



**ECONOMICS 2P03**

**Course Manual**

**Fall 2019**

This manual is our contract. By continuing in the course you agree to the terms and conditions laid out in this manual.

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## Important Dates

### TESTS and EXAM

Test 1: Monday September 30 2:35 – 3:20 45 min

Test 2: Monday November 4 2:35 – 3:20 45 min

Exam: December TBS 2 hours Locations TBA

LAST DAY TO CANCEL COURSE: Wednesday September 11

## Instructor Availability

Instructor: Professor Holmes

Office: KTH 442

Email: [hholmes@mcmaster.ca](mailto:hholmes@mcmaster.ca) \*I only respond to email from your @mcmaster.ca account with a course code and subject heading (no cll or avenue email – they go directly to my junk mail)

Office Hours: Usually Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00pm unless otherwise posted

## Course Description

This course applies economic theory to the study of professional sports. We examine the major North American professional sports leagues. **Students are expected to be familiar with these leagues, teams and basic rules for play as this knowledge will be assumed and not formally taught. See Avenue announcements for details.**

## Grade Distribution

The grade distribution is as follows:

Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Final Examination	<u>50%</u>
	100%

These weights are firm.

- If you do poorly on a test, there are no extra assignments or makeup work for you to boost your grade. The mark you earn on your test or exam is final.
- We will not bump your final grade for any reason, so please do not ask. That would be unfair to the rest of the class and demean the value of everyone's grades.
- We do not reweigh tests and the exam; these percentage weights are firm.

### **Course Materials**

#### ***Required:***

- No assigned textbook (they sell at \$275 so I opted out)
- Avenue to Learn (Avenue) access. <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

#### ***Recommended:***

- Suggested readings posted on Avenue (all downloaded from Get it! @Mac)

### **Tests**

What you need to bring:

- A calculator. Only the Casio FX-991 series calculator may be used for tests and the exam (available in the bookstore).
- An HB pencil for bubbling in answers to multiple choice questions.
- Your student identification card.

**NOTE:** We hire invigilators to help run the tests/exam and to patrol the class to discourage/identify cheating. They are not familiar with course or, especially, test content; do not ask an invigilator (or a TA since they have not seen the test in advance) to clarify a test/exam question. If they accidentally mislead you, *it is not our responsibility and you will not be given any consideration*. Ask to speak to Professor Holmes who can answer any question you have or instruct the TA or invigilator as to what, exactly, to tell you.

Students who require accommodations through Student Accessibility Services (SAS) please see Page 7 regarding acceptable procedure.

**Details:**

There will be two (2) term tests, each 45 minutes long. Each test counts for 25% of your final grade. Tests are not cumulative.

Material to be covered on each test will be posted on Avenue prior to the test.

**Test Dates**

Test 1: Monday September 30 2:35 – 3:20 45 min

Test 2: Monday November 4 2:35 – 3:20 45 min

**Policy on Scan Sheet Access**

The scanner records each answer you select for every question on both tests and the final examination. I post your bubbled responses to term tests (not the exam) on Avenue with your mark and the version you bubbled in. You can then check your answers against the test copies and answer keys posted on Avenue, too. We do not return scan sheets to students.

**What to Do If You Miss a Test**

Take your documentation to your faculty's Associate Dean's office. **They** will decide if you should be excused from the test, and if so, they will either notify me or arrange for you to submit a valid online MSAF absence reporting form (see below).

**THERE ARE NO MAKEUP TESTS. If you are excused, the grade you receive on the final exam will also be used as the grade you receive for the missed test.**

You will know if you have been excused if a grade of 9999 eventually appears on Avenue as your mark for the missed test (this is my code so I know you have been given amnesty). You do not have to contact the instructor.

- If your faculty does not validate your absence from the test, you will receive a mark of zero for that test. I will not excuse you from a test if your faculty will not.

**ONE FINAL IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT TESTS (AND THE EXAM)**

You must complete bubbling in your answers on your scan sheet by the end of the time allotted. Once time is called, you cannot continue writing or filling in scan sheet bubbles. Only the scan sheet is marked; we do not count anything you may have circled on your question sheet but failed to bubble on your scan sheet. You do not get extra time to finish filling in your bubbles. It is your responsibility to complete your scan sheet and finish on time.

### **McMaster Student Absence Form – MSAF**

The MSAF is an online, self-reporting absence form that, in certain instances, may be used once per term if you miss a piece of work due to illness.

The MSAF is only acceptable for pieces of work worth 24% or less of your total grade. However, our tests are each worth 25% and therefore **you cannot use the regular MSAF to report an absence if you miss a test.**

- Any attempt to submit a falsified MSAF for *this* course for a missed test constitutes academic dishonesty and charges may be filed with the Office of Academic Integrity.

### **Final Examination**

December TBS 2 hours

Worth 50% of your final grade.

**The exam will be cumulative.** Information, tips etc. will be posted on Avenue prior to the exam.

What you need to bring:

- Your Casio FX-991 MS or MS Plus series calculator.
- An HB pencil for bubbling in answers to multiple choice questions.
- Your student identification card.

