



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Italy Program, Summer 2027

ANTH 366 Topics: Urban Culture and Globalization

Instructor: Dr. Robin Riner

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course will explore how economic, political, cultural, and ideological globalized processes are articulated within Italian localities and influence people's daily lives. Relying on anthropological theories and methods of analysis, we will investigate how the local and global are mutually defined within the contexts of regions and cities in Italy, Italy on the national scale, and Europe more generally. The course will pay specific attention to the impact of (post)industrialization, (post)colonialism, and global capitalism on various forms of identity and belonging, as expressed through cultural forms such as media, music, food, and patterns of consumption. We will examine how the nation-state has been reformulated in a globalized world and how this has affected people's claims for citizenship and rights.

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:

- Become knowledgeable about anthropological theories and perspectives on globalization.
- Identify the role globalization plays in constructions of identity, belonging, "home," indigeneity, nationalism, and consumption, both in investigating our own lives and the lives of those culturally different from us.
- Evaluate the validity of various arguments about globalization in reference to case studies and observations conducted during class excursions. Drawing from observations and out-of-classroom experiences, students will develop their own, theoretically informed arguments about the influence of globalization on local populations.

4. Major Topics Covered in the Course: migration and diaspora; nationhood and nationalism; post-colonialism; local/global tensions; indigeneity and the commodification of ethnicity; transborder communities; globalization of food and media

6. Required Readings and Materials:

- Full reading packet will be emailed to students prior to our departure for Italy and will be accessible via a google drive. Selected readings include:
 - Martin, T. Ethnographic mapping. In *Ethnography Made Easy*.
<https://cuny.manifoldapp.org/read/untitled-fefc096b-ef1c-4e20-9b1f-cce4e33d7bae/section/38541549-7b00-4307-a5b3-c361e5dc6f2b>
 - Griffith, L. & J. Marion. An introduction to globalization. In *Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-geneseo-culturalanthropology/chapter/globalization/>
 - Dirlik, A. 1999. Place-based imagination: Globalism and the politics of place. *Review* 22(2):151-187.
 - Foster, R. 2009. Tracking globalization: Commodities and value in motion. In C. Tilley et al., eds., *Handbook of Material Culture*.
 - Bondebjerg, I. 2009. The European Imaginary: Media fictions, democracy, and cultural identities. In *Media, Democracy, and European Culture*.

7. Graded Assignments: Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided in class.

- Tracing commodity chains assignment (25%): For this assignment, students will select one product or commodity and trace its journey from production to consumption to investigate how the product connects people, places, labor systems, cultural identities, and global markets. Students will use anthropological methods of participant observation and informal interviews to examine how globalization operates through everyday objects and experiences.
- Media assignment (25%): Students will be asked to document examples of local media and analyze them using anthropological theories pertaining to media and globalization. Short presentations of their findings will be given in class.
- Map of a block assignment (25%): Students will create maps of a chosen block in one of our excursion locales, documenting and interpreting the space, how it is used, and how people experience it, reflecting on what the space and its use reveals about local/global connections.
- Participation (25%): Participation grade is based on attendance and active participation at all classes and excursions. See attendance policy below.

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.)

Course schedule (subject to change)

Date (all dates TBD)	Activity	Reading due	Assignment due
	• Introduction to class and assignments • Discussion of globalization theory	-Griffith & Marion: <i>Globalization</i> -Dirlik: <i>Place-based imagination</i>	
	• Discuss ethnographic mapping • Work on mapping assignment in Rome	-Martin: <i>Ethnographic mapping</i>	
	• Rome excursion: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations		
	• Present/discuss mapping assignments • Discuss globalization and commodity chains	-Foster: <i>Tracking globalization</i>	Mapping assignment
	• Rome excursion: Mercato Trionfale (work on Tracing Commodity Chains assignment)		
	• Discuss globalization and the media • Continue working on commodity chain assignment	-Bondebjerg: <i>The European Imaginary</i>	
	• Bologna excursion: Quadrilatero and Via Zamboni (continue working on commodity chain assignments)		

	• Work on media assignments in Bologna and/or Florence • Present commodity chain assignments		Commodity chain assignment
	• Florence excursion: Oltrarno district		
	• Florence excursion: Palazzo Strozzi		
	• Present media assignments		Globalization of media assignment

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.