



KIIS Italy, Summer 2020

ART 491 Topics: Italian Art & Design

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This course will explore a range of design and artistic fields in which Italy has been a leader and trendsetter. We will use a variety of Italian cities as our classroom, where students will engage in creative encounters. Using hands-on experiences, students will create environmental recordings; from rubbings to sketches, street art, and film.

Opportunities will be provided to personally meet with artists, visiting their shops and design studios. Time will be spent immersed in Italian fashion design, native crafts, graphic design, industrial design, home furnishings, and architecture. Contemporary artists in a variety of old and new media will share and discuss their creative practices, engage in stimulating discussions, and welcome questions.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS creates and offers high-quality education abroad programs for students from diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help transform students into global citizens who have personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating in KIIS Study Abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Articulate the relationship between ideas, experiences, and place;
- 2) Develop tools to engage with diverse people in the local cultures; and,
- 3) Explore other peoples' values and clarify their own.

In the equivalent of one, single-spaced typed page, reflect on:

How has this experience made you think – or act – differently about the world around you? Please consider the 3 SLOs discussed. Please don't consider course content in your response; instead, think beyond it, and be as specific as possible.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

This course utilizes the Place-as-Text approach, which allows students to take an active role in the direction of their learning. Students will work effectively in small groups, improve their oral presentation and analytical skills, and heighten their confidence and leadership abilities.

This course introduces students to Italian art and design both past and present. Including knowledge of how their achievements affected other areas of the culture and the world .

Classes are a mix of conversation and exploration. We share knowledge, personal insight and responses in a free and open, friendly, caring and respectful learning environment.

On average, there are two hours of instruction per day in the form of excursions and seminar discussions, for a total of forty contact hours over the term. Almost all meetings are conducted on-site in social environments.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

In this traveling course of Contemporary Italian Art and Design you will:

- Identify, document, and discuss historic and current design trends in Italy, and seek thoughtful answers to questions such as the following:

- What is good design and creative composition?
- How does good design contribute to society?
- What are some important mile stones and vital personalities in Italian design?
- How can we characterize unique elements of Italian Design?
- What strategies can be used to encourage cities and municipalities to strive for excellence in design?

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:

This course may fulfill General Education Requirements at your home institution. Check with your school's study-abroad office for more information

6. Required Readings and Materials:

-D'Epiro, P., & Pinkowish, M. D. (2001). *Spezzatura: 50 ways that Italian know-how shaped our world*. New York: Anchor Books.

-Lees-Maffei, G., Fallan, K., & Bloomsbury Publishing. (2014). *Made in Italy: Rethinking a century of Italian design*. London: Bloomsbury.

-Other materials to be distributed in PDFs or available free online

Italian Design: a history of excellence

<https://italoamericano.org/story/2017-3-9/italian-design>

Easel painting in the age of Italian unification

https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Art%20History/Emily%20Braun/Braun_RisorgJMS.pdf

Museum of Modern Art Exhibit- Article

https://www.moma.org/documents/moma_press-release_325672.pdf

Politics as Art: Italian Futurism and Fascism Article

http://people.ds.cam.ac.uk/paa25/Papers/IT3_files/Anne%20Bowler.pdf

Contemporart Art in Florence Blog

<https://www.saiprograms.com/contemporary-art-florence/>

Art vs Craft

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVdw60eCnJI>

Compete the following readings during our trip.

Sprezzatura- 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 50

Maffei & Fallan

Selected sections TBA

7. Graded Assignments: Course Activities:

Journal:

-Please bring your journal to class every day.

- At least 5x7 or larger.

-Personal reflection on the places we visit daily as well as notes on conversations with special people met.

- Sketches, collage, watercolors are all great to add to the journal.

-Please save items you might find like brochures, stickers, souvenirs to scrapbook your experience

-How the day effected or inspired you.

- There should be at least four entries per week. (minimum 300 words)

Must see these discussions below in your journal.

#1 I ask that you start your journal entry by introducing yourself and why you are interested in this class/trip as your first entry and where have you traveled.

#2 How do you see good design contributing to Italian society? It what ways can you find good design?

#3 How do you see Italian design affecting American design?

#4 What are some important mile stones and vital personalities in Italian design?

#5 Examine historic and contemporary Italian fashion, furniture, urban design, interior design, and architectural design, and discuss one aspect of it.

#6 Considering the course readings how does the art of the Renaissance affect art and design today?

#7 How do the graphics in Italy create visual metaphors and symbols? How is it different from American graphics?

#8 How does the readings in Sprezzatura connect to your experiences in Italy?

Participation: Class Participation. You will be evaluated throughout the semester as to your preparedness for class and involvement in discussions. Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory, and you are expected to complete assigned readings as they are due and contribute regularly to class discussions. Students with learning disabilities or any other difficulty that might prevent them from fulfilling the course requirements should speak with the instructor early in the term. Together we can consider alternative methods of evaluation and make special accommodation as necessary.

Place as Text exercise: Place-as-Text Exercises. For each of your two exercises, you join a small team and study a particular site utilizing the Place-as-Text approach. This involves four steps: mapping the site; observing individuals, conditions, activities, etc., while listening attentively and interacting with people as appropriate; reflecting on the situation in light of prior knowledge and newly gathered information; presenting your team's findings in an informed and well-organized oral report of 10-15 minutes

Visual Scavenger Hunt :

Now that you are in a new environment please examine one aspect of Italian visual culture to document and collect. Some examples might be graffiti, shoes, store windows etc... Over the course of the program, gather a multitude of visual examples of your selection. Your final project will present this collection in a format determined by you (drawings, scrapbook, photo series, or video).

Grading Breakdown:

Visual Scavenger Hunt 20%

Place as Text 10%

Participation – 30%

Notebook -40%

Grading Scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), and F (0-59)

8. 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.

9. 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 Office Manager, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify 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 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 contact 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.

10. 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 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.