



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Netherlands Program, Summer 2027

ART 496 Topics: Street Scenes / Zine – 'The Netherlands'

Instructor: Anthony Mead

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

Zines are lo-fi methods of collecting and disseminating information. Students in Street Scenes / Zine – 'The Netherlands' will be seeking cultural details, lost stories, and forgotten objects. We will investigate sequence and narrative through zines or artist books. An added emphasis will be placed on found objects and Dutch culture as both inspiration and catalysts for sustainable creative practice.

Beginning zines will have specific parameters to increase student comfort level with creating a self-produced multipage publication. As the course progresses, projects will become more open-ended, allowing for students to explore contemporary approaches to zine making and book arts. Zine and book structure demos and techniques will be demonstrated throughout the course. Instruction will be given through demonstrations, lectures, discussions, and critiques.

No art background is required. The basics of construction, design elements, and materiality will be taught and explored via class exercises and assignments

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:

- Develop both technical skills in zine/book making as well as conceptual skills regarding narrative, content sequencing, and basic design elements and principles.
- Produce unique zines containing their own content created on-site inspired by Dutch culture in the Netherlands. They will incorporate materials, text, imagery, etc. into their projects to effectively communicate ideas.
- Expand their understanding of what zines and books are and how they are relevant to contemporary culture worldwide.
- Consider how found objects function as a point of inspiration, design constraint, add meaning, and provide sustainable creative material.
- Students will participate in peer critiques, providing constructive feedback and articulating their design intentions.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Studio Art - students are welcome to use and/or experiment with any 2-D art making technique including drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, photography, textiles, writing/text, etc. Some demos will be conducted by the instructor.

Design- we will discuss fundamental elements of design, including: Contrast, Balance, Emphasis, Movement, White Space, Proportion, Hierarchy, Repetition, Rhythm, Pattern, Unity, and Variety

Book binding- students will learn pamphlet stitch, single-page zine fold, saddle binding, accordion binding, squeeze box, Tunnel book and Turkish map fold. Demos on all required techniques will be conducted by the instructor.

As significant emphasis will be placed on our immersion in Dutch culture, navigation in the Netherlands, and sustainability in creative practice.

6. Required Readings and Materials: Students will need some basic supplies for the class, all of which may be purchased in the Netherlands or brought from home. Students are welcome to bring any materials that they might like to use including (but not limited to): paper, collage materials, drawing supplies, watercolor paints and brushes, stamps, stencils, etc. A detailed list of suggested supplies will be provided prior to the course.

7. Graded Assignments:

Sketchbook: 25%

Class discussion: 25%

Single Page Map & Pictionary Poetry: 30%

Found Object Artist Book: 20%

Sketchbook: This will be a blank sketchbook that we will make early on. It will then be used for brainstorming ideas. It may contain sketches, collage elements, or written text. It should be used often and will be checked periodically throughout the course.

Class Discussions/Participation: In class, we will discuss formal strategies, creative ideas, and share insights related to our experience being immersed in the Dutch culture. Attendance is required for discussion credit.

Single Page Map: The single-page zine fold is a classic zine method. We will be using it to make a map to get to a location of cultural and personal significance chosen by the student. Folded open will be a map and in its book form will give information about the place and/or directions to get there.

Pictionary Poetry: Students will begin by bringing words to class inspired by their travels in the Netherlands and engagement with its culture. We will then play Pictionary. Words selected during the game will be used to make poems, which will then serve as the basis for an artwork. Each artwork will be bound together into a collaborative zine using a saddle stitch. Each student will receive a copy of the limited edition zine.

Found Object Artist Book: This is the most open-ended of all the projects. Students will use a found object from their travels that will serve as inspiration for their artist book. This could be objects bound together, a sculptural book, a digital book, a book as performance, a photo book, a found texture rubbing book, etc. Limitless options are available. The instructor will provide examples and demonstrations on alternative book structures in advance.

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 stepping stone, 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:

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/>.

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.