PREAMBLE: One month into this year’s edition of Kinesiology 9062, the 23rd edition of the Olympic Winter Games will open in South Korea, a potentially explosive political event, but at the same time one that will present superlative competition, sobering ritual, and grand spectacle. Commensurate with those Olympic Games, this course seeks to offer a graduate experience in the socio-cultural study of sport in an area of scholarly research to which Western University, its D. B. Weldon Library, Faculty of Health Sciences, and the School of Kinesiology have given significant developmental priority over the past three decades in the form of bestowing considerable resources in developing a body of uniquely appropriate research materials. This scholarly research area is sometimes referred to as OLYMPIC STUDIES. The research materials are located in the now over quarter century old International Centre for Olympic Studies (ICOS), located in the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building (Room 317). The world-wide activities of the Centre, together with its rich research holdings, offers the graduate student significant opportunities for independent research and learning. The course focuses on a history of the Modern Olympic Movement through an investigational framework featuring several major agents of challenge and change. The course concludes with a three day field trip (largely funded) to Lake Placid, New York (site of the 1932 and 1980 Olympic Winter Games, the world’s oldest and premier Olympic Winter Games Museum, and one of two United States Olympic Winter Team training Centers), and, subsequently, on to Montreal for visits to the 1976 Olympic Summer Games facilities, a two hour Q and A session with Canadian IOC member Dick Pound in his Stikeman-Elliott Law Office Boardroom, and a visit to the headquarters of W.A.D.A. (World Anti-Doping Association).T

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course, RETHINKING THE OLYMPICS: GRADUATE SEMINAR IN OLYMPIC STUDIES, focuses on three dimensions of the now 125 year history of the Modern Olympic Movement: (1) the Games heritage and modern evolution, (2) the problematic nature of the Games and the issues that such problematics raise, and (3) the present age of globalization and an Olympics future faced by severe challenges.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Graduate student status. At least three prior courses at the undergraduate and or graduate level dealing with the socio-cultural study of sport (history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy), or by permission of the instructor.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The final course evaluation of class members will depend on three factors: (1) attendance at weekly three-hour seminars, at which each student will be expected to take part in discussions, commentary, and debate on weekly assigned readings, and further, give one short seminar contribution relative to the student’s independent research study associated with one of the course’s three major areas of investigation (20%), (2) the writing of a formal, scholarly book review on an Olympic publication of the student’s selection, chosen in consultation with the course instructor (20%), and (3) the production of an independent research paper on a course-related topic for which the greater amount of evidence exists in primary documents housed in ICOS: (1) The Avery Brundage Collection, (2) The James Worrall Papers, (3) IOC Executive Board and General Session Minutes, (4) Olympic Press Review materials, (5) the Reports of the various Committees investigating the Sydney and Salt Lake City bid scandals, and (6) numerous archival documents gathered from the IOC Archives in Lausanne, Switzerland, as well as those gleaned from libraries and research repositories located in other parts of the world (60%).

COURSE TEXT: None. All course readings listed below in bold-face type and followed by three asterisks are books (8)—normally shared and provided by the instructor (not needed to be purchased—with one exception—Thomas Hunt). All others (in normal-face type) are articles (13) and are provided in the “readings package.”

Course Meeting Site: Alumni Hall, Room 15-L

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE / READINGS

Week 1: Thursday, January 4th

Introduction

Week 2: Thursday, January 11th

The Great Olympic Festival: Bridges Spanning Their Ancient Celebration and their Revival in the Modern Era

Readings

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Week 3: Thursday, January 18th

**Reincarnation: Pierre de Coubertin and the Grand Project**

Readings


David C. Young (1996), *The Modern Olympics: A Struggle for Revival***

Week 4: Thursday, January 25th

**A North American Awakening: The Olympics Arrive in the Psyche of the United States and Canada**

Readings


Week 5: Thursday, February 1st

**The Most Controversial Olympic Games – Berlin 1936**
Readings


Week 6: Thursday, February 15th

**Winning Hearts and Minds: The Cold War and Soviet-American Confrontation**

Readings


Alfred E. Senn (1999), *Power, Politics, and the Olympic Games***

Week 7: Thursday, February 22nd

**Reading Week -- No Class Meeting**

Week 8: Thursday, March 1st

**The Rise of Commercialism: The International Olympic Committee as a Corporate Giant**

Readings


Week 9: Thursday, March 8th

**Dark Moments: The Great Olympic Bribery Scandal**

Readings


Stephen Wenn, Robert Barney, Scott Martyn (2011), *Tarnished Rings: The International Olympic Committee and the Salt Lake City Olympic Games Bid Scandal***

Week 10: Thursday, March 15th

**Conundrums and Conundrums: Persistent Problems**

Readings

Kevin Witherspoon (2008), *Before the Eyes of the World***


Week 11: Thursday, March 22nd

**Doping: The Stigma of Performance Enhancement**
Readings


Week 12: Thursday, March 29th

Globalization and Facing the Future

Readings


Week 13: Thursday, April 5th

Windup / Finis

Week 14: TBA

Course Trip to Montreal/Lake Placid