



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Greece Program, Summer 2024

ENG 399 Topics: Plato's Lives: Rhetoric and Philosophy in Ancient Greece

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Rice

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description

The story of ancient Greek thought is really one of questions: What is the meaning of life? How do we define beauty? What is love? What role does justice play in our lives? How do we persuade others of truth? In this course, we'll study this story by considering philosophy and rhetoric—or the art of persuasion—in their ancient Greek contexts. As we travel throughout Greece, we'll shadow ancient Greek philosophers & rhetoricians like Plato, Aristotle, Lysias, Hippocrates, and Gorgias, and consider how philosophy & rhetoric act as a cultural commentary, determine ethics, influence politics, and ultimately provide a guide for living a just life. We'll also pay particular attention to how ancient and modern Greek culture shapes and enriches philosophy & rhetoric's long lineage, as well how ancient Grecian thought still influences the way we think, communicate, and ultimately relate to one another today (3 hours).

In all their study, students will become familiar with the theories and contexts of ancient Greek philosophy & rhetoric. Through their experiences of Greece's history and culture, students will explore how ancient Greek philosophy & rhetoric endures and shapes modern Greece.

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

Students are expected to read widely in ancient philosophical & rhetorical texts; to participate actively in analysis and discussion of Greek philosophy; to examine how philosophy & rhetoric influence art, architecture, sculpture, drama, commerce, myth, and culture in museums and at various Greek sites; to synthesize the information they've gained in class and on their own and to apply it to a problem or topic of their own choosing in a final essay.

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

We will thematically study our authors through a five (5) unit structure and pay particular attention to how each reading connects to visited sites. We will start with Aristotle's *The Art of Rhetoric* and Thucydides's *Pericles Funeral Oration*; proceed to Gorgias's *Encomium of Helen* and Epicurus's *The Happy Life*; read Isocrates's *Against the Sophists* and *Areopagiticus*; continue with Plato's *Apology* and *Crito*; study Hippocrates's *On Ancient Medicine* and Lysias's *On the Murder of Eratosthenes*; and end with selections from Plato's *The Republic*.

5. Required Readings and Materials

Required text: Aristotle, *The Art of Rhetoric*. This textbook can be downloaded for free from a variety of reputable online sources (iBooks & Amazon Kindle, for example). If you'd like a cheap paper copy, I recommend the H. C. Lawson-Tancred translation from Penguin Books (ISBN: 0140445102) or the Barnes and Noble Classics Edition (ISBN: 9781593083076). I will provide the other course texts via zip file by early May 2024.

6. Graded Assignments

Students will keep a reflective journal, which will be periodically collected and graded. This journal and an in-class presentation (or oration) will count for 40% of the final course grade. Students will also write a 7-10 page paper on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor. This paper will count for 30% of the final course grade. A midterm exam and several short quizzes will account for the last 30% of the final course grade.

Work will be graded on this scale:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

Below 60 E (F)

This course will be graded on this basis, without regard to other scales (i.e., plus-and-minus) which may apply at your college or university.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / 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 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.