



KIIS Maya Mexico Winter 2019-20

HON 300: Art & History of Mexico COURSE SYLLABUS & WORKBOOK

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Syllabus subject to change



Your name: _____

Your email: _____

Course Description

The course examines Mexican art and history from the Spanish Conquest to the present, with further concern for the country's ancient civilizations. We learn to appreciate the country's art within its historical context, as we also utilize the art to illuminate major political and social developments. We examine the splendid creations of the colonial period, the artistic formulation of national identity in the Republican era, and the politically charged art of modern times. We employ the "Place as Text" learning method to foster students' personal experience of art and of Mexican culture.

Course Requirements

Students will complete the assignments in the Course Workbook and participate actively in class discussions. The workbook exercises include written reflections on the art we see and experience, responses to historical issues, a photographic essay, and short place-as-text reports.

Grading Procedures

Your final grade will be calculated from your workbook (80%) and class participation (20%). Grades will be given as numerical scores and the average converted to a letter grade according to the following scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; below 60=F.

Academic Honesty Policy

Cheating, plagiarism, or doing work for another student are forbidden and will result in a failing grade for the course. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks or other sources; the borrowing or copying from others' reports; and the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were your own. Infractions will be reported to the student's home institution, and disciplinary action may extend beyond the academic penalty administered by the KIIS program and faculty member.

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.

Assigned Readings

Course readings consist of articles and book chapters which introduce students to major cultural and historical themes and to specific works of art. The readings will be made available in the form of pdf documents. You are advised to do most if not all the readings before departing for Mexico. With little time to spare once the program is underway, you will be better off if you have already done the readings at home.

Mexico Factsheet.

BARTRA, ROGER. "Does it Mean Anything to be Mexican?" In *The Mexico Reader: History Culture and Politics*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph and Timothy J. Henderson.

BORSA, JOAN. "Frida Kahlo: Marginalization and the Critical Female Subject," *Third Text*, 12 (Autumn 1990), pp. 21-40.

CUARÓN, ALFONSO, DIRECTOR. *Roma*, 2018 (film).

FUENTES, CARLOS. "Chac-Mool," 1954.

GREELEY, ROBIN ADELE. "Muralism and the State in Post-Revolution Mexico, 1920-70," in *Mexican Muralism: A Critical History*, ed. Alejandro Anreus, et al., pp. 13-36.

PAZ, OCTAVIO. "The Art of Mexico: Material and Meaning," in *Essays on Mexican Art* (New York, 1987), pp. 29-43.

Workbook Assignments

1. Philosophical perspectives on Mexico past and present. Minimum length: more than 800 words. In three separate paragraphs, describe the thoughts of Paz, Bartra and Fuentes with respect to the problem of Mexican identity. In a fourth paragraph discuss some of your own experiences or observations that confirm or contradict the thoughts of the authors.

2. The buzz of center city. Minimum length: more than 500 words. Discuss your experience of the heart of Mexico City, namely the Zócalo and surrounding blocks. If necessary, consult the internet for information about some of the buildings and monuments you encountered. How did your experience of this urban area give you an appreciation for the past and present culture of the country and of the pulse of the city itself?

3. Pre-Hispanic art in Museo Antropología. Minimum length: more than 600 words. Examine three works of art from three different cultures. If necessary, consult the internet for specific information about the objects. Describe how these works reflect the belief systems and aesthetics, the culture and politics of each of the three cultures. Provide illustrations of the works you choose to discuss.

4. Colonial art. Minimum length: more than 600 words. In three separate paragraphs, describe three works of Colonial art that you encountered during the program. How did these works strike you as artistic productions? What do they tell you about Mexican culture, or about the politics or social issues within the country?

5. Modern art. Minimum length: more than 600 words. In three separate paragraphs, describe three works of 20th or 21st-century art that you encountered during the program. How did these works strike you as artistic productions? What do they tell you about Mexican culture, or about the politics or social issues within the country?

6. The film *Roma* as a portrait of Mexico. Minimum length: more than 600 words. In three separate paragraphs, describe three scenes from the film *Roma* and the different ways in which they provide insight into Mexican society and culture. Your choice of scenes is important. Together they should represent a range of themes and issues.

7. Photo Essay. Minimum length: more than 750 words. Attach five photographs that document different aspects of your experience in the Mexico program. Below each photograph write a paragraph of more than 150 words describing the photograph, the circumstance in which it was taken, and its importance for you.

8. Final Reflections. Minimum length: more than 800 words. Write a short essay reflecting on your learning adventure in Mexico and your encounter with its culture and people. What have you learned about the country? What have you learned about yourself? How might you build on this learning adventure in your future?