

LONDON OLYMPIC CULTURAL AND URBAN STUDIES (LOCUS)

The following course outline is designed to provide some resources for use with undergraduate students who have a basic knowledge of concepts in sociology and cultural studies. The main topics for discussion in each session are indicated, linked to some key readings. The student is referred to one or more sections of the online 'reading map' for further resources. Suggestions for film or image study, including the relevant sections of the online galleries are also given.

Session One : Introducing Olympic and Community Studies

Why Olympic Studies have to be inter-disciplinary – Some key concepts in historical sociology, critical ethnography, cultural and community studies – Formulating the research questions – methodologies- intersections – standpoint epistemologies - comparative analysis : a Para-Olympic perspective

Indicative texts: *On the wrong side of the track* :Introduction; Hans Gumbrecht : *In Praise of Athletic beauty* (extract) ;Benedict Anderson *Imagined Community* (extract);Mieke Bal *Travelling concepts in the humanities* (extract); *On line glossary of concepts*

Reading maps : Olympic Studies -issues in interdisciplinary research

Film Study: Extract from *Prefontaine* (dir Steve James 1997) and *Without Limits* (dir Robert Towne 1998). These two biopics of the life of Steve Prefontaine, All American hero and middle distance runner who tragically died at the age of 24 before he could realise his full potential. The two films adopt different standpoints, one telling the story from the point of the coach, the other from that of a fellow competitor.

Session 2 Play up, play up and play the game: culture, sport and society 1800- 2012

Theories of play and games in culture – *arête* and *agon* as sporting ideals - rational recreation and the civilising process – physical cultures and body politics- time and motion :representing the athletic body - race, nation and Empire in the making of modern sport – protest masculinity and tough femininity in contemporary culture- sport and the youth question.

Indicative Texts: *On the Wrong side of the track* Chapter 5 ; Roger Caillois, *Man, Play and Games*,(extract) Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning *The Quest for excitement :sport and leisure in the civilising process* (extract) Jan Huizinga, *Homo Ludens: A study of play in culture* (extract) Donald W Winnicott, *Playing and Reality*, (extract); Michael Anton Budd, *The Sculpture Machine: Physical Culture and Body Politics in the Age of Empire*(extract); Agnes Heller,Sonja PuntischerRiekmann (eds), *Biopolitics : the politics of the body, race and nature* (extract) Linda McDowell, *Redundant Masculinities? Employment Change and White Working Class Youth*(extract),

Reading maps: Ludology – Bio-politics- Empires of the Mind–

On line gallery: Bio-politics: physical culture, gender and 'race'

Film *The Loneliness of the long distance runner*

Session 3 Carnival Capitalism and the Festive City

Theories of urbanism, modernity and the consumer spectacle- enterprise culture and the cultural turn in regeneration – cultures of hospitality and festivity - the space and time of carnival - changing regimes of spectatorship- the fickle crowd: surveillance, social regulation and ground control.

Indicative texts *On the wrong Track* chapter 7; Guy Debord *Society of the Spectacle (extract)*; Anna Minton *Ground Control (extract)*;

Reading maps : Carnival Capitalism- Ground Control

Films: Henri Storck *Fetes de belgique* *The Sound of samba*

Session 4 Maybe its because I'm a Londoner

The making of the Londoner identity – a tale of two or more cities - Capital of the nation and heart of Empire- Globalisation and the working class city - Cockney pride and urban mythography- Mapping the territory :London in film, music and song; How London was represented in and for the Olympics

Indicative texts: *On the wrong track* Chapter 4; Peter Ackroyd *London-a biography (extract)*; Iain Sinclair *Lights out for the territory (extract)* ; Steve Graham and Simon Marvin, *Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition(extract)*

Reading maps: Olygopolis: Architecture, Urbanism and the Built Environment.

Film: Julien Temple (dir) *London Babylon* (2012) Henry Cornelius (dir) *Passport to Pimlico* (1949)

Patrick Keiller *Robinson*

Music: Time Out 100 best songs about London

Poetry: Mark Ford (ed) *London – a history in verse*

Cartography: Simon Farrell *Mapping London: making sense of the city*; Peter Whitfield *London – a life in maps*

Session 5 The East End in transition

The gothic imagination of the 'inner city' - Histories of migration, zones of transition and the demographics of social conflict- 'race', class and imagined community- the East End in Victorian and Edwardian literature – The Whitechapel shtetl and the Dockland communities – Downriver - The blitz and the closure of the docks- The transition to a post industrial economy - Canary Wharf and Thames Gateway .

