



Faculté des sciences sociales | Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Economics

Selected Topics in Sports Economics
ECON6904-A00
Fall Term 2022

Course Information

Class Schedule:

Tuesdays: 2:30PM - 5:20PM
Room: 145 Jean-Jacq. Luss. (LMX) 241

Instructor Information:

Name: Kevin Mongeon
Office: MNT 330
Email: kevin.mongeon@UOTTAWA.CA
Phone Number: 613-562-5700
Office Hours: MNT 330: Tuesdays 13:30-2:30; MS Teams: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30

Communication Preferences: First direct communications to my email at kevin.mongeon@uottawa.ca, then come to my office hours.

Call Me: Professor Mongeon or Dr. Mongeon

Short Bio:

Kevin Mongeon is an associate professor of sport management at the University of Ottawa. His research examines a variety of topics involved in the economics of sports, including professional sports, amateur sports, discrimination, and player productivity. Professor Mongeon creates Big Data sets and develops statistical models relevant to various fields. Some of his recent research examines referee and salary discrimination, the production of winning, and league behaviour in the NHL. He has also contributed expert reports on player contributions and team valuations in a class action lawsuit involving minimum wage disputes in the CHL. His teaching interests include sports economics and finance, statistics, Bayesian econometrics, industrial organization, and data science.

Before emailing a question, please *fully* read this syllabus and explore the associated resources. The answers to many questions can be found in this document and students may be referred back to the syllabus if the answer is already available. Please allow at least **two (2) business days** for responses to inquiries before pursuing another route of communication.

Official Course Description

Selected Topics in Applied Economics (3 crédits / 3 units)

Étude de thèmes choisis en économie appliquée; contenu variable selon l'année. / Study of selected topics in applied economics; contents may change from year to year.

Additional Course Description

Economic analysis of sports teams, leagues, and institutions. Topics include leagues, teams, policies, competitive balance, antitrust issues, labor markets, athlete compensation, and other topics related to application of economic principles to sport leagues. Empirical research project is cornerstone of course.

Indigenous Affirmation

ANISHINÀBE

Ni manàdjiyànàni Màmìwininì Anishinàbeg, ogog kà nàgadawàbandadjig iyo akì eko weshkad. Ako nongom ega wikàd kì mìgiwewàdj.

Ni manàdjiyànàni kakina Anishinàbeg ondaje kaye ogog kakina eniyagizidjig enigokamigàg Kanadàng eji ondàpinangig endàwàdjìn Odàwàng.

Ninisidawinawànàni kenawendamòdjig kije kikenindamàwin; weshkinìgidjig kaye kejeyàdizidjig.

Nigijeweninmànàni ogog kà nìgàni sòngideyedjig; weshkad, nongom; kaye àyànikàdj.

[Listen to the audio file](#)

ENGLISH

We pay respect to the Algonquin people, who are the traditional guardians of this land. We acknowledge their longstanding relationship with this territory, which remains unceded.

We pay respect to all Indigenous people in this region, from all nations across Canada, who call Ottawa home.

We acknowledge the traditional knowledge keepers, both young and old.

And we honour their courageous leaders: past, present, and future.

Inclusion

The University of Ottawa aims to be an equitable and inclusive institution, actively participating in ensuring the wellbeing of students, personnel and faculty members. The University is committed to eliminating obstacles to student inclusion in accordance with the [Ontario Human](#)

[Rights Code](#). The *Code* provides that every person has the right to equal treatment with respect to goods, services, facilities, housing, contracts and employment as well as membership in trade or professional associations and unions without discrimination because of “Race, Ancestry, Place of origin, Colour, Ethnic origin, Citizenship, Creed, Sex, Sexual orientation, Gender identity, Gender expression, Age, Record of offence (in employment only), Receipt of public assistance, Marital status, Family status, Disability”.

The [Human Rights Office of the University of Ottawa](#) adds “although the Human Rights Code does not provide a definition of discrimination, the notion of discrimination covers unfair treatment on the basis of race, disability, sex, or any other personal characteristic. It can take many different forms, can target a single person or a group and can be part of a system.”

If you have experienced discrimination or harassment, you can seek confidential assistance through the University Human Rights Office to discuss your situation and/or [to file a formal complaint](#).

The following uOttawa Campus based services are available to you and your fellow students:

- [uOttawa Counselling Service](#) including Individual Counselling provided by uOttawa Counsellor, Pierre Bercy who specializes in anti-black racism;
- University of Ottawa Students’ Union (UOSU) [Resources for/from the Black Community](#), [Centre for Students with Disabilities](#), [Racialized and Indigenous Students Experience Centre](#), [Womxns Resource Centre](#) and [uOttawa Pride Center](#)
- Anti-racism student committee (Email: car.arc.uottawa@gmail.com)
- Mashkawaziwogamig: [Indigenous Resource Center](#)
- [University of Ottawa’s Human Rights Office](#) including [policies on accessibility](#).

