



KIIS Prague Summer 2020

ART 100: Art Appreciation / HON 300: Art & Visual Culture

Professor: Dr. Zbynek "ZB" Smetana

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: The course provides students with bases of perceptual processes and visual literacy against the backdrop of the visual arts. By understanding how various historical periods have expressed their world-views visually, students better understand the diversity of political, economic, religious, social, and aesthetic traditions which are the foundations of art. This course emphasizes art within context, giving students a sense of the history of ideas, and allowing them to critically evaluate and link the dominant ideologies issues of their own world.

Honors colloquia are interdisciplinary in nature, and emphasize student-directed learning. Students participate in and lead discussion on various aspects of the broad topic, and select specific issues on which to base analytical writing projects.

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 We strive to go beyond generalizing headlines and outdated cultural clichés to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.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 Objective and Specific Learning Outcomes: This course will introduce students to a basic visual vocabulary and the fundamental concepts that underlie the way one visually interprets the world (i.e., stylistic differences and the properties of various media) and to develop a vocabulary with which to discuss art; and clarify the role of art and its function within various societies (i.e., changing critical standards and the cultural context in which art has been made) its relationship to literature, philosophy, science, economics, and the role of an individual.

To provide a basic familiarity with the history of art with emphasis on the Western tradition. Surveys the various aspects of the visual and functional arts and their relationship to human life and society. A variety of art forms from different cultures and historical periods will be studied. By understanding how various cultures throughout history have expressed their world-views visually, student will better understand the diversity of political, economic, religious, social, and aesthetic traditions which are the foundation of art. This course emphasizes the analysis of art within particular historical and social context, giving students a sense of the history of ideas, and allowing them to critically evaluate the dominant ideologies and complex moral and ethical issues of their own world.

4. Major Topics Covered in the Course: Art and visual culture are presented in a combination of thematic and chronological formats from Gothic to the present.

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: This course is an equivalent of a standard course providing general visual literacy in all curricula using Gen. Ed. requirements

6. Required Readings and Materials: There is no specific textbook assigned. Rather the students will explore *Smarthistory* and *Khan Academy* online resources in combination with the onsite resources (handouts in museums etc). The class will take full advantage of the sites and exhibitions in Prague and excursions in the Czech Republic. The online resources will provide the bases for the on site lectures and on site discussions. Short essays and small creative projects are assigned to enforce an active learning through critical thinking about the addressed issues, and to reinforce the analytic skills taught in other general Humanities and Western Civilization courses.

7. Grading Procedures: This course maintains high academic standards by requiring the successful completion of the following:

Three essay exams at 100 pts each (two midterms and final)

The exams focus on the demonstration of the ability to analyze and synthesize the acquired knowledge in broader terms, as well as on the demonstration of objective knowledge: recognition and identification of major works of art or artists, styles, artists' methods and materials, and general terminology (Issues from your assigned readings as indicated below on syllabus may appear on the exams even if not specifically discussed in the class, e.g., terminology, definitions, etc).

Active creative exercises:

MEME based on students' photos: 50 pts

Photoessay documenting students experiences: 50 pts

The exams will be based on readings, discussions, and lectures and the available sites. They are designed to show the students' thorough knowledge of the material. The specific nature of individual exams will be discussed in class. Active participation in the class.

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.