



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Argentina Program, Summer 2027

AGRI 475-1 Topics: Taste of Argentina: Exploring Food, Agriculture, and Health

Instructor: Dr. Kendall Corbin

Email: krcorb3@uky.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

Food connects us to culture, agriculture, place, and health. In this course, students will use Argentina as a living classroom to explore how food moves from farms and producers to markets, kitchens, and our plates. Through hands-on activities and field experiences, students will examine how agriculture, food systems, culture, and economics shape what we eat, while exploring the connections between diet, the gut microbiome, and human health. Students will compare their experiences in Argentina with food habits and systems in the United States and reflect on how these experiences may influence their own food choices.

This course is designed for students with diverse academic backgrounds. Previous coursework in microbiology, food science, or agriculture is not required. Foundational concepts will be introduced during the course and reinforced through hands-on activities and discussion.

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:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the connections among diet, food components, the gut microbiome, and human health, with emphasis on dietary fiber, food processing, and other factors that influence gut health.
2. Trace food from production to consumption and evaluate how agriculture, processing, transportation, markets, and food preparation influence food quality, availability, and cost.
3. Compare food systems and dietary practices in Argentina and the United States using observations, food diaries, market and agricultural experiences, and other course activities.
4. Evaluate the relationships among food, culture, economics, and health, including how socioeconomic factors and food access influence dietary choices and opportunities for healthy eating.
5. Apply scientific knowledge to real-world food and health questions by investigating unfamiliar foods, food waste, and food-system practices and communicating evidence-based conclusions about how food choices and food systems influence health.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

The course will explore the connections among food, agriculture, diet, and human health. Topics will include the gut microbiome and the role of diet and food components such as fiber; how food is produced, processed, and distributed; and how culture, economics, and food access influence dietary choices. Students will compare food systems and dietary practices in Argentina and the United States while considering how food choices and food systems affect health.

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: N/A

6. Required Readings and Materials: A traditional textbook is not required. Required pre-departure reading materials a food diary template will be shared with students. In addition, a course packet will be provided electronically and/or in printed form by the instructor.

7. Graded Assignments:

Food Diary – 15%

Students will maintain a food diary for approximately two weeks before departure and during their time in Argentina. At the end of the course, students will compare their diets before and during the program and consider how culture, availability, cost, environment, and food traditions influenced their food choices.

Food & Agriculture Photo Diary – 10%

Students will create a photographic record of food and agricultural systems encountered throughout the course. Photographs may document agricultural production, markets,

grocery stores, food preparation, packaging, processing, transportation, food waste, and other aspects of the food system. Each photograph will be accompanied by a brief explanation connecting the observation to course concepts.

From Farm to Plate: Food Investigation – 15%

Students will investigate a local food, including its production, transportation, processing, cost, nutritional composition, cultural significance, and traditional preparation. Students will trace the food's journey from production to the Argentine consumer and share their findings with the class.

Food Waste Investigation – 15%

Students will investigate food waste at one or more points in the food system, such as farms, markets, grocery stores, restaurants, or households. Students will identify potential causes of food waste, consider the nutritional, economic, and environmental implications, and propose a realistic strategy for reducing waste. The investigation may incorporate observations from course excursions.

Food Budget Challenge – 15%

Students will then develop one-week food plans in Argentina using realistic food budgets representing different socioeconomic circumstances. Students will consider how income, food prices, availability, and cultural food preferences influence food choices and access to nutritious foods.

Food System & Health Project – 20%

Using observations from excursions, their food diaries, course activities, and scientific literature, students will analyze how food is produced, processed, distributed, and consumed and how these factors may influence health. The project will culminate in a presentation or other approved format in which students compare Argentine and U.S. food practices, health-care and /or agriculture and reflect on how their own food choices changed during the program. The final topic will be approved by the instructor.

Participation in Course Activities & Excursions – 10%

Active participation in class discussions, group activities, food demonstrations, guest presentations, excursions, market investigations, and other experiential learning activities.

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 KIS/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 KUIS/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:

KUIS 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:

KUIS 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/>.

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.