



KIIS Greece Program, Summer 2023

ENG 339: Women in Greek Literature

Instructor: Jill Parrott

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Instructor's office hours: On site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: In this class, we will explore how contemporary women are writing in and are represented in contemporary Greek literature (in translation) and literature about modern Greece. Students will read in several genres including memoir, novel, and poetry. Through these texts, they will learn more about contemporary Greek history, politics, culture, social issues, language, and the Greek diaspora through the lens of gender. Reading list includes Ellen Gage's *North of Ithaka*, Christos Ikononou's *Something Will Happen, You'll See*, Artemis Leontis's *Greece: A Traveler's Literary Companion*, Alexandros Papadiamantis's *The Murderess*, and the poetry of Danae Sioziou.

2. 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.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes: The KIIS Greece program has developed the following student learning outcomes for all courses in the program:

After having completed the KIIS Greece program, students will have

- honed their knowledge of Greece and Greek society, from antiquity to the 21st century;
- synthesized academic concepts with real world experiences;
- observed Mediterranean life in rural settings, in middle-sized towns, and on islands, as well as in the megalopolis of Athens;
- interacted with ordinary Greeks on a regular basis;
- exhibited confidence in their abilities to function competently in another culture;
- articulated an understanding of what it means to be the stranger in another land;

- articulated the relationship between ideas and place (i.e., geography, landscape, buildings, monuments) as that relationship reflects the past, the present, and the recreation of the past in the present;
- clarified their personal values, both as U. S. citizens and as individuals;
- deepened their appreciation for the values of others;
- improved their oral and written communication skills in English.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- An introduction to critical gender theories,
- Themes and movements in contemporary Greek literature, and
- Greek history, politics, culture, social issues, and the Greek diaspora through literature.

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: This course may fulfill a General Education requirement on your campus. Please be sure to explore this possibility with your campus KIS representative. I'll be happy to supply any additional information your school may need.

6. Required Readings and Materials:

- Ellen Gage, *North of Ithaka*
- Christos Ikononou, *Something Will Happen, You'll See* (excerpts)
- Artemis Leontis, *Greece: A Traveler's Literary Companion*
- Alexandros Papadiamantis, *The Murderess*
- Danae Sioziou, poetry (provided)
- Other excerpts, provided electronically before the trip. Please either make plans to print them out or to download them to a laptop or reader to which you will have access.

7. Graded Assignments:

A	90-100 points	Level 1 Assignments	40 points
B	80-89 points	Level 2 Assignments	30 points
C	70-79 points	Level 3 Assignment	30 points
D	60-69 points		
F	0-59 points		

LEVEL 1 ASSIGNMENTS: Remember & Understand (40 points total available)

Choose at least 10 and no more than 15 "daily" assignments given throughout the course. I will provide "on the spot" prompts as we travel, or you may choose from the options below. Each submission will be given 0-3 points based on the rubric, for no more than 40 points total.

- The first will be turned in by **Saturday, May 27** for me to turn around some feedback very quickly.
- A total of 5 more must be turned in on or before **Sunday, June 10.**
- Remaining assignments must be turned in **on or before Monday, June 19.**

- 1) Consider a powerful concept we've discussed as it relates to your understanding of Greece's literature and women. Using the SEE-i method of critical thinking (State, Explain, provide an Example, and Illustrate; see handout for examples), provide a thorough consideration of this concept. For "i"—illustrate—you may draw something you believe stands for your understanding of the concept visually, take a picture or series of pictures to visually represent the concept, or create/gather a 3D object. Be sure you explain how the illustration fits in. May be repeated up to 3 times.
- 2) Intentionally explore a particular neighborhood or district as we travel *for this assignment*. Prepare by first creating who, what, when, why, and where questions for

your observation, and then answer them. In a reflection, consider why you chose these questions and what they revealed. Refer to themes and critical theory from course content for the most possible points. Use 2-3 paragraphs. May be repeated up to 3 times at different locations.

- 3) Choose a non-fiction/critical concept from the semester and complete a KWLQ worksheet for it (included in course packet). You'll do the **K**now and **W**ant to know sections before you read and the **L**earned and **Q**uestions section after. Include a 1-2 paragraph reflection. May be repeated up to 3 times for different readings.
- 4) Choose one of our *upcoming* readings and develop a discussion or activity guide for it (think 10 minutes). May be repeated up to 2 times for different readings.
- 5) Choose a topic, theme, motif, or question from our readings and discussion to reflect on. Referencing at least one of the readings and at least one of the spaces we have visited, write a short reflection (2-3 paragraphs) discussing how you feel your understanding of Greece has been expanded through that connection. May be repeated up to 3 times for different topics.

LEVEL 2 ASSIGNMENTS: Analyze & Apply (30 points total/15 points each, with most possible points awarded to students with whom I have discussed a draft)

For level 2 you will complete one each of the following prompts (two total). Each will be approximately 500 words. The first will be **due on Monday, May 29**. The second will be due no later than **Wednesday, June 14**. If you choose to turn in a draft to me and have a short conference for the most possible points, please plan to do that no later than 48 hours before the due date to allow you time to reflect on our conversation and make appropriate revisions. Rubric included in course packet. Research is discouraged.

1. *A Literary Analysis:* Using the critical theories we've discussed and read in class, write an analysis of 1-2 of the literary texts on the syllabus. Make an argument (with a clear analytical thesis); be sure to use specific and concrete evidence from the literature.
2. *A Personal Reflection:* Consider any of the cultural or critical questions brought up in the course texts and discussions and explore your personal reactions to that question. Referring to at least 2 of the texts from class, make an argument (with a clear argumentative thesis) about how this reflection on a specific aspect helps you better understand the literature and modern Greece. Use specific and concrete evidence from all texts.

LEVEL 3 ASSIGNMENT: Synthesize & Create (30 points total, with most possible points awarded to students with whom I have discussed a draft) **Due no later than Wednesday, June 21.**

Using the modality of your choice, create a project that synthesizes what you've learned about the role of women in contemporary Greek literature. This could be

- A 5-6 page/1000 word "traditional" essay,
- A play, scene, or conversation between "characters" from the course,
- An artistic or 3D artifact with a short introductory essay,
- An 8-10 minute *significant* presentation,
- A 15-minute activity or game for the class,
- A comic book/graphic novel format, or
- Something else I haven't thought of yet.

Your **goal** for this assignment is to bring together (synthesize) ideas from all the "texts" of the course—critical gender theory, our readings, our site visits, course curriculum from other

courses, your previous assignments, outside sources, and Greece itself—into a clear, coherent, and well-developed argument.

Your **purpose** is to answer one of the following questions with *depth* and *breadth* in a way that shows how your argument is significant for your audience, which you will choose. As always, use specific, concrete evidence whenever possible. You should use 2-3 of our primary course texts, at least one critical frame or concept, and at least one site or cultural point of reference in Greece.

1. Compare and/or contrast the representation of women and women's roles in Greek culture in two or more works of literature we have read (or 1 modern & 1 ancient).
2. Compare and/or contrast the representation of women and women's roles in Greek culture and an American subculture of your choice.
3. Argue for a definition of a theoretical/critical concept discussed in class using course texts as evidence for development.
4. Take a position on a problematic or contentious issue in gender studies we have discussed; use course readings and secondary sources to defend your position.

Further details on and assessment rubrics for all assignments will be provided in course packet.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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/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.

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