**There are NO EARLY WRITES for the exam. DON'T book a flight home etc until after the exam period finishes. Your faculty will NOT excuse you from the exam because you have other plans.**

### **What to Do if You Miss the Final Exam:**

The MSAF cannot be used for a missed examination for any McMaster course. Take your documentation to your faculty's Associate Dean's office. They will decide if you should be excused from the exam. If you are excused, you will write a deferred exam in June.

- Students who do not write the exam will receive a mark of F until a deferred exam has been written.

## **BONUS QUIZZES**

Throughout the term I give opportunities to earn bonus marks to be added to your tests or exam. **If you do not write a scheduled test or the December exam for any reason, any bonus mark earned towards that piece of work or your final grade is forfeited, even if you submitted an MSAF or were granted a deferred exam by your faculty. No exceptions. You may not use the MSAF if you miss a bonus opportunity as these are *bonus* marks and not required course components.**

**Note that all bonus quizzes have been adjusted to include extra time to accommodate students registered with SAS (everyone gets extra time because the technology will not allow me to distinguish between groups of students).**

## **Student Accessibility Services, SAS**

Some students with ongoing (not temporary) learning challenges require special accommodations for writing tests and exams. These students normally register with SAS who will provide them with a place to write for whatever length of time they require as specified in documentation provided by a professional.

**Students who will be writing tests with SAS can only write their tests on the same day as the scheduled test and exam. We will pick up your test for grading at our first convenient opportunity.**

- If you try booking a test for any other day, your test will not be accepted and you'll receive a zero mark for it.

## **Help with Anything Course-Related**

Teaching Assistants (TAs) are assigned to this course and lead workshops and reviews. These are graduate students or senior undergraduates who may be available to help you, at their discretion; make any arrangements with them after Workshop classes.

Please note: if there is any uncertainty about material or methods, please see Professor Holmes for clarification and confirmation. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have been given correct information by a TA.

Keep in mind that we cannot re-teach complete lectures. If you need help, please ask specific questions that we can answer. Saying "I don't understand this..." is not a specific question that we can address; we really want to help you out, so please be very precise.

## **Avenue-to-Learn (Course Website)**

<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

Everything you need to know will be posted on Avenue. Here you will find:

- announcements
- PowerPoint lecture slides
- course readings
- your grades
- workshop question packs (schedule posted on Avenue)
- information on tests and the exam, including practice questions
- regular course updates as warranted

It is your responsibility to check Avenue daily – everything you need is here, and any important announcements will be posted here.

## **Workshops**

There will be 6 workshops throughout the term (like a tutorial, but with the whole class and during class time on select Fridays). The workbook containing all the problems you'll be solving and the session dates are posted on your Avenue site. **Solutions will not be posted on Avenue.**

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

**It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/>

We have a zero – tolerance policy with respect to cheating. Any student found and proven to have been cheating will be given a grade of zero on the test or exam. In every case, you will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and to your

faculty. If it is a first offence, a letter will remain in your file until you graduate. If it is a serious first offence or a second offence, the minimum penalty is zero in the course and a notation on your transcript.

**If you are found with a cheat sheet, a cell phone, tablet, anything suspicious etc on or near your person during a test or the exam, this constitutes cheating and you may be prosecuted as outlined above, even if you were not using such items at the time.**

Talking at any time during a test or exam is also cheating, regardless of what you claim you were talking about. In addition, we have software that can identify students who were copying from other students. Any and all of these cases will be prosecuted in full.

### **What We Expect from Students**

Please address your instructor as Professor Holmes (not Mrs Holmes or by my first name; those salutations are not appropriate at the university undergraduate level and I will not respond to you if you do). **I will not respond to emails that are rude or inappropriate.**

#### ***Student Emails:***

We only respond to emails from students' McMaster email accounts. Emails from other accounts are not read and deleted immediately. Put ECON 2P03 as the subject heading because I teach other courses, too.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your McMaster account is active and has space to receive emails. Student accounts have very limited storage space, so you have to constantly delete emails and empty your trash. We reply to your email only once, and if it returns to us as "undeliverable mail" we do not attempt any further replies.

Do not use the email provided by Avenue. I do not check Avenue for emails.

I do not answer emails asking questions to which the answer is already available. If you email me with a question that is answered in this course manual or on Avenue, you will not get a reply.

Questions requiring lengthy email explanations will not be answered by email. Questions about explanations of course material, detailed solutions for practice test questions, etc, generally require students to seek help in person and that is what I'll ask you to do.

Note: I do not phone students under any circumstances. Do not leave phone messages as they will not be addressed.

## **Faculty Advisory**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites daily during the term and to note any changes.

## **Topic Outline**

Introduction  
Sports Franchises as Profit Maximizing Firms  
Monopoly and Antitrust  
Competitive Balance  
The Market for Sports Franchises  
Introduction to Labour Markets in Pro Sports  
Labour Unions and Labour Relations  
Tournaments and Superstars  
Sports Betting  
Discrimination

## **Miscellany**

There are no podcasts for this course. Attendance at lecture and workshops therefore is very important. **If you miss a lecture or workshop, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate; your professor or TAs cannot provide you with notes.**

## **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.