Christina Maranci  
**Mondays and Wednesdays, 3-4:15**  
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**FAH 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 investigate a single topic within this tradition by producing a critical response to recent journal article (see “paper” below).

**Assignments:**

- Middle of Term Examination 25%
- Response Paper 35%
- Second Examination 30%
- Class Participation 10%

**Response Paper: Due November 18.**

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 10-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.


NOTE: The Basset article is available online on JSTOR; all newer issues of the *Art Bulletin* are in the Tisch stacks. Please photocopy the articles and return bound volumes for your classmates!

**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 Trunk.

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

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

**Lecture Schedule**

**September 9:** Introduction to Class

**September 14:** Art at the Grass Roots: The Imagery of Early Christian Rome  
**Reading:** Lowden, 1-32

**September 16:** Anti-Establishment becomes Establishment  

**September 21:** The Foundation of Constantinople  
**Reading:** Lowden, 32-60

**September 23:** The Crown of Byzantium: The Hagia Sophia  
**Reading:** Lowden, 60-70

**September 28:** The Holy Man  
**Reading:** Lowden, 70-79

**September 30:** The Spirituality of Beauty: Byzantium’s Precious Objects  
**Reading:** Lowden, 79-83

**October 5:** Early Byzantine Manuscripts  
**Reading:** Lowden, 84-95

**October 7:** Icons and their Power  
**Reading:** Lowden, 95-100  
**Reading:** Anna Karstonis, “The Responding Icon”, *Heaven on Earth: Art and the Church in Byzantium*, 58-80.

**October 12:** Ravenna Part 1  
**Reading:** Lowden, 103-125

**October 14:** Ravenna Part 2  
**Reading:** Lowden, 124-144

**October 19:** Review for Mid-Term Examination

**October 21:** Mid-Term Examination

**October 26:** Iconoclasm, Part One  
**Reading:** Lowden, 147-169

**October 28:** Iconoclasm, Part Two  
**Reading:** Lowden, 169-184

**November 2:** Byzantine Art after Iconoclasm  
**Reading:** Lowden, 187-226  
**Reading:** Liz James, “Senses and Sensibility in Byzantium”, *Art History*, vol.27, no. 4, September, 2004 (522-537).

**November 4:** Byzantine Architecture after Iconoclasm  
**Reading:** Lowden, 187-226  

**November 11:** Byzantium in Sicily and Venice  
**Reading:** Lowden, 309-346  
**Reading:** Eva Hoffman, “Pathways of Portability: Islamic and Christian Interchange from the tenth to the twelfth century”, *Art History*, vol. 24, no. 1, February 2001 (17-50).

**November 16** Byzantine Manuscripts: **MEET AT TISCH LIBRARY, CIRCULATION!**
Reading: Lowden, 273-306

November 18: The Sack of Constantinople (Papers Due.)
Reading: Lowden, 349-373

November 23: Exporting Talent: Byzantium in the Balkans:
Reading: Lowden, 373-386

November 26: Thanksgiving no class

November 30: The Palaiologan Dynasty
Reading: Lowden, 389-424

December 2 The End of the Byzantine Empire

December 7: Review for Second Examination

December 9: 12-2pm, final exam.