PREAMBLE: This year’s edition of Kinesiology 9062(a), takes place hardly two months following the Tokyo Games hosted in Japan in late July, early August. They are the first Olympic Games in the festival’s now 125 years of history to take place in an odd-numbered year. As is usually the case, Tokyo’s Games presented superlative competition, high drama, sobering ritual, and grand spectacle, along with, most assuredly, especially in view of the Covid pandemic, crises, controversy, 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 the 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 history 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, gigantism, image, exposure, the environment, protocol, and ritual, to name but 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 125 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. 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) attendance at weekly three-hour seminars, at which each student will be expected: (1) to take part in discussions, commentary, and debate based on weekly assigned readings (20%); (2) construction of a scholarly review of one book relevant to the course material (30%--due March 4th); and (3) construction of a term research work 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

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**GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE / READINGS**

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Week 1: Wednesday, September 15th (2021)

*Introduction and “Getting to Know You!”*

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Week 2: Wednesday, September 22nd

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

**Readings**


Week 3: Wednesday, September 29th

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

Readings


Week 4: Wednesday, October 6th

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

Readings


Week 5: Wednesday, October 13th

The Most Controversial Olympic Games – Berlin 1936

Readings


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**Week 6: Wednesday, October 20th**

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

**Readings**


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**Week 7: Wednesday, October 27th**

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

**Readings**


Week 8: Wednesday, November 3rd

Dark Moments: The Great Olympic Bribery Scandal

Readings


Week 9: Wednesday, November 10th

Problematics in the Olympic World: Gender and Race

Readings


Week 10: Wednesday, November 17th

More Problems in the Olympic World: Politics and Hosting


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**Week 11: Wednesday, November 24th**

*The Stigma of Performance Enhancement*

**Readings**


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**Week 12: Wednesday, December 1st**

*Globalization and Facing the Future*

**Readings**


Week 13: Wednesday, December 8th

_Catch Up – Q & A Discussion_