



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## KIIS Austria Program, Summer 2025

### GERM 105: Introduction to Germanic Culture

**Professor:** Prof. Jordan Gabbard

**Email:** jmgabb03@louisville.edu

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

### 1. Course Description:

This course, taught in English, focuses on the cultures of the German-speaking world. Specially designed for the Kentucky Institute for International Studies, the course will combine traditional course work with carefully planned excursions and Place as Text exploration of sites in Austria and Germany.

### 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:

This course offers students the unique opportunity to combine classroom instruction about a foreign culture with the first-hand experience of living and interacting for a month in the midst

of that culture; to learn basic skills necessary to function in German/Austrian/Swiss society; to be familiar with important geographical, political, economic, social and cultural aspects of German-speaking Europe, past and present; to visit a variety of sites in Bregenz and the surrounding area that give insights into the history, culture and economy of the region; to interact daily with Austrian (German/Swiss) people in order to gain a better understanding of their views, customs and beliefs; and to appreciate a culture very different from that of the United States.

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

Course content will be delivered in class and on excursions to sites of cultural, historical and economic significance. Attendance to all classes and on all excursions is mandatory. Classroom work will rely heavily on the participation of all students, and will consist of discussion, group projects and lectures. Students are expected to complete assignments and assigned readings as scheduled and are always encouraged to ask questions and to contribute observations and information gathered from their experiences in Bregenz and elsewhere.

Themes include history, geography, language, the arts, religion, home life, cuisine, politics, social programs, leisure, media, transportation, shopping, business and education.

Instructional Activities will include lectures, group discussions, group assignments, readings, films and guest speakers.

#### **5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:**

D2 Global Diversity Cardinal Core Requirement, University of Louisville (This course will count as ML 280 at UofL, which satisfies the Global Diversity Cardinal Core requirement.)

#### **6. Required Readings and Materials:**

Krejci, Julie. CultureShock! Austria: A Survival Guide to Customs and Etiquette. Tarrytown: Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 2013. \*Kindle format available from Amazon

Lippi, Rosina. Homestead. Boston: Mariner, 2004. \*Kindle format available from Amazon

Online reading and viewing materials provided by instructor

#### **7. Graded Assignments:**

There will be three quizzes and one final exam on material covered in class, during excursions and from assigned readings. Students will submit regular journal entries on a variety of course topics, in which they will describe their experiences and reflect on cultural differences and similarities. A rubric will be provided in advance with grading criteria for these assignments.

Nightly homework assignments should be expected.

Grading Breakdown:

20% --- Attendance/Participation  
5% --- Impromptu Assessments  
20% --- Journals and Homework  
25% --- Quizzes  
15% --- Presentations  
15% --- Final Exam

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](mailto: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](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 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](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.