



ECONOMICS 2P03

Course Manual

Winter 2021

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

**WINTER
2021
ONLINE
EDITION**

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Important Dates

No one or two dates are important. We will be working continuously through the entire term. Details to follow below.

LAST DAY TO CANCEL COURSE: Friday March 12

Instructor Availability

Instructor: Professor Holmes

Email: 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: NO SCHEDULED OFFICE HOURS. I will answer email Monday – Friday from late afternoon/early evening.

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.**

This course is offered asynchronously, completely online. You are responsible for organizing your time and pacing yourself accordingly. Note that there are strict deadlines for the submission of graded work.

Grade Distribution

The grade distribution is as follows:

Short Quizzes (10) 70% (7% each; best 9 will be counted) See p.5 for details

Longer Quizzes (2) 30% (15% each) See page 6 or details

100%

These weights are firm.

- If you do poorly on any component, there are no extra quizzes or makeup work for you to boost your grade. The mark you earn on your short quiz or longer quiz 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.

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

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)

What to Do If You Miss a Quiz

You are allowed to miss ONE Short Quiz with no consequences. Your best 9 out of 10 will count as 70% of your grade.

In addition, you may submit a valid online MSAF absence reporting form (see below) if necessary.

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

If you miss a Short Quiz and submit an MSAF (assuming you have used up your free pass), your missed work mark will be replaced with the average mark you receive from the completed short quizzes. If you miss a Longer Quiz and submit an MSAF, you must write a makeup the Monday immediately following the missed quiz. If you do not submit an MSAF for a missed Longer Quiz, you will be given a mark of zero.

Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work: McMaster Student Absence Form – MSAF

The MSAF is an online, self-reporting absence form that, in certain instances, may be used once per term without documentation if you miss a piece of work due to illness. You have 3 calendar days to submit an MSAF; after 3 days I will not accept the submission and you will not be accommodated. Note that if you submit an MSAF for a missed Longer Quiz on the third calendar day after the missed quiz, you will still have to write the makeup on the Monday (the next day).

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Link: <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>

SHORT QUIZZES – See Avenue > Assessments > Quizzes

There are 10 short weekly quizzes to constitute 70% of your grade. Each quiz has 7 multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank questions worth 1 mark each for a possible maximum total of 7 marks per quiz. Therefore, each quiz is worth 7% of your final grade. However, to account for technical problems, a poor mark or a missed quiz, you get a “free pass” and only **your best 9 Short Quiz marks will be counted toward your final mark.**

ACCESS TO QUIZZES

Before you can access these quizzes, you must complete and score 100% on a short, True/False quiz that tests your understanding of the administrative aspects of the course. This quiz requires you to be familiar with the course manual and all the information posted in the Avenue Announcements feed on the homepage. You can repeat the quiz as many times as necessary to earn the 100% that you need to be able to attempt the weekly quizzes which are worth marks. The quiz must be successfully completed prior to the start of the first Short Quiz.

Each weekly quiz is 7 minutes long. They do not include long calculation questions. Quizzes will be available on scheduled **Tuesdays from 12:00pm noon until 11:59pm that day EXCEPT Quiz 9 and Quiz 10** (see dates below). You can start the quiz any time during this period, but once you start, you must complete the quiz in its entirety. You cannot pause the quiz; you must finish it in 7 consecutive minutes. You cannot save parts and come back to the rest later.

You cannot go back and forth between questions. You must answer them as they appear. For example, if you skip question 2 to try question 3, you cannot go back to question 2 - it's gone and so are the points for that question. Use your time wisely!

You need to study for these quizzes. You will not have enough time to look up the answers for every question and complete the quiz in its entirety. Some questions take seconds to answer if you have studied well, some may take up to one minute; make sure you are prepared so that you do not run out of time.

If you use up your free pass and submit an MSAF for a Short Quiz, your average Short Quiz mark will replace the MSAF'd Short Quiz grade.

SHORT QUIZ DATES: TUESDAYS EXCEPT QUIZ #9 and QUIZ #10

Mandatory Course Info Quiz MONDAY Jan 25 – Manual, Avenue posts

Quiz 1 Jan 26 – Ch 1

Quiz 2 Feb 2 – Ch 2

Quiz 3 Feb 9 – Ch 3

Quiz 4 Feb 23 – Ch 4

Quiz 5 Mar 2 – Ch 5

Quiz 6 Mar 9 – Ch 6

Quiz 7 Mar 16 – Ch 7

Quiz 8 Mar 23 – Ch 8

Quiz 9 **MONDAY** Mar 29 – Ch 9

Quiz 10 **THURSDAY** April 1 – Ch 10

LONGER QUIZZES – See Avenue >Assessments > Quizzes

There are 2 longer quizzes that constitute 30% of your grade. Each Longer quiz has 15 multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank questions worth 1 mark each for a possible total of 15 marks per longer quiz. Therefore, each longer quiz is worth 15% of your final grade.

