



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Japan Program, Summer 2026

ART 240 Drawing II: Drawing in Japan

Instructor: Ying Kit Chan

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

"Drawing in Japan" is a studio course in drawing designed for students of all levels to explore, sketch, and document their experiences while traveling in Japan. Students will develop observational drawing skills while engaging with Japan's beautiful scenery, unique traditions, and fascinating visual culture by drawing on location, from bustling city streets to serene gardens. Through daily sketching and personal visual journals, students will practice with various drawing techniques, tools, and materials, including pencils, ink, markers, watercolor, and digital tablets. In addition to hands-on practice, students will engage in critiques of assignments and discussions on Japanese aesthetics. By the end of the program, students will have developed concepts and techniques in drawing and created a body of work that reflects their artistic growth and personal experiences in Japan. Note: as a 200-level course, applicable prerequisite classes [e.g. ART 140 at WKU] and/or experience in the mediums is required prior to taking this course.

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:

- Demonstrate an understanding of basic drawing techniques, such as line quality, shading, composition and perspective.
- Develop the ability to observe and translate three-dimensional forms into two-dimensional representations through drawing exercises inspired by sights and scenes of Japan.
- Experiment with various drawing mediums, including pencil, charcoal, ink, and watercolor.
- Enhance your understanding of drawing and contemporary art by actively participating in discussions and critiques of various artworks.
- Engage in constructive critiques of your work and that of your peers to mutually enhance the vision and quality of the work.
- Recognize the creative process as both an artistic experience and a means to enhance critical thinking.
- Develop a deeper appreciation of how art connects to its cultural and historical contexts.
- Create a portfolio of your drawings that showcases your progress and artistic development throughout the course.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Line and Shape: Understanding different types of lines and how to create shapes through line work.
- Composition: Learning to arrange elements within a drawing for balanced and visually appealing compositions.
- Value and Shading: Exploring how to create depth and dimension through light and shadow.
- Perspective: Introducing one-point and two-point perspective to create the illusion of depth in drawings.
- Proportion and Anatomy: Studying the proportions of objects, figures, and the human form for more accurate representation.
- Textures: Techniques for rendering different surface qualities like skin, fabric, and natural materials.
- Materials and Tools: Practice with various drawing tools (pencils, charcoal, ink, etc.) and paper types.
- Sketching Techniques: Learning to quickly capture subjects on location.
- Color Theory: Basics of color mixing and application if the class includes colored mediums.
- Critique and Discussion: Involvement in constructive critique to develop the ability to evaluate and improve one's work.
- Portfolio: Students will develop a portfolio of drawings inspired by Japan's beautiful scenery, unique traditions, and fascinating visual culture.

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: (If applicable, i.e. if you feel that your KIIS course will fulfill/satisfy a Gen. Ed. requirement at your institution— more likely a possibility if you are teaching a non-Topics course— please list briefly the way your KIIS course will fulfill the Gen. Ed. requirements. If this section is not applicable to your course, you may delete this section (#5) from your syllabus.)

6. Required Readings and Materials:

- Pencils: graphite pencils (various grades including HB, 2B, 4B).
- Charcoal pencils HB and 2B.
- Colored Pencils: basic set of colored pencils (Prismacolor or Faber-Castell).
- Pen: Staedtler Pigment Liner Pens, black, 0.5mm.
- (Optional) Watercolor set, brushes and mixing tray.
- (Optional) Digital: tablets such as iPad.
- Pencil sharpener.
- Soft rubber eraser: white or clear.
- Drawing pad 11x14 inches (smooth or textured).
- Small Sketchbook: a dedicated Moleskin Art Collection sketchbook (5x8.25 inches, 78 pages) for sketches and notes.

7. Graded Assignments:

Attendance and class participation (30%)

Regular attendance, punctuality in class, and active participation in group discussion and critiques.

Drawing assignments as assigned (50%)

You will complete a series of drawing throughout the course. You will be expected to have a final selection of 10 finished drawings (11x14 inches), in addition to the small sketch book. There will also be short written assignments throughout the course.

Final presentation of portfolio (20%)

At the end of the course, present your artwork to the class that is a culmination of the course, demonstrate artistic growth, and reflection on the experiences you had in Japan.

Work will be graded on this scale:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

Below 60 E (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 KUIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter grades.)

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 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.]."

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 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.

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.