ART 102: INTRODUCTION TO MAKING ART & MAKING MEANING

Instructor: Randy Simmons
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Instructor’s office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:
This is a hands-on material-specific course that examines human experience through the visual arts. It requires no previous art experience. The course employs a physical exploration of one or more media to examine art’s central and proactive role in the articulation of culture, and its important function in determining—and not merely illustrating—the structure of human society across time.
This particular course, “Portrait of Place,” is built on the idea that drawing on location enriches an overall travel experience, providing students with an informed and particular sense of location through focused observations. With an introduction of some foundational ideas in drawing, this class is designed for students, with or without previous drawing study, who wish to engage directly with the artistic traditions they will see around them in Paris, complementing both their experience traveling and their appreciation for visual art. At the end of the course, students will have produced a travel sketchbook as a record of their drawing observations and time traveling.

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 programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:
• Experiment with drawing media to explore illusionistic possibilities in two-dimensional visual art;
• Draw on site for focused observations of specific places and experiences; and
• Discuss work – your own, your peers, and historic or contemporary work – as a means of improving personal critical judgment and visual literacy.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:
• A variety of on-site drawing experiences,
• Drawing techniques, and
• Discussion and critique of drawings.

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:
This course will be designed to complete a general education arts requirement, pending institutional approval.

6. Required Readings and Materials: Details on this will be provided separately; however, ART 102 will work in traditional drawing (e.g. graphite, pen and ink, brush pens) materials at a scale that makes sense for travel drawing on site. This course will not have a textbook.

Materials: Dick Blick Website
Faber Castell Brush Pen Set 12 25.67
Or Set of 24 Pen Set 47.27
And/or Set of 8 Blacks and Grays 24.39
And/or Graphite Pencils Set/Mechanical Pencils
Sketch Book, Wired. Quality paper, Acid Free. 10" x 7".
From Amazon:
Stillman & Birn Alpha Series Wirebound Sketchbook, 10" x 7", 150 gsm (Heavyweight), White Paper, Medium Grain Surface (I don’t recommend cold pressed paper.) $23.38

7. Graded Assignments: Grading will be based on completion of sketchbook assignments, including onsite drawings during classes or group excursions as well as other assignments. Class participation and completion of work will be important. Due to the length of the program, completion of 8 on-site drawings qualifies and daily exercises are required for consideration for the grade of "A." Personal initiative in produced assignments, including how thoroughly work is completed, will determine the grade.

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, Andrea Anderson (270-745-5398 / andrea.anderson@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.

ART 102: INTRODUCTION TO MAKING ART/Meaning
YOU ARE AN EXPLORER
Your mission is to document and observe the world around you as if you’ve never seen it before. Take notes. Collect things you find on your travels. Document your findings. Notice patterns. Copy. Trace. Focus on one thing at a time. Record what you are drawn to.

1. **Incorporate tickets, brochures and maps**

   When I’m traveling I seem to end each day with a treasure trove of ephemera in my day bag. Whether that’s ticket stubs, brochures or paper maps they all add both character and information to your journaling.

2. **Collect stickers and washi tape as you travel**

3. **Include food memories**

   The strongest memories are those that are triggered by the senses. Taste and smell are some of the strongest so don’t forget to record those great meals, the sights, sounds and smells of the markets. Note down a recipe, sketch an unusual ingredient or dish that keeps cropping up or describe a new food you try from the perspective of each of your senses.

4. **Use journaling prompts (SEE LIST BELOW)**

   Whether it’s a list of prompts you’ve compiled yourself in advance, something you come up with based on the inspiration of the day or if you borrow from a published list it can help you get the creative flow started.

5. **Include foreign words and phrases**

   I’ve mentioned it as a journal prompt but there are many ways to include foreign words and phrases in your journal. Even in a country where you can easily get by in your native language, it adds to the experience and generally is appreciated by the locals if you try to use a few words of the local language. Even just being about to say hello, please, thank you and express your appreciation of something you saw or experienced it’s going to enrich your experience.

   Other times you will notice a word being used alot or some one might teach you a new word that you could use as a heading, decorate on the page or write the story about. You might also want to include a page of useful phrases in your journal when you are preparing for your trip.

6. **Use feathers, leaves and flowers with care**

   Pressed flowers, a dropped feather or colourful autumn leaves make an interesting tactile embellishment. I know I was would have loved to include maple and ginkgo leaves during the autumn in Tokyo but if you plan to carry those items or your complete journal across international borders you need to be aware of biosecurity restrictions. In Australia and New Zealand, that’s a NO!

