



FACULTY-LED  
STUDY ABROAD

## KIIS Greece Program, Summer 2027

### PSY 350: Social Psychology

**Instructor:** Dr. Cassie Whitt

**Email:** cassie.whitt@eku.edu

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

*Syllabus subject to change*

**1. Course Description:** In this course, students will be exposed to basic ideas from the field of social psychology, focusing on the power of situations and the impact of the social environment on human behavior. In the course, students will explore topics such as self, attitudes, persuasion, prejudice, discrimination, group behavior, interpersonal attraction, aggression, and prosocial behavior. As a study abroad course, particular emphasis will be placed on normative influence and culture, and students will be asked to consider the role that culture plays in determining beliefs, behaviors, and ways of relating to others.

### 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 (COs) and Specific Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- **CO 1:** Cultivate an understanding of social psychology as an empirical science, focusing on its methodologies, statistical reasoning, and contemporary systemic challenges.
  - By the end of this course, students will be able to:
    - SLO 1: Define the scope of social psychology and articulate its significance within the broader field of psychological science.
    - SLO 2: Differentiate between various research methodologies and basic research designs used to study social behavior.
    - SLO 3: Apply basic statistical thinking to critically evaluate the validity of empirical studies.
    - SLO 4: Explain the origins, implications, and potential solutions to the replication crisis in psychology.
- **CO 2:** Examine how the social world shapes individual identity, cognition, attitudes, and close relationships.
  - By the end of this course, students will be able to:
    - SLO 5: Analyze social psychological explanations for self-hood, identity construction, and the mechanics of Theory of Mind.
    - SLO 6: Evaluate the complex relationship between attitudes and behavior, including how persuasion operates in real-world contexts.
    - SLO 7: Critique the psychological benefits and drawbacks of engaging in social comparison.
    - SLO 8: Deconstruct psychological models of attraction, beauty, and love.
    - SLO 9: Map types of social networks and explain the correlation between interpersonal relationships and subjective well-being.
- **CO 3:** Investigate the situational forces, group structures, and psychological mechanisms that dictate collective human behavior and social pressure.
  - By the end of this course, students will be able to:
    - SLO 9: Explain the psychological mechanisms driving conformity, social pressure, and obedience to authority.
    - SLO 10: Identify the social phenomena and situational vulnerabilities that contribute to the formation and sustainability of cults.
    - SLO 11: Analyze how group dynamics and structures influence collective decision-making, cooperation, and conflict resolution.
    - SLO 12: Contrast the psychological roots of negative group behaviors (prejudice, stereotyping, discrimination, aggression) with positive group behaviors (helping and prosocial actions).
- **CO 4:** Utilize the immersive study abroad environment to analyze how macro-level cultural situations influence human behavior and personal identity.
  - By the end of this course, students will be able to:
    - SLO 13: Articulate how culture functions as a macro-level social situation that actively shapes human cognition, emotion, and behavior.
    - SLO 14: Translate abstract social psychological constructs to interpret real-world interactions, social structures, and cultural norms observed while living in Greece.
    - SLO 15: Reflect critically on personal identity development and cross-cultural perspectives.
    - SLO 16: Communicate social psychological insights and field observations in a scientifically literate, articulate manner.

**4. Major Topics covered in the Course:** Major topics in the course include self, attitudes, persuasion, prejudice, discrimination, group behavior, interpersonal attraction, aggression, and prosocial behavior. As a study abroad course, particular emphasis will be placed on normative influence and culture.

**5. Required Readings:** We will be using an open-access textbook from this website: <https://nobaproject.com/textbooks/together-the-science-of-social-psychology>

**6. Graded Assignments:**

| Assignment & Weight                                                            | Brief Assignment Description (more details will be provided in class)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Participation &amp; In-Class Discussions</b><br><i>(20% of final grade)</i> | Rather than passive listening, our class sessions will mirror the ancient Greek Agora—a public space for active debate and philosophy. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings, engage meaningfully during on-site lectures at historical locations, and actively contribute to our discussions.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Social Exploration Activities (SEAs)</b><br><i>(45% total / 15% each)</i>   | You will choose and complete three hands-on activities to bridge concepts from the class with your lived experience.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>"Social Psych in Greece" Video Project</b><br><i>(25% of final grade)</i>   | With a partner, you will script, film, and edit a creative 2-to-3-minute short-form video (formatted like a TikTok, Instagram Reel, or mini-vlog). Your task is to clearly explain a specific social psychological concept (e.g., in-groups/out-groups, social identity theory, conformity, or social comparison) using real footage, interviews, or observations you compiled while exploring Greece. Your video will be graded on conceptual accuracy, meaningful cultural integration, and creative delivery. |
| <b>Final Synthesis Reflection</b>                                              | To wrap up your study abroad experience, you will write a personal reflection paper. You                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Assignment & Weight  | Brief Assignment Description (more details will be provided in class)                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (10% of final grade) | will critically evaluate how living in Greece has altered your understanding of yourself as a social being, how culture dictates our everyday behavior, and how you plan to apply social psychological literacy to your life upon returning home. |

#### Grade Summary:

- Participation & In-Class Discussions: 20%
- Social Exploration Activities (3 x 15%): 45%
- "Social Psych in Greece" Video Project: 25%
- Final Synthesis Reflection: 10%
- Total: 100%

Work will be graded on this scale:

90% – 100% A

80% – 89% B

70% – 79% C

60% – 69% D

Below 60% 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.

#### 7. 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 KIIS/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.]."

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu)) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / [michael.crowe@wku.edu](mailto: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.