



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Argentina Program, Summer 2025

PSY 299/CRIM 489 Topics: Psychology of Crime and Law

Instructor: Prof. Kari Miller

Email: kmiller@kwc.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of the multifaceted ways in which psychology applies to crime and legal processes. Students will explore the use of psychological theories to explain criminal behavior and investigate the ways in which psychology is utilized in forensic assessment and legal settings. Emphasis will be placed on comparison between Argentina and the United States.

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:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	How students will practice each outcome:	How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed:
1. Analyze psychological explanations and interventions for criminal behavior	Readings/Class Discussion	Written/Discussion Assignment
2. Explain the various ways that psychological principles and research are utilized in legal processes.	Readings/Class Discussion	Written/Discussion Assignment
3. Explain ethical and practical issues in forensic assessment and treatment	Readings/Class Discussion	Written/Discussion Assignment
4. Evaluate legal approaches to mental health and criminal justice involvement	Readings/Class Discussion	Written/Discussion Assignment
5. Analyze and compare psychology, crime, and law issues in Argentina and the United States	Readings/Class Discussion	Final Project/Presentation

4. Major Topics covered in the Course: Psychological theories of criminal behavior, psychology and law, forensic assessment and treatment, mental health and criminal justice involvement

5. Required Readings: You can access course readings and all other course-related files, including this syllabus in [Google Classroom](#). Some readings will be required prior to departure.

6. Graded Assignments:

- Participation (20%) – You will be graded here on your active engagement with our guest speakers and tours (10%, based on pre-quizzes/excursion behavior) and during class (10%). Students are expected to attend every class and participate in all out-of-class activities as directed by the instructor/program director. KIIS requires that any unexcused absence results in a grade reduction. Your course letter grade will be deducted one full letter grade for any unexcused absence. Students with two or more unexcused absences may be expelled from the program.
 - Written and Discussion Assignments (40%) – A combination of written and discussion-based assignments will be required.
 - Final Project/Final Presentation (40%) – Students will research a specific contemporary psychology, crime, and law issue in Argentina and compare it to a similar issue/trend in the United States. For your final project, you will complete an informational video and infographic and present it to the class during our last meeting. You will be expected to reference academic and non-academic articles, books, and websites as your source material, as well as take advantage of the on-site location to interview a few locals regarding their perspective on your topic.
- All course assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade. There will be no extra credit offered. Your course will use the following scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F ≤ 59%

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.)

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.

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.