What are the effects of performance-enhancing drugs on MLB? Recent allegations against All-Stars Alex Rodriguez and Ryan Braun have once again brought PEDs into the spotlight as a problem that baseball cannot easily resolve. However, how much do performance-enhancing drugs enhance performance, and through what channels did performance-enhancing drugs permeate into the game? Read “Learning Unethical Practices from a Co-Worker: The Peer Effect of Jose Canseco,” by Eric Gould and Todd Kaplan. It is available here: https://sites.google.com/site/edgould/Published-Papers. Then write a 700-1200 word essay that summarizes their findings, addressing the following:

1. What are the main questions the authors address? Are they important?

2. What are the advantages that the authors claim are associated with studying Canseco’s influence and not other players?

3. What are the data the authors use and what is the hypothesis that they are testing?

4. What do the authors find? The estimates for $\beta_1$ are potentially problematic for the authors’ argument while the estimates for $\beta_2$ greatly strengthen it—why?

5. What could the authors do better? What would you suggest for improvement?

6. Does this paper provide evidence of Canseco providing PED knowledge to other players? Does the paper convince you that players “learned unethical practices from a co-worker”?

7. Could this type of study be done in other settings? If so, where and when?

A rough draft of this paper is due by Thursday, February 28 via e-mail to two or three other classmates, cc: to me. I will assign revision groups via e-mail and distribute e-mails. This will constitute the in-class revision portion of the assignment. The questionnaire that guided the previous revision still applies. This rough draft is worth one bonus point toward the assignment’s grade. You will then submit a second draft to me in class on Tuesday, March 5. This is worth another bonus point on the assignment. If you choose not to participate in either draft that is fine but the final version of the assignment is due on Tuesday, March 5. I will not intentionally grade someone who does not go through the revision process more harshly but you will be judged in part against your peers who did revise their work.