Christina Maranci
Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-5:45
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12-1pm, Room 206, 11 Talbot Ave
christina.maranci@tufts.edu

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 28.
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 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.


NOTE: All articles are available on JSTOR.

**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 19:** Introduction to Class

**September 26:** Art at the Grass Roots: The Imagery of Early Christian Rome
**Reading:** Lowden, 1-32

**September 28:** Anti-Establishment becomes Establishment

**October 3:** The Foundation of Constantinople
**Reading:** Lowden, 32-60

**October 5:** The Crown of Byzantium: The Hagia Sophia
**Reading:** Lowden, 60-70

**October 12:** Rags and Riches in Byzantium
**Reading:** Lowden, 70-83

**October 17:** Early Byzantine Manuscripts
**Reading:** Lowden, 84-95
October 19: Icons and their Power
Reading: Lowden, 95-100

October 24: Ravenna Part 1
Reading: Lowden, 103-125

October 31: Ravenna Part 2
Reading: Lowden, 124-144

November 2: Review for Mid-Term Examination

November 7: Mid-Term Examination

November 9: The Destruction of Images and their Rehabilitation
Reading: Lowden, 147-184

November 14: Byzantine Art and Architecture after Iconoclasm
Reading: Lowden, 187-226

November 16: Byzantium in Sicily and Venice
Reading: Lowden, 309-346

November 21: Byzantine Manuscripts
Reading: Lowden, 273-306

November 28: The Sack of Constantinople (Papers Due.) and the Byzantine Despotates
Reading: Lowden, 349-373

November 30: Exporting Talent: Byzantium in the Balkans:
Reading: Lowden, 373-386

December 5: The Palaiologan Dynasty and the End of an Empire
Reading: Lowden, 389-424

December 7: Review for Final Exam

December 12: Final Exam!