



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## KIIS Morocco, Summer 2021

---

### ANTH 366: Topics: Anthropology of Religion in Morocco

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert Phillips

**Email:** [rfphillips@bsu.edu](mailto:rfphillips@bsu.edu)

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

**1. Course Description:** This seminar is designed to explore how anthropologists have documented and analyzed the varied ways in which humans have come to understand their world through the construction of sacred domains, with a focus on belief systems, indigenous and imported, that have a history in Morocco. We will explore religious diversity in Morocco through our careful perusal of a series of innovative ethnographic readings focused on the region. Ethnographic study is one of the hallmarks of anthropological inquiry and is especially relevant in that it allows us to get to know a culture "from the inside." Since Morocco is our classroom, we will pair these readings with field excursions that will help us to better understand what we are reading. Please note that all of the readings are, for the most part, brief. The goal here is to read a little and to think, discuss, and explore a lot.

### **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 KISS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

**3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes** By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe and discuss basic concepts related to the anthropological study of major belief systems and religious traditions;
- compare, cross-culturally, major belief systems and religious traditions;
- demonstrate an understanding of religions in Morocco, (with an emphasis on Islam, Judaism, and Christianity), based on the various readings and experiences during their time in the country;
- explain how these religions and belief systems have affected Moroccan culture and society;
- analyze data in various forms to reveal existing patterns of information and to create new patterns.

**4. Major Topics covered in the Course:** Islam, Judaism, Christianity, indigenous belief systems, anthropological approaches to religion

**5. Required Readings and Materials:** A collection of short articles and book chapters tailored for this course will be provided to students as PDF files.

**6. Graded Assignments:**

Preparation and Participation	200 pts
Place-as-Text Reports	400 pts
Ethnographic Project	400 pts
Total	1000 pts

**Preparation and Participation:**

Students will attend all class meetings (and excursions) and will have read the assigned reading before the beginning of class. You are encouraged to actively contribute to class discussions. You are encouraged to think out loud, say something and then take it back, and generally speak in a provisional manner, knowing that those around you will be patient, supportive, and slow to take offense. **(200 points)**

**Place-as-Text Reports:**

Twice during our month in Morocco, you will be asked to apply our readings to analyze a ritual space encountered during our excursions. Students will explore these phenomena during our group excursions and then use course materials and their own independent research to better understand the space, place or phenomenon and write up their findings in about 500 words. Two reports will be assigned, each worth 200 points. **(400 Points)**

**Various Exercise in Ethnographic Methods:**

These exercises are designed to hone a number of the skills you have worked on this summer, including field observations, participant observation, ethnographic writing, thick description, and cultural analysis. Four exercises will be assigned, each worth 100 points. **(400 points)**

**Grading Scale:**

A	900-1000 pts
B	800-899 pts
C	700-799 pts
D	600-699 pts
F	<600 pts

**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.