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Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
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FAH 023/123  
The Art of Byzantium  

The Byzantine empire produced a rich and complex artistic tradition which developed over a thousand years, from the fourth to fifteenth centuries. This course will explore a wide array of works, including icons, mosaics, illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, church architecture, metalwork, and textiles. It will focus on the historical and social context for artistic production and address such issues as patronage, art and devotion, secular art, classical revivals, and the role of images in Byzantine society.

Course Objectives:  
1. To become familiar with the key monuments and problems of the visual culture of the Byzantine empire.  
2. To master a single topic within this tradition  

Assignments:  
Middle of Term Examination 25%  
Paper 35% (see below for specifics regarding course level)  
Second Examination 30%  
Class Participation 10%  

1. For those taking FAH 23: 5-8 page Response Paper (Due 11/29).  
In the readings and lectures for this class, we have surveyed the art of Byzantium in its broadest sense, from Italy to Egypt, from the fourth to the fifteenth centuries, and considering a wide range of media. This assignment offers you the opportunity to engage more closely with a specific and cutting-edge issue in the field. Choosing from the articles below, please write a double-spaced 5-8 page response to a recent work of scholarship on Byzantine art and culture (to be provided). In this response, please provide:  

1) Introduction to issue  
2) Summary of argument and methodology  
3) Assessment of success  
4) Observation on potential application to Byzantine works you already know.


2. **For those taking FAH 123: 8-10 Response Paper + Original Argument (Due 11/29)**

Those taking the 100-level course are required to produce the response paper as outlined above and to it, add your own original interpretation of a Byzantine work. This paper will included a bibliography of no less than five sources, and show evidence of sustained research and thought.

3. **For those taking FAH 123 at the Graduate Level:**

You are exempt from the examinations. You are required to produce a 15-20 page paper on a topic of Byzantine art/architecture of your choice, due on December 6. You will also give a short presentation on your research on the last class day, for which you will be graded on evidence of research, quality of ideas, and clarity of communication. I encourage you to take a leading role in class discussions, effectively acting as facilitators for the scholarly conversations. You are the “vice professors” of the class!

**Exams:** Both exams will focus on slide identification and comparisons. The second examination will include an essay. Review materials for these exams will be posted on blackboard.

**Required Text:** John Lowden, *Early Christian and Byzantine Art*

**Additional Articles and Essays are on Trunk under “Assignments”**

**Lecture Schedule**

**September 4:** Introduction to the Course

**September 6:** CLASS CANCELLED (COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS)

**September 11:** Art at the Grass Roots: The Imagery of Early Christian Rome

**Reading:** Lowden, 1-32

**September 13:** Anti-Establishment becomes Establishment

**September 18**: The Foundation of Constantinople  
**Reading**: Lowden, 32-60

**September 20**: The Crown of Byzantium: The Hagia Sophia  
**Reading**: Lowden, 60-70  

**September 25**: The Holy Man  
**Reading**: Lowden, 70-79

**September 27**: The Spirituality of Beauty: Byzantium’s Precious Objects  
**Reading**: Lowden, 79-83  

**October 2**: Early Byzantine Manuscripts  
**Reading**: Lowden, 84-95  
Visit to Special Collections.

**October 4**: Icons and their Power  
**Reading**: Lowden, 95-100  

**October 9**: Monday schedule: no classes

**October 11**: Ravenna Part 1  
**Reading**: Lowden, 103-125

**October 16**: Ravenna Part 2  
**Reading**: Lowden, 124-144

**October 18**: Review for Middle of Term Examination

**October 23**: Middle of Term Examination

**October 25**: Iconoclasm, Part One  
**Reading**: Lowden, 147-169

**October 30**: Iconoclasm, Part Two
Reading: Lowden, 169-184

November 1: Byzantine Art after Iconoclasm
Reading: Lowden, 187-226

November 6: Byzantine Architecture after Iconoclasm
Reading: Lowden, 187-226

November 8: Byzantine Manuscripts
Reading: Lowden, 273-306

November 13: Byzantium in Sicily and Venice
Reading: Lowden, 309-346

November 15: The Sack of Constantinople (Papers Due.)
Reading: Lowden, 349-373

November 20: Exporting Talent: Byzantium in the Balkans:
Reading: Lowden, 373-386

November 22: no classes

November 27: The Palaiologan Dynasty
Reading: Lowden, 389-424

November 29: The End of the Byzantine Empire (Graduate Student Presentations)
Reading: continue from above. Response paper due

December 4: Review for Second examination

December 6: Second Examination