PREAMBLE: This year’s edition of Kinesiology 9062(b), takes place some two years before the Paris Games scheduled to unfold in the summer of 2024. They will undoubtedly present superlative competition, high drama, sobering ritual, and grand spectacle, along with, most assuredly, high drama, crises, controversy, and question. Commensurate with the phenomenon of the Modern Olympic Games this course seeks to offer a graduate experience in the socio-cultural study of sport dedicated to an area of scholarly research to which Western University, its D. B. Weldon Library, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Kinesiology, and International Centre for Olympic Studies (ICOS) have given extraordinary developmental priority over the past three decades in the form of bestowing considerable resources in developing a body of uniquely appropriate research materials, and more particularly, a gigantic expansion of attendant scholarly activity. This teaching/research area is sometimes referred to as OLYMPIC STUDIES. The Olympic research materials at Western are located mostly, but not exclusively, in the now over 30 year old ICOS, situated presently in its newly renovated and occupied 3M Centre location. 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 chronology of the Modern Olympic Movement through an investigative framework featuring several major agents of challenge and change (gender, commercialization, amateurism, racism, security, costs, politics, boycotts, “giganticism,” image, exposure, the environment, protocol, ritual, and the impact of individuals, to name more than a dozen or so prominent issues.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course, RETHINKING THE OLYMPICS: GRADUATE SEMINAR IN OLYMPIC STUDIES, focuses on three dimensions of the now 128 year history of the Modern Olympic Movement: (1) the antiquity heritage of the Games and their modern revival, (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 imposing challenges.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Graduate student status. Recommended: at least three prior courses at the undergraduate and or graduate level dealing with the socio-cultural study of sport (history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, organization/management). Or, by permission of the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The final course evaluation of class members will depend on three factors: (1) virtual attendance at weekly three-hour seminars, at which each student will be expected to take part in discussions, commentary, and debate based on weekly assigned readings (30%); (2) to construct a scholarly review of one book relevant to the course material (20%--due Friday March 3rd); and (3) to construct a term research work (due Friday, April 21st) on a
specifically-designed project examining the various ramifications of a vexing problem facing the Modern Olympic Movement today (50%).

**COURSE TEXT:** None. Course readings listed below will be supplied to you in PDF form.

**WEEKLY CLASS TIMES:** Normally, Wednesdays, 1:30 to 4:30

**Instructor Coordinates:** Email [rkbarney@uwo.ca](mailto:rkbarney@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 850-2340; Office: Thames Hall, Room 3197

**GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE / READINGS**

Week 1: Wednesday, January 4th (2023)

*Introduction and “Getting to Know You!”*

Week 2: Wednesday, January 11th

*The Great Olympic Festival: Its Antiquity Heritage and Revival in the Modern Era*

**Readings**


Week 3: Wednesday, January 18th

**Reincarnation: Brits, Greeks, and Pierre de Coubertin in the Grand Restoration Project**

Readings


Week 4: Wednesday, January 25th

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

Readings


Week 5: Wednesday, February 1st

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

Readings


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**Week 6: Wednesday, February 8th**

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

**Readings**


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**Week 7: Wednesday, February 15th**

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

**Readings**


Week 8: Wednesday, February 22nd

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

Readings


Week 9: Wednesday, March 1st

**Problematics in the Olympic World: Gender and Race**

Readings

Week 10: Wednesday, March 8th

**More Problems in the Olympic World: Politics and Hosting**

Readings


Week 11: Wednesday, March 15th

**The Stigma of Performance Enhancement**

Readings


Week 12: Wednesday, March 22nd

Globalization and Facing the Future

Readings


Week 13: Wednesday, March 29th

Catch Up – Q & A Discussion