7. **Record your memories, write your stories**

   My travel journal is a creative outlet just for me, I get pleasure from both creating it and having it to remember our trips and special days. It’s writing just for me not for an audience so I feel I can be completely true to my experience, raw and I can write as little or much as I feel like.

   While I like it to be pretty and a home for photos and other mementos I pick up along the way what matter most to me is capturing the memories and experiences in my words. Sometimes it’s an extended stream of consciousness, other times it’s just a caption but capturing the stories as they happen or through my personal filter of life is part of the process.
8. Include your own art

You don’t need to be a great artist to make a travel journal. As I mentioned above in point 7, capturing the stories in my own words is essential but the color, design, mementos, pictures and sketches that I add are also part of that story. They make the journal visually appealing and draw me back to flip through them again and again.

I love the creative process and as my journal is principally for me it doesn’t matter if it looks like a child drew in my diary. Sometimes even the simplest doodles can be powerful memory triggers.

**Materials: Dick Blick Website**
- Faber Castell Brush Pen Set 12 25.67
- OR a Set of 24 Pen Set 47.27
- Set of 8 Blacks and Grays 24.39
- A Graphite Pencil/Mechanical Pencil
- OPTIONAL: Conté A Paris Conté Pencils
- Sketch Book, Wired. Quality paper, Acid Free. 10” x 7”
- Stillman & Birn Alpha Series Wirebound Sketchbook, 10” x 7”, 150 gsm (Heavyweight), White Paper, Medium Grain Surface (I don’t recommend cold pressed paper.) $23.38

**JOURNAL PROMPTS:**

Before leaving for Paris or on arrival, can you write a list of goals/objectives you hope to accomplish while on the program. What are your pre conceived fears of traveling?

Draw our hotel from across the street.

Draw a map to your favorite shop from the hotel.

Draw one of your meals or snacks. Coffee, croissant, sandwich, gelato? What are the ingredients? Textures? What’s the French word for your meal?

Draw something organic/botanical. Can you find a flower to put in your sketchbook? Can you illustrate it, its name, and where you found it?

*Find and include a hand written found note or flyer.

Draw/describe a favorite purchase. Why is this a favorite? Is it a part of the culture?

Draw cracks in something. street? wall? glass? What caused this?

Write a new French word you’ve learned that is cool. What does it mean and can you illustrate its meaning?

Document a part of a building that is often ignored. (under a sink? corner of a room?)

Illustrate something that is the same as the US but different. (Example, ketchup). Can you keep the wrapper if it has one? Can you draw it?

*What did you do that was fun today?

Right where you are sitting. Write ten things about where you are sitting right now that you hadn’t noticed before. Do it quickly. Do not censor. Consider recording the sound on your phone.

Draw a pattern or motif you’ve discovered. This could be on a coffee cup or part of architecture, or maybe something on cloth or clothing.

Draw yourself the first week.

Draw yourself the last week.

*What does the music sound like? Consider recording the sound on your phone.

Do a page of free doodling. Can it focus around a feeling, emotion, experience you are having now? What type of line work, textures, or imagery can you come up with?

Find a traffic sign or lettering that you think is cool. Can you include this in your sketchbook?

Draw looking outside your hotel window.

What is your favorite street?

What has been your favorite location?
Include a clipping of a French newspaper or magazine. Maybe a news article? An ad?
Trace a new friend’s hand and within this, write three things you like about them and/or something exciting you’ve done together. What’s the French word for hand?
Collect objects for their potential magic quality. Attach a story or fictitious history about them.
Take class notes in your sketch book.
Name a first time doing something. (Flying? Trying a new dish?, etc)
Include a postage stamp or sticky label.
Create a coffee or tea stain ring in your sketchbook from your mug or glass. Can you draw into it when it’s dry? What were you drinking and what was the location?

Draw a small, hand held object. How does it feel in your hand?
Can you include a French phrase or word in your daily writings/drawings?
What was an interesting outfit you saw on someone today?

EIGHT On-Site Drawings
Sit and draw at least two hours at a location noting time of day, shadows, smells, sounds. What kind of color are you using? Consider composition, perspective, point of view, line-work, textures. Is there history worth noting in your writing?
Put the location, date and time on the page with your drawing. Consider calligraphy style and your handwriting and how it can flow around your drawings and perhaps frame it.
Take photos while you are there.
Record video and sound at our on site locations
Record sounds on your phone.
Can you include a smell with your sketchbook?