ARCADIA UNIVERSITY
THE COLLEGE OF GLOBAL STUDIES

Arcadia Center for Hellenic, Mediterranean and Balkan Studies

Arcadia University

GREA ARAN 330/HIBY 330 Heaven and Earth, Byzantine History

Credits: 3

Course description

This is a course dealing with the history of many and different countries. Despite the common belief of the past decades Byzantine History shouldn't be related exclusively with the Greek historical heritage. The entire Balkan peninsula, Anatolia, the islands of the Aegean and a plethora of other places such as Southern Italy, Northern Africa, Palestine and Syria have their own part in the history of the so-called *Imperium Byzantinorum.*

Studying Byzantine History will help you to have a concise idea about the political, military, cultural background before and after the formation of the nation states in Europe.

Course Learning Objectives

Students finishing the course will:

• Be familiar with history of Byzantium from the 4th c. CE through the 15th c. CE.
• Understand the political and historical relation that connects Byzantium to modern Europe.
• Be competent at interpreting the archaeological and artistic remains as to their placement in the ancient and modern network, the period of their construction and their function.

Course Requirements

No cell phones, laptops, music or food are permitted in class. You may take notes, pictures and draw your personal plans (when outdoors) in every class, after the end of instructor's teaching. If you are ill and miss a class, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor and make up the missed material. This is a beginning course, and there are no prerequisites for the course. No outlay of cash is required. All course materials are available for free on the Arcadia website, elsewhere online and/or in the library. Attention! The course requires presence of the students in the city of Athens.
Students are expected to attend the course throughout the semester, contribute to discussion informed by assigned readings on the monuments and their history, complete various short assignments, make one presentation to the group, write essays and complete a final exam.

Readings (for specific assignments see outline below)

Informed discussion will only be possible if you READ the assigned selections from ancient and modern texts BEFORE class. Assigned plans and readings may be found online and/or the Arcadia library reserve shelf. You are also encouraged to READ on your own from the OTHER recommended and relevant works.

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Short Assignments and Presentations
The short assignments will include drawing of maps and plans, and short analyses of museum items in context. The on site presentation topics are listed on the syllabus, and should be planned as about 15 minutes long plus time for questions and walking around the relevant area. These are intended to make the student familiar with topography, and scholarship on site.

Essay
•*In the essay (1000 words) you are expected to summarize a problem in the scholarship of* Byzantine culture, history and archaeology, to describe and give your own opinion about an historical question, monument, a site or an architectural complex. The essay may be accompanied by a Power Point Presentation in the classroom.

•In the short essay (500 words) you are expected to write your own opinion about the topic assigned once a week. To do so you have to read the selected readings and to find further readings on your own (Arcadia Library). You are expected to GIVE to your instructor your homework once a week.

Essay topics as the following relate to Byzantine History

- Cultural relations between ancient Greece and the Byzantine world
- Faith of the Byzantine people
- Byzantine architecture
- Similarities between Roman and Byzantine architecture
- Important cities of Byzantium
- Constantinople: few words about its origins
- Latin Byzantium
- Greek Byzantium
- Byzantine churches
- Enemies of Byzantium
- Franks and Venetians
- Local Byzantine states
- Turks and their origins
- Commerce and war between the 'East' and the 'West'
- The revival of paganism under Julian
- Orthodoxy vs. Catholicism
- Byzantine armies
- Minorities of the Byzantine Empire
- Asiatic cultural and religious background of Byzantium

Obligatory readings for Byzantine History (all on reserve in Arcadia Library)

- Miller William 1964, Essays on the Latin Orient Amsterdam 1964
- Rice David Talbot 1962, The Byzantines London 1962
- Savides Alexios G.C. & Hendricks Benjamin 2001, Introducing Byzantine History (A manual for Beginners) Paris 2001

From the above you may provide selected bibliography for further readings

COURSE OUTLINE

1.
Byzantium, Byzantine: the story of a conventional term.
Arcadia Center, classroom.

2.
Late Antiquity: Western and Eastern Roman Empire.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter I
Byzantine Museum, Vass. Sophias Avenue, Main Entrance.

