



KIIS Egypt, Summer 2020

HIST 490: History, Religion and Politics of Cairo and Egypt (3 credit hours)

Professor: Richard Cahill

Email: cahillr@berea.edu

Professor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Required Texts:

* *The Reader* (A collection of articles and documents tailored for this course. 255 pages)

Course Description:

An introduction to the teachings and practice of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity in historical and contemporary political context. Basic doctrine and ritual will be covered for each of these three religions. Special attention will be given to the historical development of religious traditions that are still alive today in the places that we will visit. The rich remains of religious architecture and art will be studied, from the ancient Coptic churches to Al-Azhar Mosque. Additionally, students will be exposed to the diversity of cultural and religious expressions in Cairo, from a Coptic mass, to a Sufi dikhr. Local experts will provide additional insights.

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 We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.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.

Course Objectives:

1. To learn about the religions of Judaism, Islam and Christianity in their historic and political context, including, the basic contours of history (the "religious memory" of each religion)
2. To gain a basic knowledge of the formative texts: The Torah, The Bible, and the Qur'an.

3. To gain an understanding of how these religions have been and continue to be expressed in art, craft, architecture, rituals, and politics.
4. To better understand contemporary Cairo, particularly how completing visions (informed by religious views) seek to address fundamental questions about human nature, the role of the State, the status of women and other human experiences.
5. To gain cross-cultural competences, to reflect on how one best engages with a host culture, to think critically about cross-cultural connections, and to develop tolerance of values across cultures.

Course Components:

Readings:

You will be assigned readings in books listed above. You will also be asked to read portions of primary sources (i.e. the Qur'an). These may seem strange or difficult to understand and might require special patience. Do not try to speed read these primary sources. Reading quizzes will cover whatever is due on the given day. While traveling, you will be reading articles from your *Readings* binder; these will inform your experience, and you will be asked to discuss them in your journals.

Reflection Journals:

An essential part of your learning experience is your own reflection. While small- and full-group discussions will be useful ways for you to reflect, an important venue will be your Reflection Journal. Often during this course, you will be prompted to reflect on a certain experience, thus providing you the opportunity for *sustained* reflection. At the end of the course, you will be asked to write an *elaborate and thorough essay* (of at least 1200 words), providing a *synthesis* of things you have learned during the course as a whole.

Experiential and interactive learning:

Often during this course you will be asked to experience something specific. For example, you will be instructed how to politely and unobtrusively visit a local mosque at prayer time. In addition to learning proper etiquette, you will be given guidelines for how to make the most of participant observation. At other times, you will be asked to have some short conversations with a few locals concerning a certain subject that will give you new insights into local culture. You may be asked to attend religious or cultural events (concert, dance show, etc.) and reflect on them.

Research Project and Oral Presentation:

Approximately four weeks prior to departure, you will be assigned a religious and/or historical site that we will be visiting during the study-tour. You will do research into the origin, history, and significance of the site and prepare a 7-minute oral presentation. You should use at least two scholarly sources. Notes for your presentation should be made on 5"x7" index cards. You should print out a bibliography of the sources you used for your research. Examples of sites that will be assigned are: the Mosque of Ibn Tulun, the Hanging Church, and the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo. When we visit "your" site on the study-tour, you will present to the rest of the group. You will turn in your index cards and your bibliography.

Examination:

There will be a comprehensive examination at the end of the study-tour. It will consist of multiple choice, matching, and essay questions.

Language:

This is not a language class. But in order to better engage with your host cultures, you will be asked to learn a few basic phrases in Arabic. You will be learning a few words per day. Each word you learn will help to improve your interaction with your host culture. You will be quizzed on the phrase/s or words for the day.

Lectures, briefings, tours, and discussions:

Much of this course depends on successful appropriation of information given during the study-tour. Sometimes this will be a briefing with a Muslim scholar or spokesperson; sometimes this will be with an academic tour-guide. All of this information will be represented on your final examination.

Grading:

Quizzes	10%
Reflection Journal	40%
Research and Presentation	10%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	10%
Total	<u>100%</u>

POLICIES:

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

Student Conduct Policy: All students must adhere to this program's behavioral guidelines and also to Western Kentucky University's code of conduct as stipulated in the Student Handbook. Please check the following link:

http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51:code-of-student-conduct&catid=35:student-code&Itemid=54

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.

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.