



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Amsterdam-Barcelona Program, Summer 2025

ART 494 Topics: Art & Food in Amsterdam & Barcelona

Instructor: Emily Elizabeth Goodman, PhD

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Instructor's office hours: By appointment using Google Calendar

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

Food has been one of the most common subjects in the history of western art; from history paintings depicting loaves and fishes and Edenic apples to the fruits, meats, and vegetables that populate still life in a variety of forms, we love to gaze at our food, and to render inedible materials into forms that look good enough to eat. This course will consider what it means to depict food in a variety of ways. Given that this course will take place in Spain and the Netherlands—locations that have a very rich still life tradition—we will begin by considering works that focus solely on food and consider how these artworks relate to local culinary history, as well as how they demonstrate the impact of globalization upon these practices. We will then expand our exploration of food in art to consider how artists have brought food into other genres of art, considering the significance of eating, cooking, and serving food to others. This course will be interdisciplinary in nature, drawing from the broader field of food studies and applying many of the ideas around culinary history, theory, and practice to the study of art.

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:

The goal of this course is to enhance your understanding of the history of art by studying how food has been depicted in different moments across time. In this class, you will improve your skills in identifying and analyzing works of art based on their stylistic, thematic, compositional, and aesthetic qualities. You will practice engaging with different kinds of scholarly sources, reading and reacting to both primary and secondary literature in order to enhance your understanding of particular works of art. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- discuss key issues that have shaped European art and the history of food in Europe as well as the major debates that scholars of this topic grapple with today
- employ writing, critical reading, and visual analytical skills
- produce written and multimodal arguments about art and food

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- History of modernization/industrialization
- History of globalization and European Imperialism
- Food history
- European art since 1500

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:

Area IV- Upper Level General Education

6. Required Readings and Materials:

No required text; all materials will be shared via LMS

7. Graded Assignments:

Students will be graded according to the following breakdown of assignments:

In-class Participation:	25%
Pre-class discussions:	15%
Long-looking assignments:	20% (10% each)
Artwork analysis papers:	40% (20% each)

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. Note KIIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

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, 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.

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) 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 KISS 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 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.