

SYLLABUS
HIEU 104: BYZANTINE HISTORY

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Office: Humanities and Social Sciences 4005
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the history of the Byzantine Empire from the early fifth until the mid-fifteenth century. Discussions will center on Byzantium, but it does so in a way that acknowledges both Byzantium's political frontiers and its much broader cultural and religious influence. Although the Byzantine Empire's territory contracts dramatically across its 1000-year history, its influence in other ways becomes ever greater. The course then balances the political narrative of the empire with a broader discussion of Byzantium's legacy as a world civilization.

EXPECTATIONS:

Students will be expected to attend each class and complete readings in both ancient and modern historical sources. Larger assignments for the class include one short paper (~5 pages), a midterm exam, and a final paper of 8 pages. There will be no final examination. Evaluation will be based upon attendance and class participation (10%), the short paper (20%), the midterm exam (30%), and the final paper (40%). These percentages are not hard and fast, however. Demonstrable improvement throughout the semester will be rewarded. **Class disruptions, such as audible talking or cellphones ringing, will lead to deductions from the participation grade.**

DUE DATES:

Please note the following dates:

October 15 (short paper due)

October 31 (Midterm Exam)

December 5 (Final Paper Due in class)

(These dates have been listed in bold and italicized on the syllabus for easy reference.)

Papers must be turned in through *turnitin.com* and in *hardcopy* by the end of class on the day they are due (the turnitin.com password for this class is "decline"). No papers, drafts, or outlines submitted to the professor or graders by email will be accepted. Late papers will be penalized 5% for the first day, 10% for each subsequent day. After 5 days, the grade will be recorded as a zero. Extensions on papers and make-up examination requests will be granted only in the most extreme circumstances and then only with appropriate documentation that clearly explains their necessity.

MATERIALS:

The only required textbook is Timothy Gregory, *A History of Byzantium, 2nd edition*, (Wiley Blackwell, 2010), ISBN: 978-1-4051-84717. All other readings are either available online or will be scanned and made available on the course TED site.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

“Plagiarism—A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following:

- a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;
- b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;
- c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or
- d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.”

(Quoted from Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct, Part III, Student Misconduct, Academic Misconduct)

This is the grossest form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism will earn the student an automatic failing grade in the course. The case will also be forwarded to the appropriate administrators for disciplinary action.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

September 26

Lecture 1—Introduction

October 1

Lecture 2—The Empire that Survived
Paulinus, *Eucharisticon* (TED)

October 3

Lecture 3— The Eastern Frontier in the Fifth Century
Readings:

Cameron, 157-166 (pay particular attention to concepts of urban change), see also the map on page 178

Euphemia and the Goth (TED)

Joshua the Stylite, *Chronicle*, 49-53 (siege of Amida in 502-3), 56 (siege of Amida, summer 503), 64-87 (siege of Amida, 504-5) (TED)

October 8

Lecture 4— The Reign of Justinian 1: Political History
Readings:

Cameron, pages 104-28, 171-75 (on urban violence)

Chronicon Paschale on the Nika Riot (TED)

October 10

Lecture 5— The Reign of Justinian 2: Cultural, Legal, and Religious Themes

Readings:

“The Legal Codification of the Emperor Justinian”—includes *The Composition of the Digest; On the Whole Body of Law; Codex Justinianus*, 1.11.9-10 (TED)
Watts, *City and School*, 110-42 (TED)

October 15

FIRST PAPER DUE

Lecture 6—Subject Peoples and the First Global Age

Readings:

S. Brock, “Christians in the Sasanian Empire” (TED)
John of Ephesus, *Life of Symeon the Persian Debater* (TED)
Agathias, *Histories* 2.30-32 (TED)

October 17

Lecture 7—After Justinian: Justin II, Tiberius, and Maurice

Readings:

