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 Course Details

Host Institution Campus
University of Edinburgh

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Economic and Social History
Course Last Reviewed

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