

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
WHARTON SCHOOL**

LGST 207-002

Professor Scott Rosner

Spring 2008

T/Th 1:30-3

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The Sports Industry

Phone: (215) 573-0577

Office: 654 Huntsman Hall

Office Hours: M 1:30-2:30

Classroom: 345 JMHH

**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines various business disciplines as they apply to the sports industry. The course provides the student with an overview of the business of the intercollegiate, Olympic and professional sports enterprises. In addition, the course investigates the business related issues encountered by managers of sport organizations and covers how business principles can be applied to effectively address these issues.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Through classroom presentations, discussions, and completion of course assignments, the student will be acquainted with a varied but limited number of important concepts in the study of business as they apply to the sports industry. Special attention is given to the regulation of professional and amateur athletics, the organizational structure of sports leagues and associations, labor-management relations, and the application of business principles to sports.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Rosner, Scott and Shropshire, Kenneth. (2004). The Business of Sports. Sudbury, Massachusetts: Jones & Bartlett Publishers. ISBN: 0-7637-2621-4.

Subscription (12 weeks) to *SportsBusiness Daily* (payment due on Tuesday, January 22).

Course Materials will also be distributed via class handouts and/or electronically, consisting primarily of the arbitration cases and articles of current interest. Lecture slides for each class are posted on the course website at <http://download.wharton.upenn.edu/download/pub/lgst/Srosner/> and clicking on 'LGST 207/809 Lecture Slides.' Readings that are not in the textbook are available at on the course website at <http://download.wharton.upenn.edu/download/pub/lgst/Srosner/> and clicking on 'LGST 207/809 Readings.' You must have a Wharton account to access course materials distributed via the course website. A Wharton account can be established by going to Computer Services in the Forum of Huntsman Hall.

**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:**

Regular reading of newspapers and magazines pertinent to the sports industry is strongly suggested, as a students should make every attempt to learn about current issues facing sport

managers. *Sports Illustrated*, *The Sporting News*, *USA Today*, *Street & Smith's SportsBusiness Journal*, and *The NCAA News*, as well as ESPN's SportsCenter and HBO's *Real Sports* are all recommended media sources. Helpful websites include: [www.espn.com](http://www.espn.com), [www.sportingnews.com](http://www.sportingnews.com), [sportsillustrated.cnn.com](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com), and [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org). Access to the [www.sportsbusinessdaily.com](http://www.sportsbusinessdaily.com) website also contains an archive of past articles.

### **COURSE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Class sessions will follow a lecture/discussion format. Experiential exercises and case studies may also be used.

### **GRADING BASIS:**

NEGOTIATION EXERCISE	200 points
MIDTERM EXAMINATION	250 points
FINAL EXAMINATION	250 points

### **PARTICIPATION:**

Class participation can result in a half grade upward or downward departure (i.e. an A- to an A, or a B+ to a B). Students are expected to be prepared for every class. Attendance is not participation! Students should have their table tents displayed in each class. The quality of participation, as reflected in careful reading and thorough analysis of the assigned materials, is important. It is also important to build upon other students' comments. This requires attentive listening. Class participation will be judged on the basis of quality and consistency. In addition, the student's participation grade may be negatively impacted by deficient attendance. Students are encouraged to discuss the adequacy of their participation with the professor.

### **EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:**

All examinations must be taken during the scheduled examination time. No make-ups will be given. All examinations will be closed texts and notes. Assignments are expected to be submitted or presented on the assigned due date. Late work and missed presentations will receive a zero.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY**

The Wharton School and the University of Pennsylvania are committed to academic honesty. All cases of alleged plagiarism, cheating on examinations and similar forms of academic dishonesty will be reviewed by the appropriate disciplinary bodies. Please refer to the Student Handbook for guidelines relating to academic dishonesty. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will fail the course in addition to any discipline imposed by the University.

Honesty in all academic work is expected of every student. This means giving one's own answers in all class work, papers, and examinations without help from sources not approved by the professor. Written material is to be the student's own original composition. It is expected that ideas that are taken from articles, books, the internet, etc. will be properly noted in all written papers submitted. It is important to remember that to copy or to paraphrase someone else's work, ideas, or language without proper reference is plagiarism.

**COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR:**

The schedule below is a tentative one and is subject to change. Any changes will be announced to class members.

<b>DATE</b>		<b>READING ASSIGNMENTS</b>
Th 1/17	Course Introduction and Requirements Introduction to Professional Sports	R & S - Preface
T 1/22	Introduction to Professional Sports	R & S Chapter 1
Th 1/24	Ownership	
T 1/29	Ownership Leagues – Structure and Background	R & S Chapter 1 R & S Chapter 2
Th 1/31	Leagues – Structure and Background	R & S Chapter 2
T 2/5	Start-up Leagues and Niche Sports	R & S Chapter 11
Th 2/7	Leagues: Revenue Sharing and Self-Analysis	R & S Chapter 3
T 2/12	Leagues: Revenue Sharing and Self-Analysis	R & S Chapter 3
Th 2/14	Individual Sports	R & S Chapter 10
T 2/19	Media	R & S Chapter 6
Th 2/21	Media	R & S Chapter 6
T 2/26	No Class	
Th 2/28	Media Olympics	R & S Chapter 6 R&S Chapter 13
T 3/4	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION - 6-8 PM – JMHH G06 (Main Auditorium)</b> <b>Class will not meet during regular time</b>	
Th 3/6	Labor Matters: Unions	R & S Chapter 8
3/11 – 3/13	No Class – Spring Break	
T 3/18	Labor Matters: Athlete Compensation	R & S Chapter 9
Th 3/20	Labor Matters: Athlete Compensation	R & S Chapter 9
T 3/25	Labor Matters: Athlete Compensation	R & S Chapter 9

Th 3/27	Labor Matters: Athlete Compensation	R & S Chapter 9
T 4/1	Labor Matters: Athlete Compensation	R & S Chapter 9
Th 4/3	College Sports - History and Structure	R & S Chapter 14
T 4/8	College Sports - History and Structure	R & S Chapter 14
Th 4/10	College Sports - The NCAA and Conference Affiliation	R & S Chapter 15
T 4/15	College Sports - The NCAA and Conference Affiliation	R & S Chapter 15
Th 4/17	College Sports – Member Institutions <b>PLAYER CONTRACT ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS</b>	R & S Chapter 16
T 4/22	College Sports – Member Institutions	R & S Chapter 16
Th 4/24	College Sports – Member Institutions	R & S Chapter 16
T 4/29	College Sports – Amateurism and Reform	R & S Chapter 18

**FINAL EXAMINATION IS SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 FROM 6-8 PM AS PER TENTATIVE UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR SCHEDULE FOR COMMON FINAL EXAMS. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

#### WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

#### **NEGOTIATION/ARBITRATION**

Students will engage in a negotiation exercise during the semester, the end result of which will be a contract between a hypothetical team and player in Major League Baseball or representing the aforementioned player or team in a salary arbitration. The student will hand in a paper of 15-20 pages.

Details on this assignment will be provided in greater detail during the semester.