



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## KIIS Slavic Europe Program, Summer 2021

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### EDU 400 Topics: Teaching the Holocaust

**Professor:** Dr. Sara Lindsey

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

### 1. Course Description:

This course focuses on teaching the Holocaust to K12 students. As such, it focuses on events and the "story" of the holocaust, while linking these to suitable pedagogy. The class combines traditional class activities with excursions to relevant places of interest in Eastern Europe, including two Nazi camps (Auschwitz and Sviatoslav) and a Jewish Ghetto. Students are asked to critically examine their encounters with holocaust memorial sites and to reflect on pedagogically sound methods to teach this critically important period in history. At the conclusion of the course, students will have gained a lasting understanding of aspects of the holocaust and will feel comfortable teaching this topic in a K12 classroom.

### 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

Objective 1: Students will complete a short online module covering major events leading to and following the holocaust

Objective 2: Students will engage in discussion regarding the history of the holocaust

Objective 3: Students will explain how to develop a holocaust unit, including:

- a. setting out the ground rules and creating an accepting community
- b. identifying suitable materials and strategies to be used
- c. dealing with topic-related difficulties in the classroom

### Specific Learning Outcomes:

Objective 1: Students complete a daily reflective journal in which they respond to prompts related to the day's topic or site to be visited.

Objective 2. Students discuss topics related to the holocaust, demonstrating thought and growth.

Objective 3. Students develop and present a plan for a holocaust unit to include specific information (list to be provided).

Objective 4. Students discuss holocaust units, giving thoughtful feedback to the presenters.

Objective 5. Students visit holocaust-related sites, actively engaging in the learning process.

Objective 6. Students complete a test to demonstrate knowledge of the development of the Holocaust.

Objective 7. Students discuss how lessons learned from the Holocaust can be applied to other events, both past and present.

## 4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

### Historical:

- The development of antisemitism
- Identity and belonging in the Weimar Republic
- The rise of Nazism and Jewish persecution
- The unrolling of the holocaust
- Voices and roles of individuals
- Judgement and legacy

### Pedagogical:

- Preparing to teach the holocaust
- Developing a sensitive community of learners
- Useful strategies and guidelines for teaching sensitive topics such as the Holocaust will be introduced and used in the course. Such strategies will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Discussions – preparing and leading  
Materials – choosing and presenting  
Analyzing Images  
Anticipation guides  
Character charts and maps

Contracting  
Human Timelines  
Identity Charts  
Journaling  
K-W-L charts

Rapid Fire Writing  
Read Aloud  
SIT

See, think, wonder  
Text-to-Text, Text-to-Self, Text-to-World  
Two-column note taking

## 5. Required Readings:

Booklets

Facing History and Ourselves. *Holocaust and Human Behavior*. Free PDF from <https://www.facinghistory.org/purchase-hhb>

Videoclips:

Projections of Life: Jewish Life before World War II  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNobaSEckHQ>

Testimony of Helen Colin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqLjAP5cUOY>

Life in Nazi Germany

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2VE--RqpyQ>

Articles:

(Others to be added)

## 6. Graded Assignments:

1. Online 5-10 hour module: Getting Started with Holocaust and Human Behavior (15%)  
Students will be expected to complete the self-paced online course from “Facing History and Ourselves” prior to the first meeting. This will give a solid background to be built upon during the course itself.

2. Reflection Journal (25%)

Students will keep a reflection journal relating to holocaust-related visits and class discussions. Some of these reflections will take place in situ, some in class, and others out of class time. Guiding questions and a rubric will be provided.

3. Presentation (25%)

Students will deliver a lecture/presentation in which they demonstrate how they would teach one aspect of the holocaust. The lecture/presentation may include a tentative unit of study, groundrules, information to be covered, assessment(s) to be used, possible issues to be overcome, and activities to be used. Students are expected to link course material/activities to this presentation. Specific guidelines and rubric will be provided.

4. Participation (20%)

Students will take an active part in classroom discussions, demonstrating a growth in understanding of aspects of the holocaust and how it should be taught. Students will also be expected to take an active part in all on-site visits. A rubric will be provided.

#### 5. Final exam (15%)

Students will take a final exam which will cover some important details of the timeline of the holocaust as well as major ideas in relation to the pedagogy of teaching this topic.

#### **7. 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.

#### **8. 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.

#### **9. 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.