



KIIS Greece Program, Summer 2026

ENG 396 Greek Mythology in Context

Instructor: Prof. Richard J. King

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

No stories contain greater richness and depth, and none have been more influential, than those we call "Greek myths." In this cross-listed class students learn to read the manifestations of myth in sculpture and vases as well as selections from ancient texts - Hesiod, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. We visit the Athenian Acropolis, Eleusis, Delos, Argos, and Mycenae, the very settings in which the mythological episodes take place. Above all, this course explores classical myth's connections with ancient religious practices and the Greek landscape - the mountains, caves, rivers, and the sea—but also the evidence of ancient Greek myth in material culture (3 hrs credit) Students will examine the mythological content of ancient Greek texts and visual art in their ancient and modern contexts to explore ancient culture and some of its influences on modern thought. In all their study, students are encouraged to look for survivals of ancient attitudes and practices in modern Western life.

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:

The KIS Greece program has developed the following student learning outcomes for all courses in the program: After having completed the KIS Greece program, students will have

- honed their knowledge of Greece and Greek society, from antiquity to the 21st century;
 - synthesized academic concepts with real world experiences;
 - observed Mediterranean life in rural settings, in middle-sized towns, and on islands, as well as in the megalopolis of Athens;
 - interacted with ordinary Greeks on a regular basis;
 - exhibited confidence in their abilities to function competently in another culture;
 - articulated an understanding of what it means to be the stranger in another land;
- articulated the relationship between ideas and place (i.e., geography, landscape, buildings, monuments) as that relationship reflects the past, the present, and the recreation of the past in the present;
- clarified their personal values, both as U. S. citizens and as individuals;
 - deepened their appreciation for the values of others;
 - improved their oral and written communication skills in English.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- What is Myth?
- Cultural Contexts of Myth
- Approaches to Myth / • Creation Myth
- Twelve Olympians
- Athena
- Apollo and Artemis
- Theseus, Ariadne
- Legends of Attica
- Delos, Delphi and Apollo
- Olympia: Tantalus, Pelops and Olympia
 - Legends of Mycenae, Argos
- Nauplion: Asclepius, Atreus, Agamemnon
 - Corinth: Medea and Jason
- Eleusis: Demeter
- ...and more

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement:

On the Ball State campus, this course fulfills the Classical Cultures (CC) 205 Tier-2 General Education requirement. It will also contribute to the CC major and minor, the Latin Teaching major, and the Ancient Studies minor. This course may fulfill some General Education requirements on your campus. Often similar courses appear in ENG (English) or History programs. Please be sure to explore this possibility with your campus KIS representative.

6. Required Readings and Materials:

Text: *Classical Mythology* by Mark Morford, Robert Lenardon, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press. (7th edition or later)

To save money: (1) *get an older edition*. It'll be cheaper; try the 7th ed. (2) *Share with roommates* (in the use of and carrying the book). (3) *search for non-paper versions* (for example, pdf, 7th edition: <https://archive.org/details/ClassicalMythology>).

Note: The instructor may direct students to additional electronic texts, if needed.

7. Graded Assignments:

Scale: 90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D Below 60 E (F)

This course grade will not assign plusses or minuses as part of the course grade, a system which may apply at your college or university, but not on KIS programs.

Activities.

Students will write short artifact response papers and/or take short quizzes; artifact response papers are descriptions and analyses of myth as portrayed in the ancient/modern artifacts (or sites) students observe. (1) These Short quizzes/short compositions will contribute 60% of the course grade. (2) Students will create a final presentation (in groups); the topic is selected in consultation with the instructor (40% of the grade).

8. 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 KIS/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.]."

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. Academic Honesty Policy:

Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own) or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

13. A Warning:

Some of the material in this class may trigger disturbing thoughts or memories. Many of the works of art are explicit or nudes. Please feel free to step out of class if you feel uncomfortable.