Course Learning Outcomes

General Course Learning Outcomes

This course will provide students with a review of the sports economics literature and an understanding of sports economics models and their application to leagues and teams.

Specific Course Learning Outcomes

- Understand, explain, and critique the sports economics literature
- Explain sports economic models and the articulate the impacts on league and team behaviours
- Develop and empirically test sports economic models
- Conduct sports economics research that includes a research problem, literature review, research question(s), methods, and results.

Teaching Methods

Seminars: presentations, student presentations, course preparation readings, and discussions

Required Materials

A list of course readings will be provided and accessible via the library's database.

Additional resources

Journal of Sports Economics

International Journal of Sport Finance

Journal of Sports Analytics

Assessment Strategy

Assessment Type	Weight	Expected Date
Article presentation	20	Continuous
Article critique	20 (2 x 10)	Continuous
Research proposal and presentation	10	October 18
Research presentation	10	November 29, December 6
Research paper	40	December 13

In all economics courses, students who fail to complete work (either a single piece of work or a combination of work) worth a total of 25% or more of the final grade will receive a grade of EIN in the course. The EIN grade is equivalent to a failure mark (F).

Please note that a denied request for a deferral may therefore lead to a failure mark.

See Regulation 10.6 (<https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-10-grading-system>) for details.

Assessment Policies and Expectations

Attendance

Attendance and active participation is expected. Students are permitted to miss 1 class without penalization. Each unjustified absence thereafter will result in a 5% deduction from the final course grade.

Please inform me in advance if you have to miss a class.

Time Commitment

In order to succeed in a 3-credit course, alongside the standard 3 hours of in-class instruction, students should expect to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the classroom engaged in activities related to the course, e.g. homework, reading, studying, etc., and should expect a minimum time commitment of 9 hours per week per course (on average).

Language Expectations

This course is delivered in English, and in class interactions, including the online discussion boards, and feedback will also be managed in English. As part of your evaluation will be on your

writing abilities, it is recommended to take the appropriate measures to avoid mistakes such as spelling, syntax, punctuation, inappropriate use of terms, etc. You may be penalized up to 15% for poorly written materials, to the professor's discretion.

Mobile Devices

Unless explicitly requested, please refrain from using mobile devices during class. As in class time is quite limited, I would ask that you prioritize using this time to engage with class discussions and other content-related activities. Active participation and engagement with the content and your peers helps ensure full participation marks for your contributions this semester.

Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted by their due date and time.

All late submissions will be immediately docked 5%, with an additional 5% for each subsequent day late to a maximum of 3 days, *including weekends*. **After 3 days all outstanding assignments will be given a zero (0%) grade.**

Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the instructor. University regulations require all absences from exams and all late submissions due to illness to be supported by a medical certificate. Absence for any other serious reason must be justified in writing, to the professor, within five business days following the date of the exam or submission of an assignment.

The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason; **reasons such as travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable.**

Missed exams and requests for deferral

An absence from an evaluation that is not excused will result in a mark of 0. As of September 2022, according to [Academic Regulation I-9.5](#), students can request to be excused from only one evaluation per course. An absence will be excused only in the case of illness or other serious situations. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason. Conflicts due to travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable reasons.

Students who wish to be excused for an absence must submit a service request on their uozone and attach the [deferral form](#) and submit credible external documentation (e.g. medical certificate, police report, death certificate, etc.) within five working days of the evaluation. Students whose request is approved will be required to write a deferred evaluation, except where the professor offers a re-weighting scheme. (If available, such a scheme is described in this syllabus.) A deferred evaluation must be taken as soon as possible after the original date, but in any case no later than (6) months after the end of the term ([Academic regulation I-9.5](#)). For the final exam, the date of the deferral is January 14 (set by the department).

The date of the deferred final exam for the Fall term 2022, the deferred final exam date is January 14, 2023

Exam conflicts

- Any conflict with a midterm exam schedule should be reported to the Professor at the beginning of the term. This request is especially applicable to the type 3 conflict (two in-class exams back-to-back) for students with special learning needs.
- Any conflict with a final exam schedule should be reported to the Faculty's undergraduate office as soon as the final examination schedule is released.

Assessment Details

Article presentation

Each week two students will present and lead a class discussion from the class reading list. Presentations should include a summary of the research question, previous literature, methods, and findings. The presentation should also include some critique as well as questions for class discussion.

Presentations should be approximately 30 minutes and the discussion 15 minutes.

Article critiques

Each week two/three students will write a 1 page critique and prepare a 15 minute presentation on an article of their choosing that is relevant to the topic of the week (i.e. policies, labour markets, etc...). The article must be from a peer-reviewed journal (i.e., see additional resources) and approved by professor.

