



KIIS Munich, Summer 2024

GERM 335 Contemporary Culture and Civilization: Drama, Film and Popular Culture

Professor: Dr. Bess Dawson

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

**Syllabus subject to change*

Course Description: Drama, film and popular culture each offer unique veins through which to understand contemporary German society and culture. This course will explore German culture through multiple outlets in the cultural scene of Munich. Through the reading of dramas and subsequently viewing them on Munich stages, attending screenings of the Munich Film Festival and exploring the worlds of art, television and music, students will gain an in-depth understanding of the development of contemporary German society and culture, while at the same time practicing and furthering their spoken and written German at an advanced level. By examining and experiencing each of these vital aspects of culture, students will analyze the historical and societal issues that stem from both the stage and the cinema, as well as the pop culture scene, in the Munich landscape. Taught in German.

Content Outline: Plays and films will be chosen according to their production schedule on Munich stages and cinema/film festival during the program and their importance to German traditions and history. These texts and films will be read or viewed in detail, and thematic and human issues in the plays will be examined, discussed, and analyzed in short papers, presentations, and assignments. Art, television, and music will be selected according to the exhibits currently on display in Munich museums.

Course Objectives:

1. Demonstrate appropriate terminology for discussing popular culture, with emphasis on dramas and film.
2. Compare and contrast the impressions of reading versus seeing a play and/or film.
3. Discuss individual examples of popular culture in their historical context.
4. Analyze the intertwining aspects of each form of popular culture experienced, read, viewed.

Instructional Activities: Reading of plays/films, in-depth analysis, discussion, attendance at plays and/or films in Munich, attending museums and other cultural events with subsequent discussion.

Field and Clinical Experiences: Attendance at plays and films in Munich; visiting art museums and popular culture exhibits.

Grading: Students will be graded on short presentations, their ability to read and interpret dramatic texts and films, their willingness to express themselves in German, and their classroom participation in discussions.

Participation	30%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	30%
Presentations	20%

Attendance Policy: In such a short, intensive course, class attendance is vital. Thus there will be no absences allowed. Each absence will result in a drop of one letter in the grade for classroom participation, which will constitute 25% of the final grade.

Texts and References: Texts will be purchased on site, after determining which plays will be read and which will be seen on stage. Students should bring or buy a good English-German dictionary.

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.

KIIS 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, 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.

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.