



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## KIIS Berlin Program, Summer 2021

### COMM 365 Intercultural Communication

**Instructor:** Julie Snyder-Yuly, Ph.D.

**Email:** snyderyuly@marshall.edu

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

**1. Course Description:** Berlin is a truly multicultural city, with about 15% of the city's population being foreign born. Using Berlin as our classroom, we will explore intercultural communication from a critical perspective. Students will be exposed to intercultural terminology, theories, and perspectives in order to examine examples of differences in communication styles not only between cultures but also within cultures. As a result, issues of race, nation, class, gender, religion, immigration, and sexual orientation will be of significant concern. In this course, we will develop a greater understanding of the role of power, history, globalization, discourse, and language in intercultural communication. Students will engage these topics through multiple and diverse readings, examples from media, reflexive writing assignments, research activities, class discussions, and in-class activities.

### 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:

Course Objectives:

The primary objectives for this course are:

- To identify and apply the theories and practices associated with intercultural communication;
- To develop skills to research, observe, and analyze intercultural communication in interpersonal and mediated discourse;
- To discover the importance of the roles of context and power in studying intercultural communication;
- To develop skills to engage in mindful, reflexive, and accountable dialogue through difference;
- To acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes that increase intercultural competence.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Define major concepts and theories of intercultural communication;
- Describe how communication processes differ among cultures.
- Identify challenges that arise from differences in intercultural interactions and learn ways to address them;
- Make connections between cultural self-awareness, other culture awareness, and the dynamics that arise in interactions between the two;
- Develop attitudes and strategies to challenge systems of exclusion and oppression; and
- Analyze and evaluate real-world intercultural encounters.

### 4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Introduction to Intercultural Communication
- The Relationship Between Culture and Communication
- Culture Identity and Identification
- Co-Cultures
- Cultural Contexts
- Social and Cultural Identities
- Verbal and Nonverbal Communication
- Cultural Conflicts and Barriers

**5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:** This course will fulfill the Multicultural/International requirement as it is equivalent to CMM 322.

### 6. Required Readings and Materials:

- Select readings will be assigned prior to departure. Recommended readings will be provided for those who wish to explore intercultural communication more in-depth.
- Students should bring with them a blank journal or notebook that they will carry with them throughout the course.

## 7. Graded Assignments:

- **Engagement/Participation** 10%
- **Personal Cultural Reflection** 10%
- **Daily Reflection Journals** 30%
- **Observation Assignments** 20%
- **Paper/Presentation** 20%
- **Departure Reflection** 10%

## 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 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.