



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Paris 1 Program, Summer 2025

MUS 120/HON 300 Music Appreciation

Instructor: Prof. Christy D'Ambrosio

Email: cdambrosio@murraystate.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: A survey of music from early to modern times, with particular emphasis on the musical traditions of France, this course aims to widen the musical horizons and receptivities of the student. Students will actively explore the importance of music in human culture through listening assignments, concert attendance, readings, in-class discussion, and written reflection, developing a deeper understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of a variety of styles of music. Open to Honors and non-Honors students.

This course may be used to fulfill a general education requirement in fine arts at your home university. Check with your home institution's study abroad office.

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:

- Acquire a basic understanding of the fundamental elements, principles and structures of music.
- Communicate effectively about musical ideas using appropriate musical terminology.
- Understand the various style periods in Western art music and develop a familiarity with prominent composers, important compositions and various musical forms.
- Develop musical sensitivity and listening skills to better enjoy, analyze and engage with music.
- Obtain an understanding of music within the context of French history and culture.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Fundamentals, structures, and styles of art music and the accompanying terminology
- Listening techniques and discussion/critique of music
- Music and cultural identity

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: This course is designed to fulfill a general education music/fine arts requirement, pending institutional approval.

6. Required Readings and Materials:

- Esther Morgan-Ellis, ed., *Resonances: Engaging Music in Its Cultural Context*. Dahlonega, GA: University of North Georgia Press, 2020. Available as a free digital download: <https://ung.edu/university-press/books/resonances-engaging-music.php>
- Additional readings and important course files can be accessed online. Details to be provided separately.

7. Graded Assignments:

Grading will be calculated based on the following:

- **Class Participation (10%):** Students will be graded not only on attendance for all course activities, but also on active participation in class discussions and active engagement during class excursions.
- **Homework/Quizzes (20%):** Students will complete varied short assignments to monitor understanding of the material covered.
- **Excursion/Performance reports (20%):** Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of musical terms and concepts through writing assignments after each class excursion and/or performance attended.
- **Written Reflections (10%):** Students will respond briefly to various WhatsApp prompts or questions shared by the Program Director at different points during the program. These responses will require students to reflect on topics related to cultural exploration and engagement, often in preparation for or in reaction to program activities or excursions. Students will complete these assignments only once; the grade will be counted in all courses.
- **Musical Autoethnography (20%):** 2-page essay addressing the connections between music and identity, describing the cultural context of a musical moment that had an impact on you and your sense of self. Includes submission of musical track or performance that helped define this moment.
- **Sound Ecology Story Map (20%):** Record the sounds you hear in an outdoor space in Paris. Submit recording (and details about the location of this outdoor space) along with 2-page essay reflecting on the “natural music” of the given space and the impact of humans on the natural environment through sound.

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 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.