



KIIS Paris I Program, Summer 2024

PSY 494: Special Topics - Psychology of Sexuality and Society

Instructor: Prof. Graf

Email: grafal@nku.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: The goal of this course is to examine cultural beliefs and practices surrounding sexual health and identity from a psychological perspective. Through analysis of historical context, cultural values and institutions, and psychological processes, we will gain an understanding of how these influences come together to shape sexual wellbeing. Paris's history of progressiveness will be illustrated through excursions that showcase past and present approaches to sexuality as a comparison point to American culture. Ideas and solutions that are sensitive to individual and cultural diversity will be discussed in response to critical issues of worldwide concern, including but not limited to discrimination, adequacy and accessibility of sexual health education and services, and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and other sexual and reproductive health matters.

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:

By the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- DESCRIBE sexuality as multidimensional (i.e., biological, psychological, and social)
- IDENTIFY key developmental and societal influences on multiple aspects of sexuality, including identities, attitudes, and behaviors
- EVALUATE the roles and ethics of institutional involvement (e.g., education, medicine, government) in prescription of sexual and reproductive beliefs and practices
- CRAFT rational and sensitive ideas and solutions to current global and local sexual and reproductive matters

4. Major Topics covered in the Course (schedule is a work in progress and subject to change)

- **Week 1** – facets of sexuality, diversity, and mindful language and observation techniques
 - Day 1 – class discussion
 - Day 2 – class discussion (possible panel)
 - Day 3 – representation matters (art museum excursion)
- **Week 2** – personal and social factors influencing sexual identity development, attitudes, and behavior
 - Day 4 – class discussion (possible panel)
 - Day 5 – media scavenger hunt/class discussion
 - Day 6 – Le Marais district excursion
- **Week 3** – global and local sexual and reproductive matters
 - Day 7 – sex education (possible guest speaker/excursion)
 - Day 8 – sexual and reproductive healthcare (possible guest speaker/excursion)
 - Day 9 – Pigalle district excursion
- **Week 4** – promoting sexual well-being for all; sexual citizenship; sexual rights
 - Day 10 – sexual activism (possible guest speaker/excursion)
 - Day 11 – student led discussions
 - Day 12 - Marche des Fiertés (Paris Pride)

5. Required Readings:

Films (watch ahead of departure):

- Let's Talk about Sex (2009) Docurama – Youtube
- TED talk [Kate Dawson: Destigmatizing Conversations About Sex](#)

Articles:

- [Magic of Validation](#) (also available as a podcast)
- [Increasing Comfort Around the Topic of Sex](#)
- [Tips for Talking About Sex](#)
- *Additional articles and health reports will be provided electronically.*

Books:

- TBD

6. Graded Assignments:

Assignment	Description	Points
Quizzes	Students will complete four recap quizzes at the end of each week to assess their understanding of the themes covered.	20 points, each (26.7% of grade)
Participation	Classes such as these are more interesting when the class engages with one another and shares their perspectives and understanding of the material. Therefore, good, old-fashioned talking is strongly encouraged as a form of participation. Participation will be assessed also by periodically collecting in-class activities. These will be unannounced and will likely involve some sort of indication that students are at least prepared to participate. We will also be engaging in cultural excursions, which students are expected to attend and integrate into discussion and reflection to demonstrate participation.	60 points (20.0% of grade)
Journaling	THIS ASSIGNMENT IS NOT MEANT TO BE FINISHED IN ONE DAY OR WEEKEND. Weekly journals entries (3 entries per/week, 12 total entries) will be used to document thoughtful insights and reflections related to course content and your experiences while in France. Entries may focus on your experiences and reactions to the setting as relevant to the course, the course material (including lectures, discussions, readings, and site visits), and personal experiences (including interactions with locals and experiences on your own outside of class). Students set their own level of personal disclosure.	60 points, 5 per entry (20.0% of grade)
Final Project	For this assignment, each student will select a sexual health/well-being matter of interest. This may be an issue of local or global concern. They will introduce the topic, discuss the personal and social factors related to the issue, and draw cross-cultural comparisons in responses to the issue between France and the US (other countries may be included but France and the US must be a part of the comparison). Drawing this information together, students will make recommendations for interventions that are scientifically valid and culturally sensitive. Lastly, students will detail how they might evaluate the effectiveness of their proposed interventions. Students will receive points for selecting a topic/format, completing a planning worksheet, and delivering a final report.	100 points (33.3% of grade)
Course Total		300

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 they have 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 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 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/eo/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.