



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## **KIIS Mexico & Cuba Program, Summer 2021**

AFAM 490/IDST 350: The Black Image in Mexico and Cuba

**Instructor:** Dr. Thomas Wayne Edison

**Email:** Thomas.edison@louisville.edu

**Instructor's office hours:** on site and by appointment

*Syllabus subject to change*

**1. Course Description:** In this introductory course, students will learn of the history and culture of Blacks in Mexico and Cuba. The material will be transmitted through readings, lectures, and excursions. The African aesthetic will be explored by analyzing selected works of writers considering their socio-historical, geographic, and racial implications from their respective literary movements beginning with the 1950's to the present.

### **2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:**

#### KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

#### Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

**3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:** Students will gain familiarity with Black history and cultural expression by gaining exposure to different cultures outside of the traditional concepts of Latin-American identity. Throughout this course students will be challenged to question the following when reading and analyzing texts written by Latin American and Caribbean thinkers.

**4. Major Topics covered in the Course:** (Language to discuss race in Latin America, *Memín Pinguín*, Afro-Mexican folktales, *Corridos*, the black in Mexican verse, Fernando Ortiz and the Black image in Cuba, Afro- Cuban history, Afro-Cuban spirituality, the Black image in Cuban poetry and music, The Black Female message

**5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:** (If applicable, i.e. if you feel that your KIIS course will fulfill/satisfy a Gen. Ed. requirement at your institution— more likely a possibility if you are teaching a non-Topics course— please list briefly the way your KIIS course will fulfill the Gen. Ed. requirements. If this section is not applicable to your course, you may delete this section (#5) from your syllabus.)

**6. Required Readings and Materials:**

Ramsay, Paulette. *Afro-Mexican Constructions of Diaspora, Gender, Identity and Nation*. University of the West Indies Press, 2016.

Sarduy, Pedro Pérez, and Jean Stubbs, eds. *Afrocuba: an anthology of Cuban writing on race, politics and culture*. Ocean Press, 1993.

**7. Grading:** Students’ progress will be monitored and evaluated through the following course components. (Note: It is not easy to get the full points for any of the grade components. The highest scores are for truly outstanding work. Do your best!)

- Essays Outline 5%
- Essay Draft 5%
- Final Essay 20%
- Oral Presentation 20%
- Exams 20%
- Class assignments and Mini-quizzes (20%)
- Active class participation (10%)

**Grading Standards**

90.00-100.00% A	80.00-89.99% B	70.00-79.99% C	60.00-69.99% D	70 and below F
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**8. Attendance Policy:**

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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning, [maria.canning@wku.edu](mailto:maria.canning@wku.edu), to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, [haley.mctaggart@wku.edu](mailto: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, Maria Canning, or KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, 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.

#### **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 Assistant Director Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) 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](mailto:andrea.anderson@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto:michael.crowe@wku.edu)) or Joshua Hayes (270-745-5121 / [joshua.hayes@wku.edu](mailto: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/brochure2019update.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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Day 1	<i>Afro-Mexican</i> , Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Mexico through the Distorted Lens of <i>Memín Pinguín</i> 28-46
Day 2	
Day 3	<i>Afro-Mexican</i> , Afro-Mexican Folktales 47-72
Day 4	
Day 5	<i>Afro-Mexican</i> , Afro-Mexican <i>Corridos</i>
Day 6	
Day 7	<i>Afro-Mexican</i> , Afro-Mexican Oral and Lyric Verses 107-134
Day 8	
Day 9	<i>Afro-Mexican</i> , Caribbean Literary and Cultural Aesthetics 135-154
Day 10	<i>AfroCuba</i> , Fernando Ortiz: Integrator between Blacks in white 27-36
Day 11	<i>AfroCuba</i> , The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Black Question 92-108
Day 12	<i>AfroCuba</i> , The Orishas in Cuba 137-145
Day 13	<i>AfroCuba</i> , Regla de Palo 117-120
Day 15	Oral of presentation of final project