



KIIS Argentina Program, Summer 2023

ART 494 Topics: Memorials and Museums in Buenos Aires

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

How cities and nations craft their past through public monuments, urban planning, and museum programming provides an avenue to understanding what a society deems critical at a particular moment in time. Buenos Aires has a distinct history shaped by its region and geo-political forces. Buenos Aires was established as a major port city in the 16th century. Its history has been marked by European migration, conflict with indigenous communities, and slavery. The latter two have all but been erased from view. The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw a deliberate Europeanization of the city – coming to be known as the Paris of Latin America. Italian migrants in particular have marked the city and region. Yet the presence of indigenous and black communities do mark the cultural spaces through practices such as the tango and the boleadoras. This tension exists alongside political conflicts as Argentina has a long history of strong men (caudillos), populist and nationalist movements, and dictatorships. These have left lasting marks on the city that has come to memorialize these collective traumas. The glittering city reveals a complex history through its urban space in its monuments, parks, and avenues, and through its museums, galleries, and festivals. These celebrate the modern accomplishments while choosing to uphold the memory of these traumas, so as not to forget, to honor those lost, and also for political exigencies of the present.

Buenos Aires is our classroom. We will be venturing into the city to see the chosen remnants of the past, the scars of war, the architecture of power, the developments of scale, and their museum exhibitions. Where does the represented past start and present end? What are the new explorations of civic identity and artistic production? How does the city contend with its geography? How are curators revealing the artistic present? Memory and identity are central to this class.

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:

In this class, students will:

- Examine social and cultural structures over time and space that have shaped contemporary societies in Buenos Aires
- Demonstrate an understanding of how Argentine society has evolved in diverse ways over time and space, with a specific focus on those cultural values that shape contemporary political, economic, social and environmental actions in Buenos Aires
- Understand the key temporal and spatial properties that shape modern cultures and societies in the region
- Understand artistic sources and place them into their social, political, and intellectual contexts
- Advance their visual literacy and vocabulary and use these skills in written and oral formats

Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Memory and remembrance
- Art and architectural history of Buenos Aires
- History and political events that shape the city
- Urban development, planned and unplanned
- Curatorial trends in museums and public spaces

Required Readings and Materials:

The course will use online sites such as Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Getty Foundation, and Khan Academies, as well as articles from JSTOT and online sources created by the city of Buenos Aires.

Graded Assignments:

Written Assignments	30%
Site Analysis	30%
Exhibition/Monument proposal	30%
Final Reflection	10%

Written Assignments:

Writing assignments will include text analysis based on readings

Site Analysis:

Visual analysis assignments will focus upon exhibitions and monuments visited in class and program excursions

Exhibition/Monument proposal:

A proposal that will identify a museum for the exhibition or a site for a monument, present a vision for its execution, write promotional material, accompanying text, and include a model of the layout

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, 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/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.