

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
WHARTON SCHOOL**

LGST 207 Spring '22 M&W 12:00PM

Instructor: Rob DiGisi

Cell: 302-379-0848

rdigisi@ironhorsemarketing.com

SPORTS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Office Hours MW 11AM-12PM or

Via Zoom by Appointment

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION :

The sports industry has become the second largest export product in the United States with over \$600 billion in worldwide revenues. Coupled with its global economic significance, the excitement and competitiveness of the business are unmatched. The focus of this course is two-fold: to provide students with a framework for understanding the unique dynamics, structure, delivery systems and marketing strategies that shape the sports industry and to examine how non-sports organizations leverage sports and entertainment properties to achieve separate and distinct marketing objectives. Through understanding the unique elements of the sports industry, students will have an appreciation for the unique business dynamics a product that evokes so much passion as well as have a point of reference for understanding the core structure of other industries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through classroom presentations, discussions, and completion of course assignments, the student will be acquainted with a varied number of important concepts in the study of business as they apply to the sports industry. Special attention is given to the organizational structure of sports leagues, college sports and associations, labor issues, media strategies, emerging leagues, sponsorship, licensing, sports gambling and the application of strategic principles to sports.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Lecture Slides: All lecture slides on PPT will be posted on the course website on Canvas at <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1623283>. It is recommended that students print the slides for that day's lecture from the course Canvas website and supplement them with their own notations.

Articles: Relevant articles are organized by class number on the Canvas site. Daily reading of the trade publications is required to provide context to the concepts discussed and serve as the basis for a current events discussion. Trade publications can be supplemented with any number of sources including Forbes, ESPN, Wall Street Journal, etc. Students will be called on during class for questions on the readings. Please see the section on "Participation" below.

An Sports Industry Trade Publication:

A 16-week subscription to [Sports Business Journal – Daily Edition](#). To subscribe, please visit their website at www.sbjcollege.com/subscribe you'll find University of Pennsylvania-Wharton School in the drop-down menu then my name and it will direct you to an order form. The [SBJ Sports Atlas](#), an electronic database linked to this publication and available via Franklin/Lippincott. It contains a significant amount of data and an archive of SBJ past articles. This information is particularly useful as a resource for researching your group project and your individual research paper.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

The Business of Sports (2nd edition) by Profs. Scott Rosner and Ken Shropshire is a comprehensive collection of readings that focus on the sports industry and the dilemmas faced by today's sports business leaders including professional, Olympic, and collegiate sports. It covers the major business disciplines

of management, marketing, finance, accounting, ethics and law. It is **NOT** required but is an excellent resource for students requiring more information about the industry.

COURSE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Class sessions will follow a lecture/discussion format. As the class moves along a number of guest speakers have been arranged to provide practical industry insights to the topics reviewed in class. Guest speaker information is not supplemental and will be included on exams.

Each class begins with a 15-20 minute discussion of current sports business topics, not wins/losses or athletic performances. The topics covered will come mostly from the SBJ Daily. Students will form Study Groups of four or five to discuss assigned current events and assigned readings **before** each class. Students who want to be in the same group should email the Professor by January 26. Students will be notified of their group by January 28. Beginning Mon Jan 31, a group will be selected each class using an random number generator mobile app. Such groups will bring up a current event topic of their choice and all members are expected to contribute. Other class members are encouraged inject their viewpoint and address questions from the professor.

Each semester, I host a series of **student breakfasts or afternoon get-togethers**. This brief time together provides an opportunity for students to get to know each other and dig deeper into specific sports business topics. I am a big fan of building and nuturing relationships as one advances in their careers. I will provide great flexibility in scheduling these get togethers.

PARTICIPATION:

Class participation is vital to success in this course. Students are expected to attend and be prepared for **every** class. Study groups should discuss assigned readings **before** each class. From time to time, study groups will be selected (random number generator app) to comment on/address questions from the professor. Participation, emanating from careful reading and thorough analysis of the assigned materials, is vital to the quality of the course. It is also important to build upon other students' comments so attentive listening is part of quality participation. **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE IS A GIVEN.** Absence or failure to be prepared will be recorded and results will be reflected in your final class grade.

