



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Japan Program, Summer 2027

ART 491: Japanese Crafts Making: Origami, Sashiko, Kirie paper cut, Chigirie paper collage

Instructor: Prof. Miyuki Akai Cook

Email: cookm@marshall.edu

Instructor's office hours: on-site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This is a studio course open to all students that immerses students in the artistry and cultural context of traditional Japanese crafts while exploring Japan. Designed for portability and hands-on engagement, the course introduces students to Sashiko stitching, origami, kirie paper cutting, chigirie torn paper collage, and mizuhiki cord art. Each craft session connects technique with art history, aesthetics, and contemporary applications, allowing students to deepen their understanding of Japanese material culture while traveling. The workshops provide hands-on studio time, and excursions to cultural sites enrich the creative experience. By the end of the program, students will have produced a portfolio of small craft projects and gained an appreciation for Japanese design traditions.

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:

In this class, students will:

- Identify and analyze how material, tools, technique, repetition, structure, and craftsmanship contribute to the visual and functional qualities of Japanese crafts.
- Experiment with traditional Japanese techniques and transform them into original contemporary artworks or functional objects.
- Learn how Japanese crafts are connected to history, everyday life, regional traditions, religion, nature, aesthetics, and social practices.

- Examine how Japanese craft traditions relate to contemporary issues such as sustainability, repair, reuse, slow making, mass production, and the value of handmade objects.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Material, tools, technique, repetition, structure, and craftsmanship contribute to the visual and functional items of Japanese crafts
- How Japanese crafts are connected to history, everyday life, regional traditions, religion, nature, aesthetics, and social practices
- Application of Japanese aesthetic concepts to studio practice

5. Required Readings and Materials:

You don't need to buy new supplies and tools if you already own them, except a sketchbook. You can purchase them in the States or in Japan.

- Bring a 5.5"x 8.5" sketchbook with at least 50 pages (recommended to buy in the States)
- Scissors, Xacto knife, glue, small cutting mat
- Coloring tool of your choice. Ex. Colored pencils, markers, ink pens, and watercolor, etc.

6. Graded Assignments:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
No so Junk Journal	550pts
Sashiko	200pts
In Class Samples / Practices	150pts
<u>Active Participation: excursions and discussions</u>	<u>100pts</u>
Total	1000pts

- **550pts – Not So Junk Journal**
Using Kirie (cut paper) and Chigirie (tearing paper) techniques with found items in Japan to create a travel journal.
 - Location/site
 - Date
 - Your thoughts
 - Items belong to the location and event
- **200pts – Sashiko**
Learn traditional Sashiko of both techniques and history. Practice traditional Sashiko and create a book cover for your journal with traditional and modern Sashiko.
- **150pts – In Class Samples / Practices**
During class time, you will learn Kirie, Chigirie, Sashiko, and Origami techniques.
- **100pts – Active Participation: excursions and discussions**

Work will be graded on this scale:

900 – 1000 A
 800 – 899 B
 700 – 799 C
 600 – 699 D
 Below 600 E (F)

(Note KIIS/WKU does not award +/- grades, only full letter 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.