Trip to Eleusis and the Academy of Plato
Arcadia Center, at 8.30

3.
Geographic description of the Eastern Roman Empire and its ancient Greek heritage.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter II
Arcadia Center, classroom.

4.
Greek paganism, roman organization and the formation of a new identity.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter III, St. Paul in Greece Otto. F. A. Meinardus, Athens 2006 Introduction, A Biographical note, pag. 1 / 2, Chapter III.
Arcadia Center, classroom.

5.
Constantine the Great and the birth of a Christian empire.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter IV
Arcadia Center, classroom.

6.
Orthodox Christianity vs. other Christianities.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter V, Coptic Saints and Pilgrimages Otto F.A. Meinardus The American University of Cairo 2003, Introduction.
Arcadia Center, classroom

7.
Julian: last efforts for a pagan revival.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter VI
Arcadia Center, classroom

8.
Theodosius the Great: a new “good” present against an old “evil” past.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter VII. Arcadia Center, classroom.

9.
Justinian and his era.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter VIII
Arcadia Center, classroom.

10.
Heraclius and his great wars.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter IX
Meet at Theseion Metro Station, at 9.00 am

11.
Military and cultural wars: Byzantium vs. Arabs, Bulgarians, Russians. The religious "Schism".
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter X
Arcadia Center, classroom.

12.
Arabic, Persian and Egyptian religious heritage.
Reading: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter XI, A History of Arab peoples Albert Hourani Harvard University Press, Chapter 1.
Arcadia Center, classroom.

13.
The Macedonian Dynasty and the glory of Byzantium: What and where is Macedonia.
Readings: Introducing Byzantine History, Chapter XII, A history of Christianity in the Balkans Matthew Spinka Archon Books 1968, Chapter 1.
Arcadia Center, classroom.

14.
Review
Arcadia Center, classroom.

15.
Balkan people: Italians, Illyrians, people of Asia Minor, people of the Greek mainland: a history of minorities.
Readings: Essays on the Latin Orient, W.Miller Amsterdam 1964, Chapter III
Arcadia Center, classroom.

16.
Review
Arcadia Center, classroom

The Mt. Pentelikon marble quarries and the earliest attic monasteries
Arcadia Center, at 8.30

Mid Term Exam
Arcadia Center, classroom

17.
1057 / 1204: the end of the glory. The Greek heritage: libraries, Universities, trade of ideas.
1204 / 1453: Franks and the formation of the knighthood.

Fri
Underground Athens, Russian Church.
Meet: Syntagma Metro Station, exit to Syntagma sq.

18.
Knight orders and their role in the history of Europe.
Readings: Essays on the Latin Orient, W. Miller Amsterdam 1964, Chapter IV, The Knights Templar Helen Nicholson Sutton 2001, Chapter 1
Arcadia Center, classroom.

19.
Local Frankish states (the cases of Athens, Rhodes and the Achaia).
Readings: Essays on the Latin Orient, W. Miller Amsterdam 1964, Chapter V
Arcadia Center, classroom.

20.
Italian Republics of the Sea: Amalfi, Genoa, Venice/Byzantine minor states: Trapezous, Epirus, Nikaia, Mystras
Readings: Essays on the Latin Orient, W. Miller Amsterdam 1964, Chapters VI/VII
Arcadia Center, classroom.

Trip to the monasteries of Central Greece
Friday : depart to Meteora, meet: Arcadia Center at 9.00 am.
Saturday: Meteora
Sunday: depart to Athens

21.
From the Fall of Constantinople to the Modern Era
Readings: The Byzantines, D. Talbot Rice London 1962, Chapters I, II, III
Arcadia Center, classroom.

22. Review. Arcadia Center, classroom.

Final Exam Meet: classroom.