Scope of the Course:

The course is a socio-cultural and historical perspective on the Olympic Games and the main individuals involved in them. We discuss issues, events, and participants as they have influenced the games. As well, we will emphasize that this relationship presents many levels of interaction. In fact, it is a close relationship in which the Olympic Games, international events and athletes influence and affect each other.

More specifically, the course will focus on the Summer Olympic Games beginning with the 1936 Berlin Olympics and finishing with the 2016 Rio Olympics. This course attempts to place the modern Summer Olympic Games in a social, historical and political context. It is in this context that the athletes have displayed their athletic prowess either embracing the Games and the social issues around it or attempting to perform in a political vacuum. Furthermore, athletes have at times even attempted to change the games and/or society with mix results.

Suggested Readings:

The Nazi Olympics by Richard Mandell
Made in America by Peter Ueberroth
The Billion Dollar Game by Nick Auf der Maur
The Struggle That Must Be by Harry Edwards
My Olympic Years by Lord Killanin

Method of Evaluation:

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Summary of Olympia I: 20%
- Mid-term: 35%
- Final Exam: 35% (exam period)
**Calendar**: This calendar is to help you with your organization. Be diligent with your readings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Thu Jan 3</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Tue Jan 8</td>
<td>Role and Importance</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Thu Jan 10</td>
<td>The Unfinished Symphony</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Tue Jan 15</td>
<td>Olympia I – by Leni Riefenstahl (film)</td>
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<td>5. Thu Jan 17</td>
<td>1936 Berlin Olympics</td>
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<td>6. Tue Jan 22</td>
<td>1948 London Olympics</td>
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<td>7. Thu Jan 24</td>
<td>1952 Helsinki Olympics</td>
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<td>8. Tue Jan 29</td>
<td>1956 Melbourne Olympics (Olympia’s Assignment)</td>
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<td>9. Thu Feb 31</td>
<td>1960 Rome Olympics</td>
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<td>10. Tue Feb 5</td>
<td>1964 Tokyo Olympics</td>
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<td>11. Thu Feb 7</td>
<td>1968 Mexico City Olympics</td>
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<td>12. Tue Feb 12</td>
<td>1972 Munich Olympics</td>
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<td>13. Thu Feb 14</td>
<td>1976 Montreal Olympics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Tue Feb 26</td>
<td>1980 Moscow Olympics (Mid-term paper)</td>
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<td>15. Thu Feb 28</td>
<td>1984 Los Angeles Olympics</td>
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<td>16. Tue Mar 5</td>
<td>1988 Seoul Olympics</td>
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<td>17. Thu Mar 7</td>
<td>1992 Barcelona Olympics (March 8th, drop date)</td>
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<td>18. Tue Mar 12</td>
<td>1996 Atlanta Olympics</td>
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<td>19. Thu Mar 14</td>
<td>2000 Sydney Olympics</td>
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<td>20. Tue Mar 19</td>
<td>2004 Athens Olympics</td>
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<td>21. Thu Mar 21</td>
<td>2008 Beijing Olympics</td>
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<td>22. Tue Mar 26</td>
<td>2012 London Olympics</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Thu Mar 28</td>
<td>2016 Rio Olympics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Tue April 2</td>
<td>Future of Olympics and Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam**: During exam period (April 5 to 20, 2019)  
**Drop Date**: March 8th, 2019

(2000 Sydney Olympics – Bill Walton, former NBA star)
Learning Objectives:
Following this course, students will be able to:
- understand the modern Olympic Games evolution
- explain the main political issues that have affected the Games
- identify the main culprits that have shaped the Games
- understand the discriminatory character of the Games
- propose changes to make the Games more inclusive

Readings:

1. Role and Importance: http://olympics.pthimon.co.uk/politics.htm
2. Controversies at the Olympics:
3. The Unfinished Symphony: http://olympic-museum.de/president/pres_ioc.html
4. 1936 Berlin Olympics:
5. 1948 London Olympics:
   http://www.insidethegames.biz/history/olympics/1948-london
9. 1964 Tokyo Olympics:
   http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org/content.cfm/japans_rebirth_at_the_1964_tokyo_summer


Assignment: Film Olympia I by Leni Riefenstahl

Purpose: To critically examine this historical video

Task: Write a brief comment on the film (1 page). Then, give your personal feelings and impressions as you watched the film (1 page). Finally, attempt to place the film in a historical context, i.e., briefly explain what was going on in Germany/Europe at the time (1 page)

As well, write about Leni Riefenstahl (1 page). Include some references about her life, accomplishments, and fate after WWII.

Due date: Thursday, January 29th, 2019 in class. Have fun!

Note: This assignment is worth 20% of final mark and should be a minimum of three and a maximum of four pages. Use APA format.
MID TERM PAPER

Due: Thursday, February 26th, 2019

Select one Summer Olympic Games from 1948 to today. Once selected, you will have to answer the following questions:

1. List the main international political issues and individuals that impacted the Olympic Games you selected (point form is required).

2. Select one issue/individual(s) identified in question 1 above. Explain and discuss in depth the impact that issue/individual(s) had on the Olympic Games you selected (e.g. impact on the IOC, host city/country, athletes, sponsors, citizens, etc.).

3. What (if any) significant impact did that issue/individual(s) have during the aftermath of that Olympic Games?

To answer questions 2 and 3 you can write separate answers or write an essay in which you address the questions. Submit your paper in class on February 26th, 2019. This is a mid-term exam and should be between 6 to 8 pages long. The exam will be evaluated on the basis of how well you have understood the material and applied it to the questions at hand, and on the organization, writing and thoughtfulness of your answer. Use APA style, double space.