

Course Syllabus, Byzantine Empire, HIEU 104

MWF 1:00 – 1:50

Warren Lecture Hall 2205

Office: HSS 6012

Office Hours, MW 2:00 – 2:50

Books assigned for course:

Procopius, *The Secret History* (please get the Kaldellis translation)

Psellus, *Fourteen Byzantine Rulers*

Anna Comnena, *The Alexiad*

Week 1, The Byzantine Empire

Monday, March 28 Constantinople, the Heart of Empire

Wednesday, March 30 Byzantium's Neighbors

Friday, April 1 Byzantium's Greek, Roman and Christian Roots

Readings for the week: Begin *The Secret History*

Week 2, Justinian and the Greatness of Ancient Rome

Monday, April 4

Wednesday, April 6

Friday, April 8

Readings for the week: Finish reading *The Secret History*; Procopius, *On Racing Factions*, WebCT; *The Silk Industry*, WebCT; *Justinian Suppresses the Nika Rebellion*, WebCT; *The Plague*; *The Reconquest of Africa*

Week 3, Philosophy and Religion – Development and Conflict

Monday, April 11

Wednesday, April 13

Friday, April 15

Readings for the week:

Week 4, Byzantium's Dark Ages, the 7th Century

Monday, April 18

Wednesday, April 20

Friday, April 22

Readings for the week: The Life of St. Demetrius, webCT; Theophanes parts 1 and 2, webCT.

Week 5, Monasticism and Iconoclasm

Monday, April 25

Wednesday, April 27

Friday, April 29 Midterm Exam In Class

Readings for the week: The Life of St. Philarete the Merciful, WebCT; Theodore The Studite's Encomium on his Mother, WebCT. All readings through this week will be covered on the exam.

Week 6, The Structure of Governance

Monday, May 2

Wednesday, May 4

Friday, May 6

Readings for the week:

Begin reading Psellus, *Fourteen Byzantine Rulers*

Read Liudprand parts 1 and 2, WebCT; *De Ceremoniis*, WebCT.

Week 7, Byzantium at its apogee, Basil II

Monday, May 9

Wednesday, May 11

Friday, May 13

Readings for the week:

Finish reading Psellus, *Fourteen Byzantine Rulers*

Week 8, The People of Byzantium

Monday, May 16

Wednesday, May 18

Friday, May 20

Readings for the week:

Read The Defense of Eunuchs, WebCT.

Begin reading Anna Comnena, *The Alexiad*

Week 9, Byzantium and the West

Monday, May 23

Wednesday, May 25
Friday, May 27 The Fourth Crusade

Readings for the week
Continue reading Anna Comnena, *The Alexiad*

Week 10, The Fourth Crusade, continued.
Monday, May 30 Memorial Day Holiday
Wednesday, June 1, The Fourth Crusade
Friday, June 3, Review for Final Exam

All of the readings for this course are primary source materials.
Chronology and continuity will be provided in the lectures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Midterm exam 40%
Final exam 60%

STUDENTS MUST WRITE BOTH THE MIDTERM AND THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A "PASS" OR A PASSING GRADE IN THE COURSE. This means that if you fail to take the midterm, but take the final and receive an A, you will not receive a passing grade in the course.

TERM PAPER OPTION

I have taught this course for many years and this is the first time I have not required a significant research paper. With 70 students in the course I cannot assign a term paper. I do realize, however, that there may be students enrolled in the course who need a serious, faculty supervised and evaluated term paper in order to fulfill college graduation requirements or in order to have a paper to submit for graduate school applications. I will try to accommodate as many of you as I can, with priority given to seniors and history majors. Please visit me at office hours or after class.

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Please check the final exam schedule and make sure that you have no conflicts. Because of the size of this class I will not be able to accommodate alternative final exams this quarter.

