



KIIS Greece, Summer 2020

RELS 399 St. Paul's Greek Influence on Early Christianity

Instructor: Dr. Steve Watkins

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Instructor's office hours: On site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course surveys Primary and Secondary sources involving St. Paul's Greek influence on early Christianity. Readings include samplings from the New Testament, such as the Corinthian Epistles, as well as secondary scholarly appraisals of the Pauline corpus. Greek culture in the Hellenistic and Roman periods will also be a focus of study. The course explores the interplay of cultures—Jewish, Roman and Greek—as Paul carried Christianity into Asia Minor and Greece. This course is interdisciplinary and will include art, architecture, sculpture, iconography and mosaics and well as archaeological evidence of the subjects at hand. Taught by Dr. Steven Watkins. (3 hours)

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 We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.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

Students are expected to read widely in ancient texts and modern interpretations of those texts; to participate actively in analysis and discussion of Pauline theology; to experience Greek influence on Christianity religion in art, literature, architecture, sculpture in museums and at various Greek sites; to synthesize the information they've gained in class and on their own and to apply it to a problem or topic of their own choosing in a final paper.

After completing the KIS Greece trip, students will have:

- honed their knowledge of Greece and Greek society, from antiquity to the 21st century;
- been encouraged to synthesize academic concepts with real world phenomena;
- been given the opportunity to observe Mediterranean life in rural settings, in middle-sized towns, and on islands, as well as in the megalopolis of Athens;
- been given the opportunity to interact with ordinary Greeks on a regular basis;
- gained confidence in their abilities to function competently in another culture;
- articulated an understanding of what it means to be the stranger in another land;
- clarified their personal values, both as U. S. citizens and as individuals;
- deepened their appreciation for the values of others;
- improved their oral and written communication skills in English.

4. Major Topics Covered in the Course:

- Second Temple Period Judaism
- Jewish sects
- Pauline Epistles
- Missionary Journeys of Paul
- Disputed Letters
- The New Perspective on Paul
- Roman Empire
- Textual Criticism
- Koine Greek
- The Jerusalem Council
- Corinthians and Thessalonians
- The Areopagus
- The Roman Empire
- ... more

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:

At the University of Louisville, this course fulfills Introduction to the New Testament (HUM 312) Please be sure to explore this possibility with your campus KIS representative. I'll be happy to supply any additional information your school may need.

6. Required Readings and Materials:

Texts: Required Text: The Bible – Any version is acceptable. There are numerous free versions which may be downloaded to Kindle or other e-readers. E. P. Sanders, Paul: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford) Kindle edition \$8.49 (Paperback \$9.55) on Amazon and Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, The First Paul (Harper One) Kindle \$9.78 (Paperback \$12.45) on Amazon.

Other excerpts provided by instructor electronically before the trip. Please either make plans to print them out or to download them to a laptop to which you will have access for reading.

7. Graded Assignments:

Students will keep a reflective journal, which will periodically be collected and graded. This journal and an in-class presentation will count for 40% of the final course grade. Students will also write a paper of 5-8 pages on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor. This paper will count for 30% of the final course grade. A midterm exam and several short quizzes will account for the last 30% of the final course grade.

Scale:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

Below 60 E (F)

8. Attendance Policy:

KIS 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:

KIS 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/](https://www.wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/titleixbrochure.pdf); 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.

11. 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.