persons as one's own, or using such data without giving proper credit for it.

Given the increasing reliance on the Internet for research, it is often easy to unintentionally commit plagiarism. I will assume that all students in this class understand what constitutes plagiarism. If you have **ANY** doubts or questions about the issue of plagiarism you should contact me.

Reading Assignments and Topics

GLZ – *Economics of Intercollegiate Sports*

I. THE EVOLUTION OF THE NCAA

GLZ: Chapter 1

II. AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE NCAA

GLZ: Chapter 2

III. THE LABOR MARKET FOR COLLEGE ATHLETES

GLZ: Chapters 3, 4

IV. THE LABOR MARKET FOR COLLEGE COACHES

GLZ: Chapter 5

V. THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY

GLZ: Chapter 6

VI. THE MEDIA AND COLLEGE SPORTS

GLZ: Chapter 7

VII. RACE, GENDER, AND LEGAL ISSUES

GLZ: Chapter 8

VIII. REFORMING COLLEGIATE SPORTS

GLZ: Chapter 9