



KIIS Buenos Aires, Argentina Program, Summer 2023

ART 491 Topics: Curatorial Strategies // Buenos Aires

Instructor: Prof. Becky Alley

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

In recent decades, Buenos Aires has emerged as one of the most vibrant and exciting contemporary art hubs in the world. Both the cultural and geographic landscapes of Buenos Aires are rich and varied, offering countless sources of inspiration.

In this course, we will consider many of the factors that influence the art of Buenos Aires today, including the city's complicated political and economic history, its rich cultural traditions, and an innovative and visionary spirit among the city's artists and art institutions.

Through the lens of Buenos Aires itself, we will ask: How do museums organize art exhibitions? What do curators consider when presenting art to the public? How is the meaning of artwork changed by the space it inhabits?

Building from the assumption that no space is neutral, the class will explore the aesthetics of various places and their influence on meaning through a combination of readings, discussions, field trips, and written assignments. We will investigate interior and exterior features of art galleries and museums, sacred spaces, civic spaces, public art sites, and green spaces throughout the city. Over the course of the program, students will respond both critically and creatively to actual space in order to explore its layered context.

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

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

In this course, students will

- expand their understanding of place and context, applying actual experience to a broader understanding of what objects mean and how they are experienced;
- produce writing typical of the field of curation;
- synthesize personal experience with researched information to produce both written and presented creative projects.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Museum Studies / Gallery Studies
Contemporary Art
Curatorial Studies

5. Required Readings:

Several readings will be provided in digital format at the beginning of the course.

6. Graded Assignments:

Written assignments 25%
Class discussion 25%
Exhibitions review 15%
Final project abstract/proposal + presentation 35%

Written assignments: Writing assignments will consist of reading notes and site profiles.

Class discussions: In class, we will discuss readings as well as share insights related to our experience in Buenos Aires. Attendance is required for discussion credit.

Exhibition review: You will write a review for one art exhibition currently on view in Buenos Aires.

Final project abstract/proposal + presentation: You will propose a site-specific curatorial project for a venue in Buenos Aires. There will be a written component as well as a presentation given to the class.

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 project/course. Work did not significantly meet requirements for the project/course.

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, 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.

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, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@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/eoo/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.