

Course Syllabus, Byzantine Empire HIEU 104 MWF 3:00 – 3:50  
Kathryn M. Ringrose Center Hall, 105  
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Office: HSS 6085  
Office Hours, MW 2:00 – 2:50

Books Assigned for the Course:  
Alice-Mary Talbot, *Holy Women of Byzantium*  
Michael Psellus, *Fourteen Byzantine Rulers*  
Anna Comnena, *The Alexiad*

Week 1 The Byzantine Empire  
Jan. 7 The Heart of Empire, Constantinople  
Jan. 9 Byzantium's neighbors  
Jan. 11 Byzantium's Greek, Roman and Christian Roots

Read (see web site for course) Roman Law, Introduction to The Digest, Concerning Natural Law, The Roman Senate, Clothing Worn in Byzantium, The Role of the Emperor

Week 2 The Emperor Justinian and his Reign  
Jan. 14  
Jan. 16  
Jan. 18  
Read Justinian and the Relationship Between Church and State, Social Problems in the Reign of Justinian I, The Clothing Worn by the Circus Factions, Agapetus Gives Advice to the Emperor Justinian

Week 3 Philosophy and Religion, Development and Conflict  
Jan. 21 – holiday  
Jan. 23  
Jan. 25  
Read Talbot, *Holy Women of Byzantium*

Week 4 The Seventh Century, Byzantium's Dark Ages  
Jan. 28  
Jan. 30  
Feb. 1  
Read The Chronicle of Theophanes, (part 1), The Acts of St. Demetrius the Martyr

Week 5 Monasticism and Iconoclasm  
Feb. 4  
Feb. 6  
Feb. 8 Title, outline and bibliography for your paper due today.  
Read Michael Psellus  
Read The Life of St. Philarete the Merciful, St. Theodore's Encomium on his Mother,  
The Chronicle of Theophanes, (part 2)

Week 6 The Structure of Governance

Feb. 11

Feb. 13

Feb. 15 – no class – please work on your term papers

Read Constantine Porphyrogenitus, The Arab Embassy, Observances at the Baptism of the Son of the Emperor, Liudprand of Cremona, The Two Embassies,

Week 7 Byzantium at its apogee, Basil II

Feb. 18 – holiday

Feb. 20

Feb. 22

Read Anna Comnena

Week 8 The People of Byzantium

Feb. 25

Feb. 27

Feb. 29

Read Theophylactus, The Defense of Eunuchs

Week 9 Byzantium and the West

March 3 Papers are due today

March 5

March 7

Week 10 The Fourth Crusade

March 10

March 12

March 14

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING

Essay 50%

Final Exam 50%

Watch the class web site for suggested subjects that might be suitable for a paper of at least seven pages and no more than ten (except by special arrangement) typed and double spaced. Your essay must be based on original source materials that are assigned for this course, available on reserve, or available on line through the Fordham [<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook1c.html> or Georgetown [<http://labyrinth.Georgetown.edu/>] web sites. Any other materials you wish to use should be cleared with me. I define original source materials as writings or artistic productions of authors or artists that lived during the Byzantine period. You may use additional

secondary sources (modern commentaries about these authors), but your essay should be grounded in the writings of one or more Byzantine authors.

I will expect a title, outline and list of the source materials you plan to use by Friday, Feb. 8 in class. Papers are due Monday, March 3, in class. I will not accept papers after 4:00 p.m. on that day. Papers will be graded for content and style. I adhere strictly to the catalogue guidelines (see your schedule of classes) regarding incompletes. The essay should demonstrate your familiarity with the readings in the course. Please feel free to come to me for help with your papers. The juiciest materials for the paper (Anna Comnena and Michael Psellus) fall into the time frame of the later part of the course, so you might want to look these books over and read one or both of them at the beginning of the course. There is an extensive bibliography on the web site. It will direct you to topics of interest and additional primary source materials. If you are a freshman or a transfer student, or are not confident about writing a paper based on original sources, please come and see me immediately and I will help you get started.

**STUDENTS MUST WRITE THE ESSAY AND TAKE THE FINAL EXAM IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A "PASS' OR A PASSING GRADE IN THE COURSE.** This means that if you fail to turn in the paper, but take the final exam and receive an A, you will fail the course.