Research proposal and presentation

Each student will prepare a one-page research proposal outlining the research question, previous literature, and potential model to be developed. The proposal will include a 10 minute class presentation and discussion aimed at facilitating the research.

Research paper

Write a sports economics research paper (10-15 pages). The paper should include a research problem, literature review, research question(s), model, methods, and findings.

Research presentation

Each student will prepare a 10-15 minute presentation of their research paper. The presentation should include a summary of the research question, model, and findings.

Regulation on Academic Fraud

Preamble

Academic integrity is a fundamental value at the core of all academic activities. [The regulation on academic fraud](#) defines the acts that can compromise academic integrity and outlines the various sanctions and consequences of such acts, and the procedures for handling allegations and setting sanctions. Further information on academic integrity is available on the [website of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs](#).

Definition

1. Any act by a student that may result in a distorted academic evaluation for that student or another student. Academic fraud includes but is not limited to activities such as:
 1. plagiarizing or cheating in any way;
 2. submitting work not partially or fully the student's own, excluding properly cited quotations and references. Such work includes assignments, essays, tests, exams, research reports and theses, regardless of whether the work is in written, oral or any other form;
 3. presenting research data that are forged, falsified or fabricated in any manner.
 4. attributing a statement of fact or reference to a fabricated source;
 5. submitting the same work or a significant part of the same piece of work in more than one course, or a thesis or any other piece of work submitted elsewhere without the prior approval of the appropriate professors or academic units;
 6. falsifying or misrepresenting an academic evaluation, using a forged or altered supporting document or facilitating the use of such a document;
 7. taking any action aimed at falsifying an academic evaluation.

Sanctions

1. Students who commit or attempt to commit academic fraud, or who are a party to academic fraud, are subject to one or more sanctions ([full list](#)), such as:
 1. a written warning;
 2. zero for part of the work in question;
 3. zero for the work in question;
 4. zero for the work in question and the loss of additional marks for the course in question;
 5. zero for the work in question, with a final grade no higher than the passing grade for the course in question;
 6. an F or NS grade for the course in question.

Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
1	Sept 13	Introduction	NA	
2	Sept 20	Leagues	See bibliography	
3	Sept 27	League policies	See bibliography	
4	Oct 4	Labour markets	See bibliography	
5	Oct 11	Discrimination	See bibliography	
6	Oct 18	Research proposal presentations	NA	
-	Oct 25	Reading week. No class.		
7	Nov 1	Demand	See bibliography	
8	Nov 8	Diversity	See bibliography	
9	Nov 15	Analytics	See bibliography	
10	Nov 22	Other	To be determined	
11	Nov 29	Research presentations	NA	
12	Dec 6	Research presentations	NA	

Bibliography

Leagues

Neale, W. C. (1964). The peculiar economics of professional sports. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 78(1), 1-14.

Szymanski, Stefan. "The economic design of sporting contests." *Journal of economic literature* 41, no. 4 (2003): 1137-1187

Policies

Fort, Rodney, and James Quirk. "Cross-subsidization, incentives, and outcomes in professional team sports leagues." *Journal of Economic literature* 33, no. 3 (1995): 1265-1299.

Mongeon, Kevin, and Jason A. Winfree. "The effects of cross-ownership and league policies across sports leagues within a city." *Review of Industrial Organization* 43, no. 3 (2013): 145-162.

Discrimination

Kahane, Leo H. "Production efficiency and discriminatory hiring practices in the National Hockey League: a stochastic frontier approach." *Review of Industrial Organization* 27, no. 1 (2005): 47-71

Longley, Neil. "Salary discrimination in the National Hockey League: The effects of team location." *Canadian Public Policy/Analyse de Politiques* (1995): 413-422.

Idson, Todd L., and Leo H. Kahane. "Team effects on compensation: an application to salary determination in the National Hockey League." *Economic Inquiry* 38, no. 2 (2000): 345-357
Mongeon, Kevin. "A market test for ethnic discrimination in the National Hockey League: A game-level panel data approach." *Journal of Sports Economics* 16, no. 5 (2015): 460-481.

Labour Markets

Scully, Gerald W. "Pay and performance in major league baseball." *The American Economic Review* 64, no. 6 (1974): 915-930

Rottenberg, Simon. "The baseball players' labor market." *Journal of political economy* 64, no. 3 (1956): 242-258.

Competitive Balance

Schmidt, Martin B., and David J. Berri. "On the evolution of competitive balance: The impact of an increasing global search." *Economic Inquiry* 41, no. 4 (2003): 692-704.

Demand

Whitney, James D. "Winning games versus winning championships: The economics of fan interest and team performance." *Economic Inquiry* 26, no. 4 (1988): 703-724.

Bradbury, John Charles. "Determinants of revenue in sports leagues: An empirical assessment." *Economic Inquiry* 57, no. 1 (2019): 121-140.

