



KIIS ITALY, Winter 2019-20

ENG 396: Mythology / RELS 399 Topics: Gods and Myth in Italy

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Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

Mythology was everywhere in ancient Rome. Gods and heroes were the subject of literature, entertainment, and even religion, and their stories were the basis of a shared culture that unites Greece and Rome with our modern world today. This course will survey many of these myths as we visit sites in Rome and Florence that highlight their influence on art and culture, both in the ancient world and in the Renaissance. We will visit museums, temples, and palaces to see how ancients and moderns have brought these stories to life.

II. PURPOSE:

Students will examine the stories of Greek and Roman myth and explore their historical, topographical, and cultural context. Their acquaintance with these stories will help them understand the ancient world on its own terms as well as its influence on the modern world.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students are expected to:

- read primary and secondary sources that survey myths in Ancient Rome and Italy;
- to visit (archaeological) sites in Italy associated with the myths;
- to become acquainted with ancient artifacts as witness to ancient uses of mythological themes (museums);
- and to synthesize an understanding of ancient Roman myth through written/ oral assignments, quizzes, exams and projects.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE:

Major Greco-Roman gods (Jupiter/Zeus, Juno/Hera, Apollo, Artemis/Diana, etc.), Major Greek heroes (Heracles, Theseus, Perseus, Jason), Trojan War cycle (*Iliad*, *Odyssey*), Rome's foundation and mythical early history (Aeneas, Romulus, Sabine women, Horatius at the bridge, etc.), Greek gods at Rome and the adoption of foreign cults (Magna Mater, Isis, Mithras), Worshipping the Emperor and his gods (Julius Caesar & Venus Genetrix, Augustus & Apollo & Mars Ultor, etc.)

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Lectures, discussion in class; visits to sites and museums. Course readings. Visits to sites in Florence and Rome will prompt discussion of the currency of ancient myth in considering the places we visit as texts.

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

This course is part of the KIIS winter study abroad in Rome and Florence (the Italy Winter trip).

VII. **RESOURCES:** None.

VIII. **GRADING PROCEDURES:**

Scale:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

Below 60 E (F)

Students will write short response papers (descriptions and analyses of places and art-objects pertaining to myth). These short compositions will contribute 30% of the course grade. Short quizzes and student presentations will contribute 40%. Students will write an essay, selected in consultation with the instructor; the essay will contribute 30% of the grade.

IX. **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

X. **TEXTS AND REFERENCES:**

- Grant, Michael. *Myths of the Greeks and Romans*. Paperback: ISBN 978-0452011625.
- Instructor Handouts

XII. Please be aware that some of the material in this class may trigger disturbing thoughts or memories. Many of the works of art are explicit or nudes. Please feel free to step out of class if you feel uncomfortable or threatened.

Disability Accommodation

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Rebekah Golla, rebekah.golla@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Rebekah Golla, or KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program. If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Assistant Director, Rebekah Golla, or KIIS Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director Rebekah Golla (+1-270-779-8091) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / andrea.anderson@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / joshua.hayes@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/titleixbrochure.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.