

# ECON 291:20 Economics of Leisure, Recreation and Sports

St Francis Xavier University

Department of Economics

**Professor:** Brandon Malloy

**Winter 2024**

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**Classes:** Mondays 6:30-7:45PM, Wednesdays 6:30-7:45PM (R4/R5) in SCHW 156

**Office Hours:** Mon 10:00-11:15AM, Wed 5:30-6:30PM Thurs 11:30-12:45PM

By appointment (email)

## **Course Description:**

This course includes topics related to choices about the time individuals do not spend working. It deals with aspects of the economics of leisure and labour supply; the valuation of time; outdoor recreation; the economics of sports; the economics of dating and marriage; the economics of crime and the consumption of addictive goods; the economics of gambling and other addictive behaviour associated with the consumption of leisure, and the economics of the entertainment industry.

## **Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

- (1) To use economic tools to understand how individuals spend their leisure time.
- (2) To use basic economic theory to evaluate issues related to leisure and the allocation of resources in leisure, sports and recreation
- (3) To introduce statistical analysis to evaluate data used in the sports and recreation industries.

**Prerequisites:**

Econ 101

**Textbook:**

There is no required textbook for this course- readings will be posted on Moodle to accompany course lectures.

**Course Format and Attendance:** Students are expected to attend ALL classes- there is no substitute for class attendance in the learning process. As there is no required textbook for the course, most of the background material will come from class lectures, making class attendance *extremely* important. Class time will be spent on class discussions and developing economic theory to detail the topics covered. As such, class participation is **HIGHLY** encouraged. Students will be responsible for **ALL** material presented during lectures. Exam questions will typically consist of short answer questions and will require critical analysis of policy issues using economic theory, similar to the analysis performed during class lectures.

**Evaluation:**

The course grade will be based on three methods of evaluation:

*Assignments*.....15%

*Midterm #1*.....25%

*Midterm #2*.....25%

*Final Exam*.....35%

## ***Assignments***

Throughout the semester, you will complete individual assignments designed to integrate the course concepts and familiarize you with their application using real-world data.

## ***Midterm Exams***

There will be TWO midterm exams during the semester, that will take place IN-CLASS, during our normal class time: Wednesday, February 14 and Monday, March 18.

If you miss an in-class midterm for a justifiable reason (illness, family emergency, etc), and need to write a make-up exam, it is **YOUR** responsibility to contact me **ASAP** in order to qualify to write a make-up test. However, since you are only being evaluated in-person on **THREE** dates during the entire semester, you should try everything in your power to make sure you attend these in-class tests, to avoid any undue stress on all parties.

Due to class size, these make-up tests will **ONLY** be offered on **ONE** day during the semester: **Monday, April 8**. Any student who misses **ONE** midterm will write on this date. Any student who misses **TWO** midterms will write one makeup on this date, and have the weight of the other missed midterm transferred to the final exam.

## ***Final Exam***

The final exam will be cumulative and will cover the breadth of topics covered during the entire course. The time and date will be determined by the Registrar.

## **Course Topics**

Course topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Labour/leisure trade-off
2. Professional sports: labour markets
3. Recreational and sports gambling
4. Public goods and public provision
5. Vice and addiction
6. Economics of entertainment industries

## **Important Dates**

Mon, Jan 8- First day of Winter classes, first day of course

Mon, Jan 15- Last day to change second-term or full-year courses

**Wed, Feb 14- Midterm Exam #1**

Mon, Feb 19, Wed Feb 21- **NO CLASSES** (due to Winter Study Break)

Fri, Mar 8- Last day to drop second-term three-credit courses

**Mon, Mar 18- Midterm Exam #2**

Mon, Apr 8- Last day of course- **Make-Up Exam Day**

Wed, Apr 10- Exam period begins

*Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before Friday, March 8, 2024. After this date students are not permitted to drop courses without permission from their Dean. (please see 3.1 in academic calendar for policy regarding course drops).*

## **Statement on Equitable Learning**

*Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.*

*Please feel free to talk with me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the STFX community in general. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor. Please note that a Human Rights and Equity Advisor will soon be appointed. In the meantime, students, faculty, or staff may also contact the Director of Human Resources at [hr@stfx.ca](mailto:hr@stfx.ca) or the Office of the AVP&P*

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