Diversity

Kahane, Leo, Neil Longley, and Robert Simmons. "The effects of coworker heterogeneity on firm-level output: assessing the impacts of cultural and language diversity in the National Hockey League." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 95, no. 1 (2013): 302-314.

Sports Analytics

Kaplan, Edward H., Kevin Mongeon, and John T. Ryan. "A Markov model for hockey: manpower differential and win probability added." *INFOR: Information Systems and Operational Research* 52, no. 2 (2014): 39-50

University Policies

Intellectual property right of course content

The materials you receive for this course are protected by [copyright](#) and must be used for this course only. You do not have permission to disseminate these materials, regardless of the means of dissemination including the uploading of these materials to any website or mobile application. These materials include but are not limited to, any course notes provided by the professor, their Powerpoint presentations, and any lecture recordings you may have.

If you require clarification, please consult your professor.

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Regulation on Bilingualism at the University of Ottawa

Every student has the right to require that a course be given in the language used to describe the course in the course calendar ([Academic Regulation I-2](#)).

Except in programs and courses for which language is a requirement, all students have the right to produce their written work and to answer examination questions in the official language of their choice, regardless of the course's language of instruction.

Prevention of Sexual Violence

If you feel unsafe, call 9-1-1 or reach out to Campus Protective Services at 613-562-5411.

The University of Ottawa has a zero-tolerance policy for any sexual act or act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression. This includes both physical and psychological acts that are committed, threatened, or attempted against a person without the

person's consent, such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, indecent exposure, voyeurism, sexual exploitation, and cyberbullying. The University, as well as various employees and student groups, offers a variety of services and resources to ensure that all uOttawa community members have access to confidential support and information, and to procedures for reporting an incident or filing a complaint.

Student Services & Resources

Faculty Student Experience Centre

The goal of the [Student Experience Centre](#) is to help students with their academic and social well-being during their time at the University of Ottawa. Regardless of where a student stands academically, or how far along they are in completing their degree, the Student Experience Centre is there to help students continue on their path to success.

A student may choose to visit the [Student Experience Centre](#) for very different reasons. Younger students may wish to talk to their older peers to gain insight into programs and services offered by the University, while older students may simply want to brush up on study and time management skills or learn about programs and services for students nearing the end of their degree.

In all, the [Student Experience Centre](#) offers a place for students to talk about concerns and problems that they might have in any facet of their lives. While students are able to voice their concerns and problems without fear of judgment, mentors can garner further insight in issues unique to students and find a more practical solution to better improve the services that the Faculty of Social Sciences offers, as well as the services offered by the University of Ottawa.

Academic GPS

The *Academic GPS* hub is a one-stop shop for academic support. Whether you're an experienced student or just starting out, you'll find some great resources to help you succeed.

With the Academic GPS, you can:

- chat with a mentor seven days a week
- register for study groups
- take part in study methods workshops (note taking, time management, exam preparation, stress management, Academic Integrity Session, etc.)
- book an appointment with a mentor

Health and Wellness

Your wellness is an integral part of your success. If you don't feel well, it can be hard to focus on your studies.

Dedicated professionals and fellow students who care about you are always ready to provide advice and support. Depending on your needs, many activities and services exist to accompany you during your academic journey.

Services include:

- opportunities to connect;
- counselling sessions
- peer support;
- physical activity;
- wellness activities and workshops;
- spiritual guidance.

If you want to connect with a counsellor, you can book an appointment online or go to their walk-in clinic at 100 Marie-Curie, fourth floor.

You can also drop-in to our wellness space, chat online with a peer helper, or access 24/7 professional help through the website.

Academic accommodations

The [Access Service](#) tries to make sure all students with disabilities have equal access to learning and research environments, the physical campus and University-related programs and activities. The Academic Accommodations service works with other campus services to create an accessible campus learning environment, where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to flourish.

We offer a wide range of services and resources, provided with expertise, professionalism and confidentiality.

Some services we offer

- Help for students with disabilities in making the transition
- Permanent and temporary accommodation measures
- Learning strategy development
- Adaptive exams
- Transcriptions of learning material
- Interpretation (ASL and LSQ)
- Assistive technologies

If you think that you might need any of our services or supports, [email the Academic Accommodations service \(adapt@uOttawa.ca\)](mailto:adapt@uOttawa.ca).

Human Rights Office

The mandate of the [Human Rights Office](#) is to provide leadership in the creation, implementation and evaluation of policies, procedures and practices on diversity, inclusion, equity, accessibility and the prevention of harassment and discrimination.

Contact information: 1 Stewart St. (Main Floor – Room 121) - Tel.: 613-562-5222 / Email: respect@uOttawa.ca

Career Services

[Career Services](#) offers various services and a career development program to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.