



KIIS Greece Program, Summer 2023

ENG 349 Topics: Travel Writing on the Road in Greece

Instructor: Jill Parrott

Email: jill.parrott@eku.edu

Instructor's office hours: On site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course will focus on three aspects of travel writing: historical and contemporary genres of travel writing, analysis and criticism of travel writing, and the students' own travel writing. We will review cultural transitions as seen through travel writing starting in ancient Greece and moving briefly each through Paul's epistles to the Corinthians and Thessalonians, the Medieval work of Ibn Battuta, the effects of the printing press, the speed of the industrial revolution, and contemporary online writing. Students will create their own travel writing while considering the effects contemporary writing technologies have on their current rhetorical choices, as they have in ages past. Experiencing this in Greece will be particularly meaningful to students because of the historical debates about literacy in Greek philosophy as well as their hands-on experiences viewing ancient "technologies" on site.

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:

- The history of travel writing
- The relationship between writing technologies and travel writing
- Genres of travel writing
- Introductory-level analysis of and critical theory for travel writing
- Travel writing processes and collaborations

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 KHS representative. I'll be happy to supply any additional information your school may need.

6. Required Readings and Materials:

- Thompson, Carl. *Travel Writing*. New York: Routledge, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-415-44465-1
- 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:

Daily Work	15 points	A	90-100 points
Travel Journal	20 points	B	80-89 points
Synthesis Projects	40 points	C	70-79 points
Reflective Portfolio	25 points	D	60-69 points
		F	0-59 points

Daily Work will be assessed based on "good faith effort" (or satisfactory/unsatisfactory)—if you attend class meetings (as required by KHS), are engaged in course activities, and turn in any required work when we meet/as requested, that will be considered a satisfactory/"good faith effort." (15 points total; 1 point each for 15 total assignments) **Due intermittently.**

Your **Travel Journal** will involve your interaction with and reflection on Greece as our text. As we travel, you will use what we encounter—people, places, food, artifacts, language, readings, etc.—as topics for response. I'll provide prompts and opportunities for freewriting to help. While these are semi-informal, you should show a consideration of your audience, purpose, and context as you write. At least four entries **due by Wednesday, June 7** and the remaining 3+ **due by Monday, June 19**. (20 points total; maximum 3 points each)

Four **Synthesis Projects** require you to integrate our course readings, the sites we have visited, and your own reflections to compose in four different travel writing genres. These genre suggestions should help develop your approaches; each essay will be

workshopped in the course before submission. **One essay will be due each Friday of the trip: May 26, June 2, June 9, and June 16.** (40 points total; 10 points each)

- Best-Of List
- Brochure
- Letter/Epistle
- Food
- Travel Humor
- News Travel/Journalism
- Personal Essay
- Photo Essay

The **Reflective Portfolio** will show all the hard work you've put into the course and will give you the opportunity to display it in a meaningful way. The portfolio will be assessed as a whole (not by each part). Your reflective portfolio (**Due June 23**) will include the following five elements:

- 1) Reflective Introduction
- 2) Two Revised, Polished Synthesis Projects
- 3) An Exhibit of Process
- 4) Complete Travel Journal, with Introduction

***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.

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.