



KIIS GREECE, Winter 2021-22

PSY 299: Topics: Nonverbal Behavior and Communication

Professor: Dr. Robert Mitchell

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Instructor's office hours: On site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

Course Description

Students will read about and explore human nonverbal behavior and communication, and gain knowledge of distinctively human characteristics such as artifact creation and art. Students will compare Greek and American styles of behavior, and examine art, architecture, cemeteries, parks, and other human-made artifacts in Athens and Crete. Frequent excursions will be made throughout Athens and Crete, in which everyday human activities as well as ancient artifacts are observed and discussed. The objective is to have students become keen observers of nonverbal aspects of being human, and understand the evolutionary and cultural bases of human activities. The purpose of the course is to have students learn about nonverbal behavior and communication and its cultural variations, focusing on Greece.

Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Students will learn to look at humans in terms of what they do, rather than what they say, and will also learn about distinctively human characteristics such as artifact creation and art. In addition, they will learn about differences in Italian and American culture through reading and experience.

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- (1) demonstrate knowledge of the basic components of nonverbal behavior and communication
- (2) demonstrate knowledge of the functions of nonverbal behavior and communication
- (3) demonstrate knowledge of, and be able to apply, the basic research methods used in the study of nonverbal behavior and communication
- (4) critically analyze articles from the research literature in nonverbal behavior and communication
- (5) apply knowledge of nonverbal behavior and communication to diverse experiences in Greece, examining similarities and differences between “American” and “Greek” styles.

Text:

The nonverbal communication reader, 3rd ed., 2007, edited by L. K. Guerrero, J. A. DeVito & M. L. Hecht. Waveland Press. ISBN: 978-1577665441. (Hereby referred to as **NCR**.)

Class Schedule

The book we are using, **NCR**, provides a series of mostly short articles and chapters to provide an overview of important areas in the study of nonverbal behavior and communication. Because when we read the material may be dependent on a variety of circumstances, including the weather, where we are visiting the next day, etc., I provide only the general topics to be discussed and the relevant chapters. Typically, we will read the materials on the day prior to which they will be discussed.

Topics and chapters

Theory & methods of nonverbal behavior and communication: Chapters 1-3, 52-55

Appearance: Chapters 7-8

Body language: Chapters 11-16, 38-39, 42

Contact codes: Chapters 21, 24-27

Time & place codes: Chapters 28-33

Impressions & judgments: Chapters 34-37

Emotions: Chapters 43-45

Deception: Chapters 46-48

Power & persuasion: Chapters 49-51

Field Experiences

When in Athens, we will visit the Parthenon, other ancient structures, and museums of ancient culture and lifeways. When on the island of Crete, we will visit Heraklion and Knossos, with their own ancient structures and artworks. In both places, we will spend time observing the people and discussing apparent similarities and differences between Americans and Greeks. Students will be introduced to the variety of technological, artifactual and expressive creations by humans through visits to museums and architectural sites in Athens and Crete. Our primate heritage will be discussed. Attention will be drawn to the varieties of human experience and attitudes toward humans through, for example, observations of people at cafes, markets and parks, interactions between people and animals, representations of status and power in art and architecture, and grave stones and grave goods at cemeteries. Students may observe children's and their caregivers' behaviors in the parks.

Grading (subject to change)

Students will keep a journal, which will provide a discussion of the readings in relation to their experience; the journal will periodically be collected and graded. This journal will count for 40% of the final course grade (40 points). Students will engage in observations of people in Athens and Crete, and will create a short research paper (8-10 pages) on these observations, using the readings as support for their work (30 points). This paper will count for 30% of the final course grade. Several short essay tests will account for the last 30% of the final course grade (30 points). Total points possible is 100.

Grades: 90% is cutoff for A, 80% for B, 70% for C, 60% for D, below 60% is F.

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.

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 Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, 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 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.

Academic Honesty Statement:

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.

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.