



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS Paris I Program, Summer 2027

FILM 399 Topics: Filmmaking in Paris: Culture, People and Place

Instructor: Dr. Tijah Bumgarner

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course is an introduction to hands-on filmmaking open to all students with no prior experience required. Students will explore key movements in French cinema history, with a focus on the French New Wave of the 1950s-60s, examining the styles and aesthetics that defined each era. Students will then apply these lessons by creating their own short films in the Paris streets where these legendary films were shot. Through theory and hands-on practice, students will learn about the history of French cinema from the Lumière Brothers' first films to the lasting influence on contemporary French cinema. No expensive equipment or software is required; students will only need their phone to film and a personal laptop for editing using free cinematography and editing tools.

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:

- Students will grasp the fundamentals of French film theory and storytelling techniques, gaining an introductory understanding of these concepts along with general filmmaking basics.
- Students will gain a broad perspective on the historical development of film in France and will be able to identify, compare and contrast artistic styles, genres and movements.
- Students will be able to identify key aspects regarding themes, styles, and structures in French films as we analyze and situate the significance of these aspects within the framework of aesthetic and social movements.
- Students will engage in all phases of film production: pre-production, production, and post-production, gaining practical experience and skills in each area while learning to collaborate and form community.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to effectively tell stories through all phases of production, integrating and applying their knowledge and skills while critically engaging with existing works of French cinema.
- Students will conduct independent research of French cinema aesthetics through exploration, watching, reading, and breaking down French cinema techniques.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

DAY	ACTIVITY / ASSIGNMENT
May 30 th	Group arrival; neighborhood walking tour; idea journal entry
May 31 st	Group city walking tour; fieldwork (camera walk)
June 1 st	Class (2 hrs): French Film Overview: Lumiere Brothers and the Moving Image; lecture + fieldwork (one minute, single frame film)
June 2 nd	Class Excursion (4 hrs): idea journal entry
June 3 rd	Class (2 hrs): French Film Analysis & Filmmaking Techniques: from script to screen; lecture + film screening + idea journal entry
June 4 th	Class Excursion (4 hrs): idea journal entry; fieldwork (micro-documentary)
June 5 th	Class (3 hrs): French Film Overview: French New Wave Aesthetics & Techniques; lecture + film screening + fieldwork (visual storytelling)
June 6 th	Class (4 hrs): Film Production Day; script readthrough + pre-production
June 7 th	Class Excursion (4hrs): idea journal entry
June 8 th	FREE DAY
June 9 th	Class (3 hrs): Editing Workshop; film feedback session
June 10 th	Class (2 hrs): Historic & Contemporary French Cinema Aesthetics & Techniques; lecture + film screening + idea workshop
June 11 th	Class Excursion (4 hrs): fieldwork (micro-narrative); idea journal entry
June 12 th	Class (4 hrs): Building Your Portfolio + film screening
June 13 th	Class (2 hrs): Final Portfolio; Group Film Screening
June 14 th	Departure

5. Fulfillment of General Education Requirement: (If applicable, i.e. if you feel that your KIIS course will fulfill/satisfy a Gen. Ed. requirement at your institution— more likely a possibility if you are teaching a non-Topics course— please list briefly the way your KIIS course will fulfill the Gen. Ed. requirements. If this section is not applicable to your course, you may delete this section (#5) from your syllabus.)

6. Required Readings and Materials:

FILMS (or excerpts in class)

- Various Films, Lumière Brothers
- Various Films, Georges Méliès
- A Day in the Country, Jean Renoir
- Cleo from 5 to 7, Agnes Varda
- Antoine & Colette; 400 Blows, François Truffaut
- Breathless, Jean-Luc Godard
- Friday Night, Claire Denis
- Amélie, Jean-Pierre Jeunet
- Two Days in Paris, Julie Delpy
- *Other selected films*

TEXTS (excerpts provided)

- A History of the French New Wave Cinema, Richard Neupert
- Selected Film Criticism, Anthony Slide
- French Cinema--A Critical Filmography, Colin Crisp
- French Cinema: From Its Beginnings to the Present, Rémi Fournier Lanzoni
- *Other selected readings*

MATERIALS/APPS (all free apps)

- Phone or Camera with capability to record video
- Laptop or iPad for video editing
- Blackmagic Cam app (free)
- CELTX (free)
- DaVinci (free)

7. Graded Assignments:

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS POSSIBLE
Attendance & Participation	20
Fieldwork Assignments (20 points each): various filmmaking excercies that will emphasize tools, techniques and theories covered in class	60
Idea Journal (5 points each): guidelines will be given for each entry	50
French New Wave Short: full class short films where students have various roles	100
Final Portfolio & Screening	20
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	250

To calculate your grade, divide your total points by the points possible. Then apply the resulting percent to the grade scale.

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 KIS/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:

KIS 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.