Indicative texts: *On the wrong track?* Chapters 1-3; Geoff Dench *The New East End*(extract); Michael Rustin and Tim Butler, (eds), *Rising in the East: Regeneration of East London* (extract); Janet Foster, *Docklands: Cultures in Conflict, Worlds in Collision* (extract); Iain Sinclair *Downriver* (extract),

Reading maps: London Moving East - Imagined community: 'Race', nation, class

Video: *Lights on for the Territory*

Online gallery : East London: a journey through the ruins

Film: *Bronco Bulldog*

Session 6 The Olympic Movement

Invented traditions of Hellenism - Muscular christianity and the public school ethos – the founding ideals - the historical development of Olympism: some key moments – the values tournament and the 'end of ideology'-shamateurism, doping and the moral crisis of Olympism- Globalisation and its local discontents - The Greening of the Olympics- A level playing field? – The IOC and its structure of governance- The nay sayers : a short history of the anti-Olympic movement

Indicative texts : Allen Guttman, *The Olympics. A History of the Modern Games* (extract) Helen Jefferson Lenikj, *Inside the Olympic Industry: Power, Politics and Activism* (extract); John MacAloon, *This Great Symbol: Pierre de Coubertin and the origins of the modern Olympic Games* (extract); Mark Perryman, *Why The Olympics Aren't Good For Us And How They Can Be* (extract) ; John Hoberman *The Olympic Crisis :sport,politics and the moral order* (extract)

Reading maps: Olympism

Film: *Chariots of Fire*

Session 7 Everyone a Winner? The London 2012 bid and its delivery

Imagineering the bid – the delivery structure – regeneration strategies- community engagement – The construction of the Olympic Park- Games Time

Indicative Texts : *On the Wrong Track?* Chapter 4 ; *The World in a City:LOCOG* ; *The Cultural Olympiad* ODA; Josh Ryan-Collier and Paul Sander-Jackson, *Fool's Gold: How the 2012 Olympics is Selling East London Short and a Ten Point Plan for a More Positive Local Legacy* (extract)

Map readings: Host city studies

Film: *Building and the Games*

Session 8 *Island Stories : Multiculturalism and British identity*

The Peculiarities of the English and the British Question - Gramsci and the national-popular-
Multiculturalism and Order in Variety- Island Stories: from the age of Empire to the post colonial –
Greening the island story – Community Cohesion and the Big Society -

Indicative Texts: *On the Wrong Track* Chapter 8 ; Andrew Gamble and Tony Wright, *Britishness: Perspectives on the Britishness Question* (extract); John Barrel *The Dark side of the Landscape* (extract); Jonathon Raban *Coasting* (extract).

Reading maps: Island Stories - Imagined community: 'Race', nation, class

Session 9 *The 2012 ceremonies: Performance, ritual, spectacle*

Carnival capitalism as a mode of cultural production- The aesthetics and politics of kitsch – Theories of ritual, performance and the Spectacle – Regimes of envisagement : the bureaucratic and operatic – Changing forms of sporting spectatorship – The Olympic Torch – Analysing the 2012 Ceremonies : issues of method – locally situated readings ,social media and the global information flow

Indicative texts: *On the Wrong Track* Chapters 7 and 9 ; Guy Debord *Theory of the Spectacle* (extract); Jonathon Crary *The techniques of observation* (extract)

Reading maps: Carnival Capitalism : Ritual, Performance, Ceremony,Spectacle - Myth, Narrative and Discourse analysis-

Online Gallery : Olympic Dreams and Nightmares

Film Danny Boyle London 2012

Session 10 *Gift, debt and Legacy politics*

Theories of judgement and evaluation - Moral and market economies- Gift and debt – Models of legacy – audit culture – Legacy politics – Re-Conceptualising the 2012 legacy - Stratford and the Post-Olympic Park – Comparing Olympic Cities

Indicative texts: *On the Wrong Track* Chapters 6 and 11; David Graeber *Towards an anthropology of value* (extract); Luc Boltanski and Laurence Thevenot *On Justification* (extract); Marilyn Strathern *Audit Culture* (extract)

Reading maps: Games Time and Memoryscape : History, Heritage and Legacy- Gift, debt and Economies of Worth : Olympic Evaluation Studies -Host City Studies - Olygopolis: Architecture, Urbanism and the Built Environment.

Session 11 *Speaking out of place : locally situated knowledge in and against the mega event*

Critical ethnography and locally situated knowledge – social, cultural and intellectual capital-
Bonders, bridgers and the theory of stakeholding- Sport, Globalisation and the mega event – East
Londoners talk the Olympics.

Indicative texts: *On the Wrong Track*: Chapter 10 John Macaloon Why the Olympics need
ethnographers; M Roche The Mega Event (extract) ; John Putnam *Bowling Alone* (extract)

Reading Maps: Globalisation and the mega event - Imagined community: 'Race', nation, class

Ethnographic exercise: Gary's Olympic Game Transcript and audio file

Session 12 *Inspiring a Generation ? London 2012 as a tale of two Olympics*

Sport and Youth Culture: a level playing field? - Stratford before and after the Olympics- Is
regeneration another name for Gentrification ? - The future of Olympic Park

Indicative Texts: *On the Wrong Track* Chapter 11 ; 'Sport and the Youth Question':chapter 5;
Margaret Gatz and Michael Messner, *Paradoxes of Youth and Sport* (extract) ; LLDC Olympic Park:
the legacy;

Reading Maps :Sport and the Youth Question- Olygopolis