



## KIIS Berlin & Barcelona Program, Summer 2024

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### ART 496 Topics: Street Scenes/Zine Berlin & Barcelona

**Instructor:** Rachel Moser

**Email:** Rachel.Moser@eku.edu

**Instructor's office hours:** on site and by appointment

*Syllabus subject to change*

### **Course Description:**

In this course, students will explore the art of creating Zines and capturing meaningful images using cameras or phones. The aim is to move beyond simple snapshots and use photography as a tool for investigating various aspects such as places, ideas, colors, moods, perceived cultures, and personal reflections during our visits to specific cities.

We will focus our investigations on two locations: **Berlin and Barcelona.**

**Berlin** has a rich history in graphic design, encompassing modernist influences and gothic black lettering. The city's streets are a juxtaposition of modernity, pre-World War II romanticism, post-World War II Soviet influences, and numerous Holocaust and War memorials. We will delve into the complexities of Berlin's design, culture, and its economic and cultural power in contemporary Germany.

In contrast, **Barcelona** preserves its historical charm from the 1400s to the present, with narrow streets that make one feel as if they can touch the walls on both sides. Remnants of bullet holes in the streets serve as reminders of the Spanish Civil War. The design sensibilities in Catalan culture differ greatly from Berlin, featuring the distinctive swirls, extravagance, and vibrant colors associated with Gaudi's influence. We will explore the unique cultural identity of Barcelona as it asserts itself apart from Spain.

Throughout our journey, we will also delve into the culinary experiences of these two cities. The food and restaurant cultures in Berlin and Barcelona offer stark contrasts, providing ample opportunities for exploration and discovery.

As a class, we will engage our senses, observe with our eyes, capture moments with our cameras, and ultimately create two Zines that reflect the essence of these cities and our personal experiences within them.

### 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:

#### **Upon completion of this course, each student will be able to:**

- Create a series of themed images as a handmade zine that is organized around that idea both in design style and content with or without words.
- Evaluate their own work and the work of others conceptually and formally as well as revise their work based on those evaluations during a series of critiques.
- Develop both technical skills in bookmaking as well as conceptual skills in thinking about handmade books as meaningful objects.
- Students will learn specific studio techniques and produce two zines employing the skills they learn. They will incorporate materials, text, imagery, and other design elements into their projects to effectively communicate ideas of memory and place.

### Major Topics covered in the Course:

- We will look at how to compose in camera images based online and color and basic 2D design geometry.

- We will discuss how to use light and how repetition creates meaning when working conceptually.
- We will discuss how the digital image translated to the printed image. How best to proceed with getting images printed for use in making books.

### **Required Readings and Materials:**

All readings will be distributed in class

### **Tools:**

Camera or camera phone Laptop

### **Graded Assignments:**

450 point scale. Your final grade will be determined as follows: **2 Assignments: 100 points each:**

**Students will contribute meaningfully to class discussions, propose and execute a artwork to gallery standards of their own original design that shows sophistication in its craft as well as its concept and context.**

- 2 Proposals for Art Work: 100 point
- 2 Class discussion 25 points
- 2 Zines: 100 points

### **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](mailto:maria.canning@wku.edu), to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KISS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, [haley.mctaggart@wku.edu](mailto:haley.mctaggart@wku.edu), if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KISS may prevent you from participating on your KISS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KISS 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 KISS Program Director or other KISS Faculty; the KISS Office will notify your KISS 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 KISS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KISS 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. KISS 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 KISS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KISS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KISS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto:michael.crowe@wku.edu)). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KISS program director and/or faculty member, KISS 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 KISS Title IX, see <https://www.kiss.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 KISS program, attend a KISS event, or work in a KISS environment (e.g. KISS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

