



## KIIS ITALY Winter 2024-25

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### ART 491: Italian Decorative Art & Design (3 hours)

**Instructor:** Prof. Ian Hagarty

**Email:** hagarty@marshall.edu

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

#### **1. Course Description:**

*Italian Decorative Art & Design* is a course open to students who are interested in learning about the history, purpose and application of illusionistic decorative art in Italy. This course is open to all students/majors and will serve as an upper-level art studio elective or an upper-level general elective. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Like magicians with art materials, artists & designers have long used visual tricks to fool the viewer's eye. Solid stone statues appear to breathe air and capture the essence of energetic movement. Flat paintings seem like they open into another dimension or are rendered so realistically that they tempt the senses. For this course students will examine the history, purpose, and application of illusionistic deception in Italian art and design through countless visits to museums, churches, galleries and historic sites. We will investigate, emulate and photograph images as they are displayed in excursion sites. Assignments will embody the "Place-As-Text" approach to active learning and will consist of readings/responses, discussions and collaboration, creating and presenting a research photo-archive, as well as attempting to recreate images using basic art techniques. A digital camera is required (some camera phones will work fine) and students must purchase art materials either prior to departure or upon arrival in Italy. This art course is open to all majors and there are no prerequisites in order to enroll.

#### **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 Learning Outcomes:

Course Outcome	Practice	Evaluation
Students will have developed the ability to research and articulate concepts related to course and project objectives.	In-class and out-of-class projects require informal writing, a research photo-archive connecting their personal artwork to external sources (site visits) and to be professionally presentable.	Verbal and written feedback from instructor, classmates and individual self-evaluation.
Students will be able to skillfully use art materials with proficiency and in the context of assigned project objectives.	Progressive technical skill building (conceptual and physical) using a variety of art materials related to the course description.	Verbal and written feedback from instructor, classmates and individual self-evaluation.
Students will be able to critically analyze her/his own work and the work of others using descriptive language.	In-class critiques with an emphasis on using descriptive and analytical language. Out-of-class writing assignments using descriptive and analytical language.	Verbal and written feedback from instructor, classmates and individual self-evaluation.

### 4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- 1) To observe, photograph and research numerous works of decorative art & design as they exist in Italian museums, galleries, churches and historical sites.
- 2) To analyze and consider the context and function of these artworks as decorative images using inquiry based thinking, information literacy and critical thinking.
- 3) To develop the basic skills to recreate similar images using available two-dimensional techniques and materials (watercolor, pencil, pastel, etc.) employed by designers and artists.
- 4) Class sessions and excursions will be used to investigate and photograph images as they are displayed in excursion sites. Major assignments will consist of creating and presenting a research oriented photo-archive, as well as recreating images using art techniques. These assignments require a digital camera and presentation tool, such as, Power Point.
- 5) Parallel to organizing a research photo-archive and the making of art-objects, students are also required to complete assigned readings, submit informal writing assignments, present their work/research, and to critique the work of classmates—all of which aligns with the, “Place-As-Text” experiential learning model.

### 5. Required Readings and Materials:

**Students must purchase art supplies either *prior to travel* or *on site* and must bring a digital camera with ample storage (8GB SD card minimum) and camera usb cable.**

Students will be expected to prepare digital presentations of their work, therefore, it is recommended to bring a laptop or tablet that will allow you to create a basic slide presentation (ie. PowerPoint, etc.). If unavailable, the professor can lend a laptop during scheduled work times at the hotel.

**REQUIRED ART MATERIALS & TEXTS (Can be purchased in Italy or in prior to departure)**

*\*You do not need to purchase materials you already own. It is your responsibility to replenish any materials that you run out of and need in order to complete assignments. If you come to class without materials or are unprepared to work, you will be recorded as absent.*

\*If you have specific questions about any art materials, please email Professor Hagarty at: [hagarty@marshall.edu](mailto:hagarty@marshall.edu)

**1) WATERCOLOR PAINT or WATERCOLOR PENCILS** (student grade is fine, but not scholastic) – **Recommended Brands:**

Windsor & Newton, Grumbacher, Daler-Rowney, Utrecht, Holbein, LUKAS, Sakura Koi, Schmincke, Reeves, Van Gogh

**\*I recommend buying a basic watercolor kit of, at-least, 8 colors; colors should be representative of the color wheel**

\*You may purchase tube OR pan/block watercolors

**2) WATERCOLOR BRUSHES – Purchase a variety of Synthetics or Sable Hair (some kits come equipped w/ brushes)**

* 1 Bright or Flat (minimum)	Medium size
* 1 Filbert (minimum)	Small size
* 1 Round (minimum)	Small size
* 1 Wash Brush	Small or medium size

**3) PENCILS, ERASERS, PENCIL SHARPENER**

At least 1 2H, 2B, 4B; White plastic eraser, grey kneaded eraser, metal pencil sharpener

**4) DRAWING BLENDING STUMP**

**5) BOUND SKETCH BOOK/JOURNAL 14" x 11" MINIMUM**

**6) WATERCOLOR PAPER BLOCK OR PAD**

Here is a link to an example:

<http://www.aswexpress.com/wholesale/paper/watercolor-sheets-and-blocks/canson/montval/blocks.html>

**7) READING ASSIGNMENTS & TEXTS WILL BE PROVIDED DIGITALLY PRIOR TO DEPARTURE**

**7. Graded Assignments:**

## **Projects & Assessment:**

<b>600</b> points max	<b>Photo-Archive Document</b> –research, analysis, contextualization & presentation
<b>200</b> points max	<b>Active Participation</b> excursions and discussions
<b>100</b> points max	<b>Artworks</b> , sketches, paintings, etc.
<b>50</b> points max	<b>Required Readings &amp; Informal Writing</b>
<b>50</b> points max	<b>Critiques</b> 1 meeting in Florence; 1 meeting in Rome
<b>1000 point max total</b>	

**Grade Scale:** (\*Please note KIIS/WKU does not award +/- grades; only full letter grades)

A = 900 - 1000

B = 800 -899

C = 700 -799

D = 600 - 699

F = Below 600

## **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](mailto: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 Office Manager, 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 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 Office Manager, 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, 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 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/titleix/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.