



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Netherlands Program, Summer 2026

ART 496 Topics: Street Scenes/ Zines Rotterdam, The Hague & Amsterdam

Instructor: Rachel Moser

Email: rachl.moser@eku.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

In this course, students will create zines and take photographs using their phones or cameras while traveling in the Netherlands. The goal is to move beyond typical tourist photos and use photography as a way to explore each city—focusing on colors, mood, culture, daily life, and personal impressions.

We will spend time in three cities: Rotterdam, The Hague, and Amsterdam.

- Rotterdam is known for its modern architecture and creative design. After being heavily damaged in World War II, the city was rebuilt with a forward-thinking approach. We will explore how its buildings, public spaces, and street art reflect a strong sense of innovation and identity.
- The Hague is the seat of the Dutch government and international courts. It has a more traditional feel, with historic buildings, peaceful neighborhoods, and a nearby coastline. We will consider how the city's quieter atmosphere influences its visual landscape.
- Amsterdam is known for its canals, bicycles, and mix of historic and contemporary culture. We will look at how everyday life, history, and artistic expression show up in its streets and neighborhoods.

Throughout the course, we will also reflect on local food culture and how meals, markets, and public spaces help shape the experience of a place.

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:

- Create a series of themed images presented in multiple short zines, each organized around a central idea through both design and content, with or without text.
- Evaluate their own work and the work of others, both conceptually and formally, and revise their projects based on feedback from critiques.
- Explore different approaches to zine-making, including digital and analog methods, while considering how format and materials affect meaning.
- Apply basic layout, design, and sequencing techniques to produce up to three small zines (8.5 x 11), incorporating imagery, text, and other elements to communicate ideas related to memory and place.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Introduction to zine culture and history
- Visual storytelling through photography and layout
- Using photography to document place, culture, and mood
- Designing around a central theme or concept
- Sequencing images and organizing content
- Digital vs. analog zine-making methods
- Working with found materials, collage, and text
- Exploring memory and personal narrative through design
- Peer critique and revision strategies

- Cultural observations and creative reflection in Rotterdam, The Hague, and Amsterdam

5. Required Readings and Materials:

All readings will be distributed in class

Tools:

Camera or camera phone Laptop

6. Graded Assignments:

Grading Scale (450 points total):

- **2 Zine Projects – 100 points each (200 points total)**
Students will create two original zines that thoughtfully explore a chosen theme. Zines should show strong use of design, sequencing, and content (with or without text), and reflect the cities explored. Craft, concept, and clarity are key.
- **2 Proposals for Zines – 50 points each (100 points total)**
Students will submit two brief proposals outlining their intended theme, format, materials, and creative approach before beginning each zine project.
- **2 Class Discussions / Critique Participation – 25 points each (50 points total)**
Students are expected to actively engage in class conversations and critiques, offering thoughtful feedback and reflections on their own work and the work of peers.
- **1 Final Reflection Zine or Analog Mini Zine – 100 points**
A third, smaller zine (can be analog or digital) that reflects on the overall experience, themes of memory and place, or the creative process itself.

7. Generative AI Policy:

Generative AI is permitted/encouraged in some ways, with proper attribution, but prohibited in other ways.

Students are allowed, encouraged, and even required to use Generative AI in some ways but are prohibited from using it in other ways. Keep in mind that any content produced by generative AI can “hallucinate” (produce false information), so students are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of any AI-generated content. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>.

Students are permitted and encouraged to use generative AI in the following ways:

- Brainstorming: You may use generative AI to stimulate creativity, generate ideas, or brainstorm topics for papers, presentations, and discussions. The generated content must serve as a steppingstone, not a final product.
- Citation Assistance: AI tools can be used to manage, format, and organize citations and references, promoting adherence to academic writing standards and specific style guides required for individual assignments.

- Grammar and Style Checking: AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors.
- Concept Understanding: Generative AI can be used to explain or simulate concepts taught in class, aiding in a deeper understanding.
- Research Assistance: AI can be used to conduct initial research, compile data, and summarize articles, books, or papers. It should not replace traditional research methods but rather enhance them.

You may not use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work without attribution. This includes essays, papers, presentations, and exam answers.
- Data Manipulation: Using AI tools to alter data or create misleading information.
- Misrepresentation of Skills: Using generative AI to complete tasks that are meant to assess your knowledge and skills.
- Confidentiality Breach: Using AI tools that might violate KIIS/university policies or laws related to data privacy and confidentiality.

Metacognitive Reflection. In addition to a proper citation, the student should include the following statement with any assignment where generative AI is used for assistance.

"I used generative AI [INSERT NAME OF PLATFORM] for assistance in the following ways on this assignment: [INSERT WAYS USED, such as brainstorming, citation assistance, grammar and style checking, concept understanding, and research assistance, etc.]."

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.