

COURSE DETAIL

SOCIETY IN AN AGE OF 'MASS' LEISURE C.1880-1939

Country

United Kingdom - Scotland

Host Institution

University of Edinburgh

Program(s)

University of Edinburgh

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

100

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

SOCIETY IN AN AGE OF 'MASS' LEISURE C.1880-1939

UCEAP Transcript Title

AGE OF MASS LEISURE

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

The image of the 'mass' and the ideas associated with it provide a central theme of this part of the course. At one level, the language of the 'mass' reflects a reality of popular leisure in this period: its often collective nature. People attended sports events, music halls, cinemas and went on holiday in large and ever increasing numbers. Leisure experiences were increasingly shared, and the question must be asked how far this contributed to a growing sense of collective identity in this period. However, the image of the 'mass', as it recurs through the writing of the period, also reflects contemporary concern that increased access to leisure would threaten established cultural standards. As working-class living standards improved, money and time were devoted to amusements which did not match the priorities of moral reformers: drink remained central to working-class culture; instead of classical concerts, more people went to the Music Hall; instead of participating in team sports, most preferred to pay to watch others play. For moral reformers, it appeared that improving, rational amusements were in danger of being swamped by commercial forces. The creation of a mass market for leisure would, it was thought, inevitably lead to a fall in standards, as minority tastes lost out before the economic power wielded by the majority. Such fears were shared on both the left and right of the political spectrum. The course therefore uses the use and organisation of leisure time to examine important themes of social and economic change in the early twentieth century.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

ECSH10005

Host Institution Course Title

SOCIETY IN AN AGE OF 'MASS' LEISURE C.1880-1939

Host Institution Campus

University of Edinburgh

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Economic and Social History

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