



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Barcelona - Amsterdam Program, Summer 2025

ART 496 Topics: Street Scenes / Zines Amsterdam & Barcelona

Instructor: Becky Alley

Email: becky.alley@uky.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

What is a Zine? Take this course and find out!

You'll learn basic binding techniques to transform two-dimensional artwork into zines (think handmade / DIY, magazine-like book) while exploring the vibrant cities of Barcelona, Rotterdam, and Amsterdam.

Students will explore how images and text can demonstrate an idea, experience, tell a story, address location specifically (and non-specifically) and shift an audience's perception of time and/or space through sequence and juxtaposition. Students are free to incorporate photography (from a smart phone or camera), drawing, collage, printmaking, and writing into their final works.

No art background is required. The basics of construction, design elements, and materiality will be taught and explored via class exercises and assignments.

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:

In this course, students will:

- develop both technical skills in zine/book making as well as conceptual skills regarding narrative, content sequencing, and basic design elements and principles.
- produce unique zines containing their own content created on-site. They will incorporate materials, text, imagery, etc. into their projects to effectively communicate ideas.
- expand their understanding of what zines are and how they are relevant to contemporary culture

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Studio Art - students are welcome to use and/or experiment with any 2-D art making technique including drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, photography, textiles, writing/text, etc. Some demos will be conducted by the instructor.

Design- we will discuss fundamental elements of design including: Contrast, Balance, Emphasis, Movement, White Space, Proportion, Hierarchy, Repetition, Rhythm, Pattern, Unity, and Variety

Book binding- students will learn basic staple/pamphlet binding, Japanese stab binding, coptic binding, and accordion binding. Demos on all required techniques will be conducted by the instructor.

5. Required Readings and Materials: Students will need some basic supplies for the class, all of which may be purchased in Buenos Aires or brought from home. Students are welcome to bring any materials that they might like to use including (but not limited to): paper, collage materials, drawing supplies, watercolor paints and brushes, stamps, stencils, etc. A detailed list of suggested supplies will be provided prior to the course.

6. Graded Assignments:

Journal 25%

Class discussion 25%

Zine samples (x3) 30%

final project 20%

Journal: This will be a blank notebook used for brainstorming ideas. It may contain sketches, collage elements, or written text. It should be used often and will be checked periodically throughout the course.

Class discussions: In class, we will discuss formal strategies, creative ideas, as well as share insights related to our experience in Buenos Aires. Attendance is required for discussion credit.

Zine samples: You will produce three different zines using various media and binding techniques.

Final project: You will create a final zine using techniques and content of your choosing. Students are encouraged to use their experience in Buenos Aires as inspiration.

Letter grades will be given in this class and will be assigned using the standard grading scale: 100-90%=A Represents an exceptionally high achievement as a result of aptitude, effort and

intellectual initiative. Work created exceeded all of the requirements for the project/course. 89-80%=B Represents a high achievement as a result of ability and effort. Work created met all requirements for the project and exceeded some of them. 79-70%=C Represents average achievement. Work met all requirements for the project/course. 69-60%=D Represents the minimum passing grade. Work met some requirements for the project/course and failed to meet some. 59% and below=E Represents unsatisfactory performance and indicates failure in project/course. Work did not significantly meet requirements for the project/course.

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 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/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.