



KIIS Greece, Winter 2021-22

ENG 396 Mythology

Professor: Richard J King

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Syllabus subject to change

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

No stories contain greater richness and depth, and none have been more influential than ancient Greco-Roman myths. In this cross-listed course, students learn how ancient Greeks used tales to represent themselves in a wider Mediterranean context. Visiting sites and museums in Athens and Crete, students learn to read tales as expressing human reactions to shared human problems, whether narrated in text or shown in artifacts (monuments, vases, sculpture, painting, etc.).

II. 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.

III. PURPOSE:

Students examine the mythological content of ancient Greek texts and visual art, the values

that the myths represent, and their topographical context to explore ancient culture and some of its influences on modern thought.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are expected to read widely in ancient texts and modern interpretations of those texts; to participate actively in analysis and discussion of ancient cultural experiences, institutions, and values; to experience ancient Italian myth as a form of cultural expression in art and architecture in museums and at various Italian sites; to synthesize the information they've gained in class and on their own and to apply it to a problem or topic of their own choosing in a final paper.

V. COURSE OUTLINE:

Greek Creation Tales/ Origin of Humans/ Genealogy and Legends of Multi-Cultural Geography: Europa and Her Brothers, Minos, Minotaur, Daedalus and Theseus. Heracles and Cretan Bull. Io of Argos, Epaphus and Egypt, Sons of Aegyptos, suitors of Danaids. / Ritual and Myth: Rites of Passage and Mysteries.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES/ FIELD EXPERIENCES:

Lectures and discussions; visits to cultural sites and museums. Because we are interested to compare how the ancients lived with how modern Westerners live, we'll be using the places we visit as texts, as well as the course textbook.

Note: Please be aware that some of the material in this class may trigger disturbing thoughts or memories. Many of the works of art are explicit or nudes. Please feel free to step out of class if you feel uncomfortable or threatened.

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

This course is part of the KIIS winter study abroad in Rome and Florence (the Italy Winter trip).

VIII. RESOURCES: None.

IX. GRADING PROCEDURES:

Scale:

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

Below 60 E (F)

This course grade will not include plus or -minus, a system which may apply at your college or university, but not on KIIS programs. Sample grading rubrics are attached to this syllabus.

Students will write short response papers—descriptions and analyses of myth reflected in the places and art-objects students observe. These short compositions will contribute 40% of the course grade. Short quizzes will contribute 30%. Students will write a final paper (8-10 pages)

on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor; the essay will contribute 30% of the grade.

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to attend every class and to participate in out-of-class activities as directed by the instructor. KIIS requires that any unexcused absence result in grade reduction, and multiple unexcused absences may result in expulsion from the program.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

XII. TEXTS AND REFERENCES:

Required Texts:

Buxton, Richard. 2004. *The Complete World of Greek Mythology*. London: Thames & Hudson.

Note: The instructor will supply a additional electronic texts, if needed.

XIII. 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, 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 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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or 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 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.

XIV. 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, Deborah Wilkins (270-745-5396 / deborah.wilkins@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/eo/titleixbrochure2020.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.