



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## KIIS Prague Program, Summer 2025

### ENG 290 Topics: Get Inspired: Creative Writing in Prague

\*The course will fulfill requirements 400-level creative writing course at ECU

**Instructor:** Prof. Bill Mullen

**Email:** Bill.mullen@ecu.edu

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

### 1. Course Description:

Introduction to fundamentals of short story, poetry, sudden fiction, and personal essay writing. Critiquing and workshoping student work. Specialized study of a selected genre (e.g., poetry, short story, screenplay) or approach to creative writing. Theory and practice.

### 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 will learn the basic techniques for creative writing in multiple genres. Students will write and workshop within the genre(s) of their choice (short story, poetry collection, sudden fiction collection, creative non-fiction, or travel writing).

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

We will cover fundamentals of the short story, poem, sudden fiction, and creative non-fiction. We will read, analyze, and discuss literature written in these genres.

#### 5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: N/A

#### 6. Required Readings and Materials:

1. Creative Writing: Four Genres in Brief by David Starkley (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

2. On Writing by Stephen King

\*Other readings will be provided by professor electronically

Materials: Laptop computer

#### 7. Graded Assignments:

**Intro Materials**            **05%**

**Journal**                    **10%**

**Work 1 & 2**                **40%**

**Workshop**                **20%**

**Active Participation** **25%**

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 KIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

#### Explanation of Graded Assignments:

**Intro Materials:** Students will introduce themselves in a paragraph (interests, why Prague, kind of creative writing they enjoy, favorite reads, etc.), complete a brief syllabus quiz, and submit one creative piece of their choice (to the professor only, as a writing sample) before the class begins. This will be emailed to the professor.

**Journal:** Students will keep a daily journal of their experience in Prague, inspiration and creative ideas about writing, how they feel they are growing as a writer, personal experiences, etc.

**Works 1 & 2:** Each Work will be a completed creative piece (short story, 5 pages of poetry, 5 pages of sudden fiction, or a personal essay/creative non-fiction piece).

\*Short Stories should be between 1250-2500 words

\*Poems should each begin on a new page (regardless the length)

\*Sudden Fiction should each begin on a new page and be between 50-500 words

\*Personal Essay/CNF pieces should be between 1250-2500 words

**Workshop:** Students will read, critique, and discuss classmates' work (respectfully).

**Active Participation:** Participation includes (but is not limited to) class attendance, contributing meaningful dialogue to class discussion, paying attention and taking notes, and attending and participating in class excursions and activities.

#### 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.

**Schedule (TBA)**