Each Longer quiz is 30 minutes long. There WILL be some longer math questions, hence the extra time allotment. Longer quizzes will be available on **scheduled days from 12:00pm noon until 11:59pm that day**. You can start the longer quiz any time during this period, but once you start, you must complete the Longer quiz in its entirety. You cannot pause the longer quiz; you must finish it in 30 consecutive minutes. You cannot save parts and come back to the rest later, just like the short quizzes.

Also like the short quizzes, you cannot go back and forth between questions. You must answer them as they appear. For example, if you skip question 2 to try question 3, you cannot go back to question 2 - it's gone and so are the points for that question. Use your time wisely!

You need to study for these longer quizzes, too. You will not have enough time to look up the answers or techniques for every question and complete the quiz in its entirety.

You must write BOTH longer quizzes to pass the course. If you submit an MSAF for a longer quiz, you will have to write a makeup on the following Monday.

LONGER QUIZ DATES: Both held on different days

Longer Quiz 1 THURSDAY Feb 25 – Chapters 1 - 4

Longer Quiz 2 WEDNESDAY Apr 7 – Chapters 5 – 10

Tips for Successfully Submitting Short Weekly Quizzes and Longer Quizzes

- You will see one question at a time and will not be able to move back and forth between questions.
- Do not click *submit* until you have completed all the questions. You will not be given any consideration should you make this mistake.
- Do not click *next* more than once. Clicking more than once may result in the pop-up window getting stuck and preventing you from being able to

read future questions. You will not be given any consideration should you make this mistake.

- If you experience a technical glitch, exit the quiz (DO NOT click the submit button) and simply re-enter the quiz. The system will save your answers allowing you to continue where you left off. HOWEVER, the clock doesn't stop, it will continue to run.
- Make sure to submit the quiz when you are done. You will not be given any consideration should you not submit the quiz.

Reduce technical difficulty when submitting online work

Here are some important tips regarding computer hygiene, from Avenue support, that will reduce the risk of technical difficulty when you are completing the quizzes in Avenue:

- Turn off all unnecessary programs, especially anything that might be downloading or streaming.
- Coordinate household internet and technology use so that you are not competing for bandwidth or devices.
- If possible, connect to the internet via a wired connection.
- Move close to the Wi-Fi hub.
- Restart your computer one to two hours before the quiz.
- Use the latest up to date web browser - use Firefox or Chrome, and use the system check at <https://avenue.cllmcmaster.ca/d21/systemCheck>

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities/ 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. But since you cannot write on campus, you will be given accommodations online.

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Students who will be writing as a registrant with SAS can only write their Short Quiz or Longer Quiz on the same day as the scheduled quizzes.

Contact me at hholmes@mcmaster.ca to arrange for accommodations as soon as they have been approved by SAS. Requests for accommodations must be made at least 24 hours before the start time for a piece of work to guarantee that your accommodations are implemented in time.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for quizzes.

Help with Anything Course-Related

TAs for this course are hired to mark quizzes and will not be holding office hours, so you will have to email me with your specific questions.

Avenue-to-Learn (Course Website)

<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>

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

- Announcements (very important to read daily)
- complete PowerPoint lecture slides (easy to read, full explanations)
- short quizzes and longer quizzes
- additional course readings
- your grades
- extra practice and applications in workshop question packs
- 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.

Academic Integrity

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.

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the 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. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: • plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. • improper collaboration in group work. • copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

What We Expect from Students

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

Student Emails:

I 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.

I will not respond to emails addressed to Ms or Mrs Holmes or my first name.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your McMaster account is active and has space to receive emails. I reply to your email only once, and if it returns to me as "undeliverable mail" I do not attempt any further replies.

Do not use the email provided by Avenue. Do not use Teams.

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.

General Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances/ 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. Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites daily during the term and to note any changes.

Courses with an On-line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Topic Outline

1. Introduction
2. Sports Franchises as Profit Maximizing Firms
3. Monopoly and Antitrust
4. Competitive Balance
5. The Market for Sports Franchises
6. Introduction to Labour Markets in Pro Sports
7. Labour Unions and Labour Relations
8. Tournaments and Superstars
9. Sports Betting
10. Discrimination

Miscellany

There are no podcasts for this course. You must read the material for yourself. Please email me if there are any questions about content.