ENG 290 Topics: Tortured Poets: From the Ancient Greeks to Taylor Swift

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

Embark on a transformative study abroad experience with "Tortured Poets from the Ancient Greeks to Taylor Swift" as you delve into the profound literary legacy of Greece. Encounter the timeless works of Plutarch, Apollodorus, and others and consider issues of voicelessness in these texts. Engage with modern retellings, such as Christa Wolf's *Cassandra* and *Oreo* by Fran Ross; critical analyses, such as Elizabeth Lesser's *Cassandra Speaks: When Women are the Storytellers, the Human Story Changes*; and popular culture references to and depictions of voicelessness and disenfranchisement in ancient Greece and today.

This immersive journey extends beyond the classroom, with on-site visits to historical landmarks and museums, enhancing your understanding of Greek literature's cultural resonance. Assignments include crafting comparative analyses on the juxtaposition of ancient and modern themes, analyzing the evolution of literary techniques, and producing a creative piece inspired by the course site and the subject matter. Immerse yourself in the captivating narrative tapestry that spans millennia, bridging the classical and contemporary in the heart of Greece.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:
KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from 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 in 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 are expected to read assigned course materials; participate actively in analysis and discussion of the course texts and topics; examine how the course texts and topics relate to the culture, history, politics, and places of Greece as they experience Greek culture firsthand; and synthesize the information and experiences they've gained in the course through course assignments.

After completing the course, students will have:

- Honed their knowledge of Greek myth and literature (classical and contemporary) in relation to the themes of voicelessness and societal disenfranchisement
- Developed firsthand understanding of Greek culture, history, and politics as related to both literature and experience, synthesizing academic concepts with real-world learning
- Observed Greek life in a range of settings and interacted with Greek people on a regular basis
- Learned to function effectively in another culture and country
- Developed an understanding of what it means to be a stranger in another land
- Considered the relationship between ideas and place (geography, landscape, buildings, monuments, etc.) as that relationship shifts over time in the past and present and in "reimaginings" and "retellings" of the past in the present
- 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 voices are privileged and preserved by history and literature?
- How does myth underpin literature?
- How does literary point of view contribute to or challenge voicelessness?
- How do myth "reimaginings" and "retellings" challenge assumptions about whose voice matters?

5. Required Readings and Materials:

- *Apollodorus, the Library* (Book 2): https://www.theoi.com/Text/Apollodorus2.html#4
- *Theseus* by Plutarch: https://classics.mit.edu/Plutarch/theseus.html
- *The Aeneid* by Virgil (Book 2): https://classics.mit.edu/Virgil/aeneid.2.ii.html
- *Cassandra* by Christa Wolf, Published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988; ISBN-13: 978-0374519049
- *Oreo* by Fran Ross, Published by New Directions, 2015; ISBN-13: 978-0811223225
- *Herc* by Phoenicia Rogerson, Published by Hanover Square Press, 2023; ISBN-13: 978-1335016775
- *Cassandra Speaks: When Women are the Storytellers, the Human Story Changes* by Elizabeth Lesser, Published by Harper Paperbacks, 2022; ISBN-13: 978-0062887191
- *Pandora's Jar: Women in the Greek Myths* by Natalie Haynes, Published by Harper Perennial, 2002; ISBN-13: 978-0063139466
- Various critical articles provided as handouts or PDFs
- Various songs from Taylor Swift's musical catalog

6. Graded Assignments:

Assignment	Description	Point Value
Participation	Active participation in the course	100 Points

Assignment	Description	Point Value
Comparative Analysis Paper	Comparative analysis of Book 2 of Virgil's *The Aeneid* and Taylor Swift's "Cassandra," "Mad Woman," and "The Prophecy"	125 Points
Critical Response Papers (Three)	Critical response to selected myth retellings, analyzing the original myth and the reimagined version in relation to the themes of voicelessness and disenfranchisement	100 Points Each
Museum and Site Observation Log	Log of observations from museums/site visits, considering which voices are prioritized and preserved in history	175 Points
Final Project: Myth Retelling	Retelling of a Greek myth through a different sociocultural lens with an analysis of/reflection on the differences and the rationale for those differences	300 Points
Total Point Value		1000 Points

Work will be graded on this scale:
- 1000-900 A
- 899-800 B
- 799-700 C
- 699-600 D
- 599-0 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: KIIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.

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 stepping stone, 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 in your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, with 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 in 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.