



KIIS Costa Rica, Summer 2020

SPAN 200 Latin America, Past and Present

Instructor: Dr. Eva Cadavid

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

In this course, we will engage in an interdisciplinary introduction to the cultures and societies of Latin America including exposure to the Latinx community in the U.S. You will gain an understanding of the major processes that have shaped Latin America in the past and continue to affect the region today. Among the themes that we will explore are gender and community, revolution and rebirth, forging identity, and ecotourism and sustainability. Special attention will be given to the context of these themes in Costa Rica. "On site" learning will be a critical component of the course. **Note: *Students receiving Spanish credit must complete written work in Spanish.***

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 We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.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

Upon completion of this course, you will have met the following goals:

- You will have familiarity with the main historical periods of the evolution and development of Latin America, from the pre-Columbian past to the present day. By the end of the course, you should be able to cite and think critically about the historical events, economic conditions, and social and racial dynamics of the region.

- You will have an understanding of Latin America not as a monolithic, homogenous bloc, but as a place of diverse cultures, peoples, and sets of concerns. You will understand this diversity as both synchronic (through space) and diachronic (through time).
- You will understand Latin America as a product of *encounters*; i.e. as a crossroads between indigenous societies, European traditions and U.S. influence that has resulted in cultural (and other kinds of) hybridity.
- You will be able to think critically about the ways in which these variegated influences have not simply been assimilated from without, but have contributed to unique and entirely new societies within Latin America that must be understood on their own terms.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Week 1:

Arenal group orientation; historical overview of region; practice map quiz

San Ramón de la Paz

- *Readings/class discussion/presentations*
- *Written assignment 1*

Week 2:

La Cusinga

- *Readings/class discussion/presentations*
- *Written assignment 2*

*MIDTERM

Week 3:

San Marcos de Tarrazú

- *Readings/class discussion/presentations*
- *Written assignment 3*

*FINAL EXAM

*FINAL PAPER

GRADING SCALE

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|---|---|--------------|
| A | = | 90-100 | D | = | 60-69 |
| B | = | 80-89 | E | = | 59 and below |
| C | = | 70-79 | | | |

GRADE BREAKDOWN

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Participation/reading quizzes | 20% |
| Reflections (Informal writings) | 20% |
| One essay | 15% |
| Group presentation/Final project | 15% |
| Midterm/final exam | 30% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:

6. Required Readings and Materials:

Students are not required to purchase any texts. A course packet with readings will be provided by the instructor and will consist of a selection of the following texts. (I recommend a sturdy folder or small binder for keeping these readings organized and accessible.) However, students will need a **separate composition-style notebook just for this class** for recording regular reflections about what we are learning, seeing, and hearing (in class, in readings and at sites)—do not pay more than a dollar or two for one of these.

1. Helmuth, Chalene. *Culture and Customs of Costa Rica*. Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 2000.
2. Palmer, Steven Paul, and Molina Jiménez Iván. *The Costa Rica Reader: History, Culture, Politics*. Durham N.C.: Duke University Press, 2004.

7. Graded Assignments:

8. Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, contribute actively to discussion, and participate in group excursions that require walking or hiking to local sites. Much of your learning will take place during this last type of activity and you are expected to document them by taking notes or photographs (when applicable and appropriate) or as directed. You will typically be paired or working in small groups during these out-of-class experiences and will be communicating with locals **in Spanish**; therefore, pairs or small groups will be established early in the course that include students with intermediate or advanced Spanish-language competency. You must keep up with all assigned reading as well as turn in writing assignments and deliver presentations as scheduled. Exceptions will only be made in extenuating circumstances (such as a debilitating illness).

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.