

KINESIOLOGY 9062a – Winter Term 2023

Rethinking the Olympics: Graduate Seminar in Olympic Studies

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: 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 modern 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, or available on-line.

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

CLASS MEETING VENUE: Thames Hall 3101 (Entry Code - 2231*)

INSTRUCTOR COORDINATES: Email rkbarney@uwo.ca; Phone (519) 850-2340; Office -- Thames Hall, Room 3197

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE / READINGS

Week 1: Wednesday, January 11th (2023)

Introduction and “Getting to Know You! Getting to Know All About You!”

Week 2: Wednesday, January 18th

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

Readings

Robert K. Barney, "Prologue: The Ancient Olympic Games," in *Historical Dictionary of the Modern Olympic Movement* (John Findling and Kimberly Pelle, eds.), Westport, Ct: Greenwood Publishing Company, 1996, pp. XX-XL.

Jeffrey Segrave (2004), "The Olympic Games 393 A.D. -- The Genealogy of an Idea in Literature, Music and Dance," *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 13 (2004): 53-74.

Week 3: Wednesday, January 25th

No Class, Convene Again on Wednesday, February 1st

Week 4: Wednesday, February 1st

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

Readings

Peter Radford. "The Olympic Games in the Long Eighteenth-Century." *Journal for Eighteenth Century Studies*, 92:2 (2012): 161-184.

Robert K. Barney, "For Such Olympic Games': German-American Turnfests as Preludes to the Modern Olympic Games," in *Sport: The Third Millennium*, F. Landry, M. Yerles, M. Landry, eds. (Quebec City: Laval University Press, 1991), pp. 677-705.

Week 5: Wednesday, February 8th

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

Readings

Robert K. Barney (1992), "Born From Dilemma: America Awakens to the Modern Olympic Games," *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 1 (1992): 92-135.

Robert K. Barney and Michael H. Heine (2015), "The 'Emblem of One United Body . . . One Great Sporting Maple Leaf: The Olympic Games and Canada's Quest for Self-Identity,'" *Sport in Society*, 18:7 (2015): 816-834.

Week 6: Wednesday, February 15th

The Most Controversial Olympic Games – Berlin 1936

Readings

William J. Murray (1992), “France, Coubertin and the Nazi Olympics: The Response,” *Olympika; The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 1 (1992): 46-69.

Richard Menkis and Harold Troper (2015), ***More Than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics***. Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2015.

ONLINE: <https://books.scholarsportal.info/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks3/utpress/2015-06-10/1/9781442620513>

Week 7: Wednesday, February 22nd

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

Readings

Jim Riordan (1993), “The Rise and Fall of Soviet Olympic Champions.” *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 2 (1993): 25–44.

Nevada Cooke and Robert K. Barney (2018), “Preserving the American Way: Gerald R. Ford, the President’s Commission on Olympic Sports, and the Fight Against State-Funded Sport in America” in ***Defending the American Way of Life: Sport, Culture, and the Cold War***, Toby C. Rider and Kevin B. Witherspoon, eds. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018), 67-82, Notes, 244-247.

Week 8: Wednesday, March 1st

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

Readings

Mark Dyreson (1995), "Marketing National Identity: The Olympic Games of 1932 and American Culture," *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 4 (1995): 23–48.

Stephen R. Wenn and Robert K. Barney, "Paul Helms vs. Avery Brundage," Chapter 1 in *The Gold in the Rings: The People and Events that Transformed the Olympic Games* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2020), 7-30.

Week 9: Wednesday, March 8th

Dark Moments: The Great Olympic Bribery Scandal

Readings

Douglas Booth (1999), "Gifts of Corruption? Ambiguities of Obligation in the Olympic Movement," *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 8 (1999): 43-68.

Stephen R. Wenn and Robert K. Barney, "The Salt Lake City Bid Scandal," Chapter 8 in *The Gold in the Rings: The People and Events that Transformed the Olympic Games* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2020), 165-196.

Week 10: Wednesday, March 15th

Problematics in the Olympic World: Gender and Race

Readings

Lindsey Park Pieper (2018), “Wolves in Skirts: Sex Testing in Cold War Women’s Sports,” in *Defending the American Way of Life: Sport, Culture, and the Cold War*, Toby C. Rider and Kevin B. Witherspoon, eds. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018): 85-98, Notes: 247-251.

Damien L. Thomas (2018), “Defying the Cultural Boycott: Arthur Ashe, the Anti-Apartheid Activist.” in *Defending the American Way of Life: Sport, Culture, and the Cold War*, Toby C. Rider and Kevin B. Witherspoon, eds. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018): 155-169, Notes: 268-270.

Week 11: Wednesday, March 22nd

More Problems in the Olympic World: Politics, Hosting, and Performance Enhancement

Readings

Teri Hedgpeth, “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The USOC, the Carter Administration, and the 1980 Olympic Games Boycott,” *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 28 (2019): 82-93.

Robert K. Barney, “The Politics of Bidding for the Olympic Games: The Case of the Let Denver Vote Yes Initiative,” *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 28 (2019): 65-81.

John Gleaves and Matthew P. Llewellyn (2018), “The ‘Big Arms’ Race: Doping and the Cold War” in *Defending the American Way of Life: Sport, Culture, and the Cold War*, Toby C. Rider and Kevin B. Witherspoon, eds. (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018): 67-82, Notes: 241-244.

Week 12: Wednesday, March 29th

Olympic Serendipity: Ceremony, Ritual, Branding

Readings

Robert K. Barney and Anthony Th. Bijkerk, "The Genesis of Sacred Fire in Olympic Ceremony – A New Interpretation," *Journal of Olympic History*, Vol. 13, No. 2, May/June 2005, pp. 6-27.

Robert K. Barney, "The Great Transformation: Olympic Victory Ceremonies and the Medal Podium," *Olympika*, Vol. VII-1998, pp. 89-112.

Robert K. Barney, "This Great Symbol: The Origin of the Olympic Five Ring Symbol," *Olympic Review*, No. 30 1, November 1992, pp. 627-631.

Week 13: Wednesday, April 5th

Globalization and Facing the Future

Readings

Deane Neubauer, "Modern Sport and the Olympic Games: The Problematic Perplexities Raised by the Dynamics of Globalization," *Olympika: The International Journal of Olympic Studies*, 17 (2008): 1-41.

Stephen R. Wenn and Robert K. Barney, "Contemporary Globalization and Recent Olympic Leadership," in *The Oxford Handbook of Sports History*, Robert Edelman and Wayne Wilson, eds. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, 395-414.

THE END