T. Gregory, *A History of Byzantium*, 160-72
Evagrius Scholasticus, *Ecclesiastical History*, Book 5.1, 10-15, 19-22 at
http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/evagrius_5_book5.htm
Evagrius Book 6.16-19, at:
http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/evagrius_6_book6.htm
Miracles of Saint Demetrius, Miracles 5, 6, and 8 at:
<http://www.ucc.ie/milmart/BHL2122.html>

October 22

Lecture 8—Byzantium and Persia in the Seventh Century

Readings:

T. Gregory, *A History of Byzantium*, 172-3.
Antiochus Strategos, *On the Conquest of Jerusalem*, at
http://www.tertullian.org/fathers/antiochus_strategos_capture.htm
Life of John the Almsgiver, at
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/john-almgiver.html>

October 24

Lecture 9-- The Islamic Conquest of the Near East

Readings:

T. Gregory, *A History of Byzantium*, 173-81
Yusuf Asar campaigns against Najran (TED)
Kebra Nagast, Chapters 72 (origins of Roman power), 93 (heresy of Rome), 116-7
(Najran, Justinian and Kaleb alliance) at:
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/kn/>
Al-Baladhuri on Yarmuk, at
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/yarmuk.html>

October 29

Lecture 10-- Iconoclasm

Readings:

- Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 181-219
J. Herrin, *The Formation of Christendom*, 307-343 (TED)

October 31
MIDTERM

November 5

Lecture 11—Nicephorus, Michael III, and Basil I

Readings:

- Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 227-249
Genesios, *On the Reigns of the Emperors*, Book 4.24-42 (TED)
Constantine Porphyrogenitus, *On the Victorious Return of Basil* (TED)

November 7

Lecture 12—The Byzantine Commonwealth

Readings:

- D. Obolensky, “The Black Sea Coast, the Eurasian Steppe, and Russia” (TED)
Russian primary chronicle, at
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dm10www/christin.html>

November 12

Lecture 13—The Macedonian Dynasty

Readings:

- Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 251-275
Michael Psellos, *Chronographia*, Book 1 (Basil II) at:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/psellus-chronographia.asp>
Constantine Porphyrogenitus, *The Book of Ceremonies*, Book 2.44
Constantine Porphyrogenitus, *On Imperial Administration* Prologue and 1.50

November 14

Lecture 14—The Eleventh Century—Aristocratic Consolidation, Schism, and Manzikert

Readings:

- Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 275-289
Michael Psellos, *Chronographia*, Book 6.15-57, (on Constantine IX), Book 7.10-23 (on Romanus IV) at:
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/psellus-chronographia.asp>

November 19

Lecture 15—Alexius Comnenus, the Crusades, and the Byzantine Recovery

Readings:

- Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 290-302
The Crusaders Approach Constantinople, at
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/cde-tocp.html>

Byzantine Perspectives, at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/annacom1.html>

November 21

Lecture 16— The Fourth Crusade and the Sack of Constantinople

Readings:

Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 302-29

Preparations, at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/4cde.html>

Robert de Clari, on the Capture of Constantinople, at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/clari1.html>

Nicetas Choniates, the Byzantine Perspective on the Sack of Constantinople, at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/choniates1.html>

The Papal Response, at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/1204innocent.html>

November 26, 28

No Class—Have a Happy Thanksgiving

December 3

Lecture 17—The Nicene Empire, Thirteenth Century Recovery, and the Rise of the Ottomans

Readings:

Gregory, *History of Byzantium*, 330-346

D. Goffman, *The Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe*, 27-54 (TED)

“The Good Old Days (1360-1389)”, in B. Lewis, *Islam*, I:135-136 (TED)

December 5

FINAL PAPER DUE

Lecture 18—The Ottoman Conquest of Constantinople 1453

Readings:

“Ashikpashazade on the Conquest of Constantinople,” in B. Lewis, *Islam*, I:144-148 (TED)

Makarios Melissenos, *Chronicle* (TED)

George Sphrantzes, *Chronicle* (TED)