STUDENT

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA – SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY

KIN 383 – The Modern Olympics: Power, Politics and Performance

Tues / Thurs 2:00 to 3:30pm (Term 2, winter 2020)

Location: Woodward 1, 2198 Health Sciences Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

Tutorial locations: Orchard Commons, 3004, 4002 and 4072.

Instructor
Dr Patricia Vertinsky
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Office Hours: By appointment

TA’s
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Course Description

This course examines the Modern Olympics as they have emerged over the past century to become one of the most pervasive sporting festivals and mega events in the world. During the semester, we will explore international conflicts, organizational power struggles, gender, race and disability debates, sites of corruption, Olympic symbols, and athletes’ successes as well as struggles around access, sex-testing, drugs and performance enhancement associated with various summer and winter Olympic Games. Olympic sport is a transnational and transcultural phenomenon par excellence and the Olympic Games are a fascinating target for analysis. We will assess both the legacies of past Olympics and explore new avenues and new sports emerging in the Olympics of the future.

The course will include lectures, films, videos, visiting experts, student projects, and individual assignments. Students will be expected to participate fully and reflect critically upon past, current and future issues affecting the global role of the Olympics and its wide-ranging effects upon sport, culture, ethics, organizational politics, health and medicine, and the environment.

Acknowledgement
Format and Procedures

This class consists of two 80 minute classes per week. Classes include lectures, class discussions, guest presentations, media, and tutorials. Since this course highlights participation and discussion attendance at class and tutorials is important. Students are expected to complete assigned course readings and activities by the assigned date and take supporting notes where appropriate. They are expected to be capable of initiating discussion concerning the readings as well as the topics more generally throughout the semester. Students may also be called upon to prepare specific presentations or reflections for their tutorial group based on the readings and/or other Olympic related participatory activities.

Course requirements

Third year standing or with the permission of the instructor

Policies and Expectations

Regular attendance is expected. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and any other information provided whether in attendance or not. Students who are unavoidably absent because of disability or illness should report to their instructor and where necessary submit supportive documentation to the Undergraduate advising office. Students also have the right to request academic concessions from the Undergraduate advising office.

Students whose attendance or performance may be severely affected by medical, emotional or other disabilities should consult with the instructor early in the term to discuss any special accommodations that might be needed in order to complete course requirements. Supportive documentation from either the disability resource center or a physician must be submitted to the Undergraduate advising office.

Readings and Resources

All required readings are available on Library Course Reserve (available through Canvas) or from the instructor. On Canvas there is a variety of selected additional and optional readings and resources that are simply suggested for students to engage with according to their own research interests and background. Direct link to course reserve: https://courses.library.ubc.ca/c.qs2nQk

Evaluation

Assessment 1: Class attendance and participation.
Throughout the semester, students should come to class prepared to reflect upon and discuss the week’s required readings. Active individual participation is expected throughout the semester. Marks for participation will be obtained through regular attendance, quizzes, and in-class participation.

**Assessment 2: Small Group Discussions/ Tutorials**

Details: TA’s and the Instructor will facilitate tutorial discussions and keep track of responses. In addition, 3 times during the semester (in preparation for the tutorial dates) students will be requested to respond individually, in writing to questions concerning specific readings or class materials by uploading a 200-word response to canvas.

Tutorial dates: Tutorials will be held on Jan 28 and 30, March 3 and 5, March 31 and April 2, 2020.

The class will be divided into 6 tutorial groups of 25 named Tokyo, Berlin, Mexico, Beijing, London and Munich, to be held in one of Orchard Commons, 3004, 4072, 4002.

Tokyo, Berlin and Mexico attend on tues Jan 28, Mar 3 and Mar 31
Beijing, London and Munich attend on thurs Jan 30, Mar 5 and April 2.

Weight: 25%

**Assessment 3: Mid-term Exam**

Details: Questions about and the specific structure of the Midterm written exam will be provided early in the semester. The mid-term exam will focus specifically upon those themes of the course covered by Reading Week. The exam will consist of a combination of question and answers, as well as short written answers to specific Olympic themed issues that have been covered in class and tutorials.

If the midterm exam is missed, the final exam will be marked out of 65%.

Due Date: February 14, 2020.
**Assessment 4: Final exam**

*Details*  
The final written exam will focus upon Olympic themes and specific issues covered in class throughout the semester including work and discussions covered in the tutorials. Questions about and the specific structure of the exam as well as the marking rubric will be discussed in the tutorials.

