KIIS Slavic Europe Program, Summer 2027

EDU 400 / HIST 490 Topics: Teaching the Holocaust

Instructor: Dr. Karen Petrone
Email: petrone@uky.edu
Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

This course is designed for those preparing to be middle and high school teachers. It explores best practices in teaching about the Holocaust in 6-12 schools as well as in other public settings such as museums and universities. A special focus of the course will be to prepare teachers to fulfill Kentucky's 2018 mandate to teach "about the Holocaust and other cases of genocide," or to fulfill similar mandates in other states.

This course travels to Warsaw and Krakow, Poland, the epicenter of the Holocaust, and includes a tour of Auschwitz/Birkenau and other Holocaust sites. A major goal of the course, however, is the focus on the vibrant and diverse Jewish communities of Warsaw and Krakow before the Second World War. We will visit POLIN: The Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and a variety of other Jewish heritage sites including Kazimierz, Krakow's historic Jewish quarter. A second major goal of the course is to consider the Holocaust through the stories of individuals, and here we will focus in particular on the experiences of the Jews of Krakow and especially those who worked in the Schindler Factory. We will visit the Schindler Museum and trace the testimonies of a number of "Schindler Jews."

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:

-Acquire knowledge about Jewish life in Poland before the Holocaust
-Acquire knowledge about the historical contexts in which the Holocaust happened
-Acquire knowledge about the experiences of both Poles and Jews in 20th Poland
-Consider the schema necessary for students to understand the Holocaust
-Consider how to bring the traumatic events of the Holocaust to the classroom in a nuanced, sensitive and age-appropriate way
-Consider the stories of individuals and how they can be used as teaching tools
-Analyze the built environment for what it can tell us and what it obscures
-Analyze museum exhibitions for what they tell us and what they obscure
-Build level-appropriate lesson plans based on the materials introduced in this course

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

I – Warsaw – then and now
-Polin Museum
- Warsaw- August 1939
-Finding the traces of the Warsaw Ghetto

II – Jewish Krakow
-Jewish traditions and practices
- Centuries of Jewish Life in Krakow
- Kazimierz –the Jewish Quarter - then and now

III – The Holocaust
The Krakow Ghetto
The Schindler Museum
The experiences of Schindler Jews
Plaszow Concentration Camp
Auschwitz/ Birkenau

IV – Aftermath
Tourism or Remembrance
Jews in Poland today

5. Required Reading:
Students will download scholarly articles and primary source materials from a folder in Google Drive.

6. Graded Assignments:
Introductory assignments–15% - (including written work based on a pre-departure film viewing)

Before the trip, please watch either *Schindler's List* or *The Pianist*- As you watch the film, consider the particular aspects of the Holocaust that the film focuses on. Is the film effective in conveying knowledge about the Holocaust? What questions does this film leave you with?

Excursion, Reflection, and Reading Journal – 27.5%

Class Participation and Excursion Engagement - 30%

Final Project: 27.5%
Total – 100%

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

7. 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.
- 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.
- With Instructor Approval**:** AI-powered writing enhancement tools may be used to help with spelling, grammar, syntax, and stylistic errors when permitted by the instructor.

You may not use generative AI in coursework in the following ways:

- Plagiarism: Using AI-generated content as your original work. 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, 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, 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/.

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.