



## KIIS Spain I Program, Summer 2026

### SPAN 306 Experiencing Spanish Abroad: Writing Spain (Escribir España)

**Instructor:** Dr. Ruth Brown

**Email:** [ruth.brown@uky.edu](mailto:ruth.brown@uky.edu)

**Office hours:** on site and by appointment

*Syllabus subject to change*

#### 1. Course Description

This course invites you to uncover the everyday language of Spain as you explore the streets, stories, and signage of Segovia and beyond, transforming what you read, hear, and see into rich, purposeful Spanish writing. You'll develop your skills in professional, digital, and creative writing while using real-world texts to inspire your work. Taught in Spanish.

#### 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 Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to utilize the Spanish language in order to:

- **Produce culturally informed written texts in Spanish across multiple genres**, including professional, creative, and digital formats, drawing on authentic materials and observations from everyday life in Spain.
- **Narrate, describe, and explain ideas with increasing accuracy and depth** in Spanish, using appropriate vocabulary and structures to express preferences, opinions, and reflections on personal, academic, and community experiences.
- **Demonstrate awareness of socio-cultural conventions in written communication** by comparing and incorporating practices and perspectives from Spanish-speaking contexts into their own writing, with attention to tone, register, and audience.

#### 4. Major Topics Covered in the Course

| Week  | Writing styles and techniques to explore                            | Language structures   | Assignments                                                                               |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| One   | Digital narratives (social media, blogs)                            | Preterit & imperfect  | Journal 1<br>Writing workshop 1<br>Place as text: Toledo                                  |
| Two   | Professional narratives (Travel guides, travel and product reviews) | Present subjunctive   | Journal 2<br>Writing workshop 2<br>Quiz 1<br>Place as text: Madrid                        |
| Three | Creative writing (erasure poetry, microfiction)                     | Imperfect subjunctive | Journal 3<br>Writing workshop 3<br>Place as text: Salamanca                               |
| Four  | Strategies for revising and editing                                 | Conditional           | Journal 4<br>Quiz 2<br>Place as text: Valladolid<br>Final portfolio and oral presentation |

#### 5. Spanish Language Commitment and Expectations

Success in this class is intimately linked to living abroad, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the abundant opportunities for reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Spanish that you will find around you while living in Spain. Students who make a sustained effort to use only Spanish outside of class throughout the program do well in class, without exception. It is essential that **you take initiative to create opportunities for interpersonal exchange in Spanish** with those around you, including your host family and people you encounter in the community. As part of this class and your participation in this KIIS program, you should plan to speak only in Spanish with your host family, roommate, people you encounter in the community and on program excursions, and with other KIIS students and faculty.

#### 6. Required materials and readings

- Course materials for required readings, homework, and other activities will be provided on site (you can either print them all, or download them and have them available on your electronic device)
- Access to a Spanish/English dictionary either through a print edition or online on [Wordreference.com](http://Wordreference.com).

## 7. Graded Assignments

Assignments are organized into the following categories and the overall class grade is determined based on these category weights:

- Preparación y participación 20%
- Jornadas (4) 20%
- Pruebas (2) 15%
- Talleres de escritura (3) 20%
- Presentación oral y portafolio final 25%

### Preparation and participation 20%

We will use our class meetings to explore, discuss, and experiment with different styles of writing that you will encounter during your time in Spain. Reviewing assigned materials, studying related vocabulary, and preparing assigned readings in advance will help you feel more confident and benefit from our class meetings. Preparation for and engagement in these meetings will be evaluated weekly through a participation grade.

We will also take advantage of our travels in Spain by completing Place As Text reflection activities based on our group excursions to Madrid, Salamanca, Toledo and Valladolid. These activities will be graded as part of class preparation and participation.

### Journals 20%

Regular journaling in Spanish will help you develop your written fluency and give you a different way to think about and reflect on your experiences in Spain. The topics that you write about are up to you, but you should make every effort to write 100% in Spanish throughout the journal. Keep a lookout for inspiration around you; your writing can be accompanied by drawings, doodles, notes about your travels, quotes from people you live with or meet, text or words from signs or online media, etc. Journals should be handwritten and turned into Dra. Brown at the start of class on Mondays. Since you will have a full week between submissions, you should aim to write at minimum 5 separate entries and 1000 words total for each journal deadline.

### Quizzes 15%

We will have two written quizzes to check your understanding of the vocabulary, structures, and cultural topics that we have been exploring in class.

### Writing workshops 20%

These in-class workshops will allow you to develop your formal writing skills by applying the genres we are learning about to topics that are relevant to your experience living and traveling in Spain. We'll have three writing workshops, one each for digital, professional, and creative narratives. These class days will include brainstorming, editing, and peer review activities. Your goal by the end of each workshop is to produce a complete draft that answers the prompt provided as fully as possible. Dra.

Brown will review your draft and provide you with suggestions, corrections, and general feedback to help you improve each piece for the final portfolio.

### **Final portfolio and presentation 25%**

The last week of the session will be dedicated to reviewing, editing, and re-writing your three writing workshop drafts. These will be submitted as a final portfolio, with the addition of a brief introduction to contextualize the pieces. You will then choose a selection of excerpts from your portfolio to present orally to your peers as an oral presentation on the last day of class.

### **Grading Scale**

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::

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

Below 60 F

## **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 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.
- 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.
- With Instructor Approval: AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors when permitted by the instructor.

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

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work. 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](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.