KIIS Berlin & Barcelona Program, Summer 2022

ART 331: Visual Thinking- Storytelling

Instructor: Rowe Moser
Email: rjmo227@g.uky.edu
Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

The dynamic literary medium of comics and graphic novels uses a unique language that's all its own. In this all-levels, hands-on class, students will develop essential skills for powerful, versatile storytelling in words and pictures, including writing, drawing, visual language, crafting narratives, developing characters, storyboarding, and typography. Students will craft several short comics, which will be collected for a final mini-comic at the end of the course.

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.

Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:
Illustrate a narrative through the combination of text and panels sequentially linked.

Create finished sequential art in the form of a comic book, comic strip or graphic novel.

Employ digital tools which may include, Photoshop, and Digital Cameras

Recognize how to publish a comic or graphic novel to digital delivery systems such as, but not limited to, the web, mobile media and digital color printing.

Understand how to Define, Plan, Propose and execute projects in verbal, visual and written formats

Apply Industry Standard Practices, including design and production workflows, delivery systems, hardware and software.

Understand how to Critique and receive critique for projects, relative to the stated objectives, as a member of a review group and then advance them accordingly.

Major Topics covered in the Course:

Students will create a comic or graphic novel based on their time in Barcelona presenting their work in progress with the class and critiquing their work, and the work of others. This allows the student to learn what is successful and what is not. We use the critique space as a working studio space to look at the work together to train our eyes and our abilities to define what makes a successful comic. Readings and historical context will also be discussed in class.

Required Readings and Materials:

Books:

McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. William Morrow Paperbacks. (1994). ISBN: 006097625X

McCloud, Scott. *Making Comics: Storytelling Secrets of Comics, Manga and Graphic Novels*. William Morrow Paperbacks. (2006). ISNB: 0060780940

Software and Hardware:

Photoshop CC (helpful, but not required) Laptop, Camera, USB Flash Drive

Additional Materials:

Micron Pens, Pens, Pencils, Paper, Eraser, Ruler, and any additional drawing supplies

600 point scale. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Assignments: 100 points each:

Week 1 Comic Strip: 100 points
Week 2 Comic Strip: 100 points
Week 3 Comic Strip: 100 points
Readings and Discussions: 100 Points
Final Project/ Powerpoint Presentation: 200 points

Comic Strip

There will be a weekly required comic strip you create. The requirements for the comic: must have at least 3 panels, must show sequential narrative/story. You don't have to know how to draw to create an awesome comic strip. Strong craftsmanship, clear narrative sequence, and the use of color and text make for the beginnings of typical comic strips.

Powerpoint Presentation to Accompany Final Comic

The Final Project will be accompanied by a powerpoint presentation with at least 10 images with brief notes for each image about your process of creating your final project.

Readings and Discussions

Reading each assigned chapter of the textbooks, participating in the group discussion, completing assignments which are written papers.

Letter grades will be given in this class and will be assigned using the standard grading scale:

100-90%=A (Represents an exceptionally high achievement as a result of aptitude, effort and intellectual initiative. Work created exceeded all of the requirements for the project/course.) 89-80%=B (Represents a high achievement as a result of ability and effort. Work created met all requirements for the project and exceeded some of them.)

79-70%=C (Represents average achievement. Work met all requirements for the project/ course.)

69-60%=D (Represents the minimum passing grade. Work met some requirements for the project/course and failed to meet some.)

59% and below=E (Represents unsatisfactory performance and indicates failure in the project/course. Work did not significantly meet requirements for the project/course.)

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.

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/eeo/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.