



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Austria Program, Summer 2025

PSY 299-2: The Psychology of Creativity

Instructor: Prof. Matthew Winslow

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

Theories of creativity abound, from divergent thinking, conceptual blending, flow, entropy, to even that creativity doesn't exist! We will explore these theories and more through articles, podcasts, and videos. We will also observe the many examples of creativity around Austria, from art to architecture, food to fashion, and poetry to playbills. We will also try our hand at creativity in a domain of your choosing.

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:

Students participating in this course will:

- define creativity according to psychological science

- measure their own creativity using a variety of established measures
- observe creativity in and around Austria
- develop their own creativity in a modality of their own choosing

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Topics covered will include the definition, measurement, and development of creativity; creativity in multiple modalities.

5. Required Readings and Materials: various popular press articles, videos, and blogposts. I will be using *Explaining Creativity: The Science of Human Innovation* by R. Keith Sawyer and *Creativity 101* by James Kaufman as references, but will not require students to buy these books.

6. Activities:

- **Engagement plan** – I trust students' judgment about how much and often they will engage with our class. My job is create or curate materials and experiences which will educate and demonstrate about creativity. Students will choose which and how many of these experiences to engage with. The Engagement Plan asks them to look at all the activities and plan out how many they will pursue. The Engagement Plan will also aide them in justifying their final grade proposal.
- **Daily reflections/journals** – based on class discussions, materials, and experiences in and around Austria. An emphasis will be on putting the ideas from the podcast and readings into practice while in Austria.
- **Creativity exercises** – based on research and *The Creative Habit* by Twyla Tharp
- **How creative are you?** – we will explore the various ways to measure creativity
- **Creativity project** – students will develop their creativity in a modality of their own choosing, share the progress and final product (if they wish), and provide a reflection of their experience developing their creativity

None of these activities will be graded. Instead, I will provide feedback on all activities students submit. Students will also provide feedback to each other (without grades). Students will propose their own final grade with an explanation that focuses on the benefits they received from their engagement in the course. #ungrading

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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or 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 Assistant Director, Maria Canning, or 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.