*Due date: tba*

*Weight: 40%*

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

**Tues Jan 7, 2020**

Review scope of course, learning objectives, requirements and evaluation procedures. Discuss background and interests of students in a wide range of Olympic affairs.

**Thurs Jan 9  PIERRE DE COUBERTIN AND THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN OLYMPICS IN 1896**


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**WEEK 2: THE ANTHROPOLOGY GAMES AND SCIENTIFIC RACISM**

**Tues, Jan 14**


**Thurs Jan 16  INDIGENEITY, SPORT AND THE OLYMPIC ATHLETE**


WEEK 3: CRITICAL OLYMPIC ISSUES : SOCIAL CLASS, MASCULINITY AND THE QUESTION OF AMATEURISM

This week will be devoted to watching (in two parts) one of the most famous Olympic themed movies, Chariots of Fire. Students are asked to take notes in preparation for the following tutorials focused upon the main messages of this movie.

Tues, Jan 21   CHARIOTS OF FIRE (part 1): Social class, manhood and anti-Semitism


Thurs Jan 23     CHARIOTS OF FIRE (part 2): Amatuerism and professionalism

WEEK 4: TUTORIALS : QUESTIONS OF AMATEURISM, MANHOOD AND RACISM


Tues Jan 28  Groups 1-3: Tokyo, Berlin and Mexico

Thursday Jan 30  Groups 4-6: Beijing, London and Munich

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WEEK 5: POLITICS AND IDEOLOGY AT THE OLYMPICS

Tues, Feb 4  THE NAZI OLYMPICS: Berlin 1936 and the invention of traditions.


Arnd Krüger, “Once the Olympics are Through, we'll beat up the Jew: German Jewish Sport 1898-1938 and the Anti-Semitic Discourse,” *Journal of Sport History* 26, no.2 (1999): 353-375.

Holocaust Museum, Washington DC. https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-nazi-olympics-berlin-1936 - please explore this site


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WEEK 6: RACE, ATHLETE ACTIVISM AND THE 1968 MEXICO OLYMPICS

Tues, Feb 11:  THE BLACK FIST AND ATHLETE ACTIVISM


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Thurs, Feb 13  IN CLASS  WRITTEN MID TERM EXAM
WEEK 8:  NO ROOM FOR WOMEN:  GENDER STRUGGLES AT THE OLYMPICS

Tues, Feb 25  FEMALE OLYMPIANS’ LONG FIGHT FOR THE MARATHON AND THE SKI JUMP


Thurs Feb 27  SHE RUNS LIKE A MAN:  THE POLITICS OF SEX TESTING

Readings


WEEK 9:  Tutorials – GENDER, SEX TESTING AND ATHLETE ACTIVISM

Tues March 3  Groups 1-3: Tokyo, Berlin and Mexico
Thurs March 5  Groups 4-6: Beijing, London and Munich


WEEK 10:  THE WINTER OLYMPICS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE COLD WAR
Tues March 10  ‘EAST PLAYS WEST’: The Winter Olympics and the cold war on ice!


Thurs Mar 12  DOPING SCANDALS AT THE OLYMPICS


WEEK 11:  THE WEST vs. THE REST: THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE OLYMPICS


Thurs Mar 19  JAPAN AT THE OLYMPICS AGAIN: TOKYO 1964 AND 2020


WEEK 12  NEW SPORTS, YOUTH SPORTS AT THE OLYMPICS

Tues Mar 24  Hip hop, skate boarding and what else?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2019/06/15/skateboarders-wonder-whether-olympics-will-change-sports-renegade-image/


(The new sports according to the IOC and how they are to be included/analyzed)


**Thurs Mar 26**  
**NOBODY WANTS THE GAMES: LEGACIES, WHITE ELEPHANTS, DEBTS, AND NATIONAL CRISES**


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obXJGZqR1BU&t=1s  
WHY NO ONE WANTS THE OLYMPICS

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**WEEK 13  TUTORIALS: GLOBALIZATION , NEW SPORTS, OLYMPIC LEGACIES**

**Tues Mar 31**  
**Groups 1-3  Tokyo, Berlin and Mexico**

**Thurs April 2**  
**Groups 4-6  Beijing, London and Munich**


WEEK 14:  Tues April 7

CLASS DEBATE:  DOES THE OLYMPICS HAVE A FUTURE?

Each tutorial group to prepare and offer a 10 minute rebuttal on the future of the Olympics: Groups 1-3 in favor; Groups 4-6 against.