



KIIS Spain I, Summer 2026

SPAN 370 Spanish Conversation

Instructor: Dr. Ruth Brown

Email: ruth.brown@uky.edu

Office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description

This course will help you speak more comfortably and effectively in a wide range of social situations while also deepening your understanding of contemporary Spanish life. By sharing stories, asking questions, and expressing your opinions, you'll build vocabulary, improve fluency and accuracy, and gain confidence in navigating complex conversations in Spanish. 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:

- **Engage in spontaneous, interactive conversations** on topics such as daily life, personal interests, travel, food, and social experiences, using a range of vocabulary and expressions to exchange personal information and meet practical needs.
- **Initiate and sustain conversations in Spanish** by asking and responding to a variety of questions, expressing opinions, and narrating events in the past, present, and simple future with increasing fluency and accuracy.
- **Recognize and apply culturally appropriate vocabulary, gestures, and conversational norms** in spoken interactions, comparing these practices in Spain to those in their own communities.

4. Major Topics Covered in the Course

Week	Vocabulary and culture	Language structures	Assignments
One	Food, travel, shopping	Questions and verbal phrases	Class excursion: Al mercado Presentation 1 Place as text: Toledo
Two	Yourself, family, life at home	Perfect tenses	Quiz 1 Conversation with instructor 1 Place as text: Madrid
Three	Social life and popular culture	Commands, Indirect and direct object pronouns	Class excursion: Ir de tapas Presentation 2 Place as text: Salamanca
Four	Traditions and celebrations	Si clauses (probable and possible situations)	Quiz 2 Conversation with instructor 2 Place as text: Valladolid

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 conversation 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.
- Euro €30 for related class excursions

7. Graded Assignments

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

- Tarea y actividades fuera de clase 20%
- Participación en las reuniones de clase 20%
- Pruebas (2) 15%
- Presentaciones orales (2) 20%
- Conversaciones con la instructora (2) 25%

Homework and out of class activities 20%

Reviewing assigned materials, studying related vocabulary, and preparing assigned reading in advance will help you feel more confident and benefit from our class meetings. We will also take advantage of living and traveling in Spain by completing Place as Text reflection activities based on our group excursions to Madrid, Salamanca, Toledo and Valladolid and holding two class excursions in Segovia. Students will be required to use their own money for our Segovia excursions (approx. EU €30).

In class participation 20%

Class meetings will provide low-stress, supportive space for guided speaking practice. We will start each class meeting with a 1:1:1 activity in which the instructor will ask students to share 1 thing (*Algo...interesante, sorprendente, molesto*) that stood out to them recently. You should plan on contributing to this warm up activity at least twice a week, so keep an eye out for events, people, and experiences to share. Then we will have conversations and complete task-based activities focused on the topics related to that week's vocabulary, language structures, and cultural topics. Engagement in these meetings will be evaluated weekly through a participation grade.

Quizzes 15%

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

Oral presentations 20%

You will work in pairs or groups of three to complete two oral presentations. For each presentation, the instructor will provide you with possible situations that you might encounter while living in Spain. Groups will have some time in class to prepare a dialogue they would use to respond to one of the situations, then present their dialogue to the class.

Conversations with the instructor 25%

You will meet twice with the instructor for one on one conversation in Spanish. We will converse about topics that we have been discussing in class, your experiences in Spain, and your life in general. Note that this assignment is *not* an oral exam in the form of an interview, you should plan to take an active role in the conversation and ask your instructor questions as well.

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, 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.