



KIIS Italy Program, Summer 2026

Art 340: Drawing III

Instructor: Kevin Gardner

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change with notice. Updated: 04/15/26

1. Course Description: This intermediate-level course is designed for students to integrate personal research into image making through a variety of drawing materials and processes. Students will build upon fundamental concepts and strategies of drawing to experiment with processes and subjects that will challenge and encourage the exploration of drawing in its multiple forms. Much of our time will be spent with on-site drawing at locations throughout Italy, and by the end of this course, students will have produced an artist's sketchbook as a record of their time abroad. Note: as a 300-level course, applicable prerequisite classes [e.g. ART 140 and 240 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: The goal of this course is to expand on the fundamental concepts and techniques learned in previous drawing courses through on-site drawing experiences. By the end of this course, you should be better able to:

- Demonstrate progress in drawing technique,
- Demonstrate discipline, time-management, visual sensitivity, work ethic and material control in the practice of drawing,
- Communicate clearly in discussion of art,
- Analyze critically your own work and the work of others and apply criticism for further progress, and
- Respond to traditions in 2D art.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- A variety of on-site drawing experiences,
- Drawing and watercolor techniques,
- Discussion and critique of drawings,
- Exploration of place in conjunction with your artistic interests.

5. Course format and schedule

Much of the work will be done on site and at locations. Be prepared for all excursions and site visits, dressing appropriately for specific locations, indoor or outdoor. See the KIIS Italy schedule for class times and excursion plans. Class session meeting locations will be announced on-going.

Unless announced otherwise, our class sessions will begin on site, not meeting to travel together to a site. Be sure to plan your routes in advance and plan travel times to and from announced locations for our classes.

You are welcome to use photography to inform completion of or touching up of drawings; however, since this is a travel course, it's important that much of your work is done on site.

6. Required Readings and Materials: ART 340 will work in traditional drawing (e.g. graphite, charcoal pencils, pen, and watercolor) materials at a scale that makes sense for travel drawing on site. This course will not have a textbook.

7. Graded Assignments: Grading will be based on completion of travel book assignments, including onsite drawings during classes or group excursions as well as other assignments. Class participation and completion of work will be important. Drawing assignments will be announced and discussed on-going through the course, and it's strongly recommended that you keep a list of assignments to organize your work and to make sure all assignments have been completed. Once completed, be sure to date all sketchbook pages and indicate which assignment matches with which page in your sketchbook.

Assessment will be based on completion of and thorough engagement with assignments as follows,

- An **A grade** is earned for exceeding expectations with especially strong commitment to work: all drawing assignments must be completed and thoroughly engaged with while demonstrating creative approaches, substantial effort, and insight regarding place and your artistic interests.
- A **B grade** is earned for entirely completing and thoroughly engaging with all drawing assignments. For B-work, no assignment will be missing or significantly incomplete.
- A **C grade** is earned for mostly completing and thoroughly engaging with drawings assignments. For C-work, no more than 2 drawing assignments may be missing or significantly incomplete.
- A **D grade** is earned for somewhat completion of and thorough engagement with drawing assignments. For D-work, no more than 4 drawing assignments may be missing or incomplete. Missing and/or not completing 5 or more assignments will earn an **F grade**.

Essentially, if you engage with and complete all assignments, you will earn a B in this course. If you neglect or miss some, you will earn a lower grade. If you exceed expectations by demonstrating an especially thorough approach to your work while showing strong insight and creativity regarding your artistic interests and understanding of place, you will earn an A.

Note that WKU, the institution you will be earning course credit from, does not offer minus and plus grades.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.