Students will fail the course automatically (even if they are able to earn enough points on the exams and papers to otherwise pass the course) if their attendance is deemed poor by the professor.

GRADING:

Group Project	20%
Examination #1	25%
Examination #2	25%
Term Paper	30%
Class Participation	Will make a difference if you are close to next grade up, or down.

EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT POLICIES:

The first examination will be taken during the scheduled examination time. The second examination will be taken during the assigned Final Exam period. Any make-ups (for documented medical and family emergencies only – not job interviews, travel plans, etc.) will be given only during the scheduled LGST departmental makeup period in the Fall of 2022. Both exams will be closed notes. The second exam is not cumulative; it builds upon the first half and covers material addressed since the first examination. Assignments are expected to be submitted or presented on the assigned due date. Late work and missed assignments will receive a zero.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Small Group Project:

Each study group will evaluate and offer a recommendation on an emerging professional sports league. Through 5-6 pages, the team should address the major challenges, environmental factors and unique opportunities facing a select nascent league. It's always helpful to apply concepts from first half of the class into the analysis as incorporate information gained from research. Each group will choose a specific league based on a class-wide random draft.

Research Paper

Students will write, a business term paper about an issue of current, critical importance to the sports industry. Length must be no less than 10 pages and certainly no longer than 15 pages. Students are encouraged to challenge the accepted standards of the industry and each paper must demonstrate a professional understanding and a practical applicability of industry issues, practices, concepts and consequences of the sports business. Papers should be well organized and conclude with a recommendation.

- ◆ While the work must be of extremely high caliber, the writing assignments are designed as practical rather than academic exercises. Be concise.
- ◆ Necessary citations and attributions must be made and should be contained either in the text itself or in footnotes.
- ◆ There is a premium on the quality of ideas and their practical application.
- ◆ The quality of thinking and expression are critical factors in grading.

This paper is a chance to excel by displaying depth in comprehension of the subject matter and by expressing new ideas, demonstrating analytical and strategic application and by challenging typical practices.

The entire process of researching and writing this paper is not only valuable to acquiring knowledge and insights into the industry, but it also serves as creation of a tool for forming new relationships. I often use the paper as a means of introduction to influential executives in and outside the industry.

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 as of Nov. 1, 2021 and is subject to change. Course topics, assigned reading from the text and course are listed below.

Class	Date	Topics
1	12-Jan	Why Sports? / Requirements
2	19-Jan	History of Sports Business
3	24-Jan	Sports in Society
4	26-Jan	Industry Overview - Study Groups Due
5	31-Jan	Priorities and Challenges
6	2-Feb	Revenues and Expenses
7	7-Feb	Ownership/Franchise Valuation - Draft for Emerging League Project
8	9-Feb	Sports M&A - GUEST SPEAKER TBD
9	14-Feb	Unions and Player Compensation - Research Paper Topic Due
10	16-Feb	Revenue Sharing/Competitive Balance
11	21-Feb	Emerging Leagues
12	23-Feb	First Half Review
13	28-Feb	MID TERM
14	2-Mar	Intro to Marketing
	7-Mar	SPRING BREAK
	9-Mar	SPRING BREAK
15	14-Mar	Media
16	16-Mar	GUEST SPEAKER – Digital Media
17	21-Mar	Licensing Group Paper Due at 11:59PM
18	23-Mar	GUEST SPEAKER – Lawrence Berger, Ames Watson/Lids
19	28-Mar	Sponsorship
20	30-Mar	GUEST SPEAKER – Renie Anderson, CRO and EVP NFL Partnerships
21	4-Apr	College Sports
22	6-Apr	GUEST SPEAKER – College Sports TBD
23	11-Apr	Golf, Tennis, Motorsports
24	13-Apr	GUEST SPEAKER - Barry Hyde, Player Agent and Sponsorship Exec Research Paper Due April 15: 11:59PM
25	18-Apr	Sports Gambling
26	20-Apr	GUEST SPEAKER – Malcolm Turner, Corporate Development, Draft Kings
27	25-Apr	OPTIONAL GUEST SPEAKER – Sports Tech, Jed Corenthal
28	27-Apr	2nd Half Review/1993 Notes
	May	Final Exam Exact Day and Time TBD