History 313:  
INTRODUCTION TO BYZANTINE HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION
Mr. Barker

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Fall 1991
1217 Humanities: 8:50-9:40 a.m., MTWF

pt. 3 - 1. Introduction; The Mediterranean World and the Roman World-State
pt. 4 - 2. Third-Century Crises, and the Reforms of Diocletian and Constantine
pt. 6 - Discussion & Slides: Two Imperial Palaces--Piazza Armerina and Split
pt. 9 - Discussion & Slides: Late Imperial Art and Expression, Pagan to Christian
pt. 10 - 3. The Rise of Christianity
pt. 11 - 4. Early Christianity and the Imperial State
pt. 13 - 5. Early Doctrinal Controversy
pt. 16 - 6. Christian Culture in the Patristic Age
pt. 17 - 7. The Barbarians and the Division of the Empire
pt. 18 - 8. The Survival of the Empire in the East
pt. 20 - Discussion & Slides: Ravenna, the "Sacred Fortress"
pt. 23 - 9. Justinian and his Age (1)
pt. 24 - 10. Justinian and his Age (2)
pt. 25 - 11. From Justinian to Heracleios
pt. 27 - Discussion & Slides: Early Constantinople, and Hagia Sophia
pt. 30 - 12. Seventh-Century Reorganization and Survival
ct. 1 - 13. From the Later Heracleians to the Isaurians
ct. 2 - Discussion
ct. 4 - FIRST EXAMINATION (On the material of Lectures 1-13)
ct. 7 - 14. Byzantium in the Eighth Century
ct. 8 - 15. Iconoclasm
ct. 9 - 16. The Church and Byzantine Spirituality
ct. 11 - Discussion & Slides: Byzantine Churches in Constantinople and Thessaloniki
ct. 14 - 17. Byzantium in the Eighth Century
ct. 15 - 18. The Photian Schism and the Conversion of the Slavs
ct. 18 - 20. Byzantium in the Tenth Century
ct. 21 - 21. Byzantine Law and Social Legislation during the Macedonian Era
ct. 22 - 22. Byzantine Economic Life and Organization
ct. 23 - 25. Byzantine Military and Naval Science and Technology
ct. 25 - Discussion & Slides: Byzantine City Walls, Constantinople and Thessaloniki
ct. 29 - 25. Eleventh-Century Crises (1) Italy: Normans, Papacy, and Schism
ct. 30 - 26. Eleventh-Century Crises (2) The East: Russia, Armenia, and the Turks
Nov. 1 - Discussion & Slides: Byzantine Churches in Greece (Athens & Greek Countryside)
Nov. 4 - 27. The Komnenian Dynasty and Imperial Recovery
Nov. 5 - 28. Byzantium and the Crusaders
Nov. 6 - 29. Byzantine Literature and Historiography
Nov. 8 - To be Announced
Nov. 11 - 30. The Angelan Collapse and the Fourth Crusade
Nov. 12 - 31. The Latin Empire and the Crusader Principalities
Nov. 13 - Discussion
Nov. 15 - SECOND EXAMINATION (On the material of Lectures 14-30 [sic])
Nov. 18 - 32. The Rival Byzantine Successor States
Nov. 19 - 33. Laskarid Nicaea and the Palaiologan Restoration
Nov. 20 - 34. Fourteenth-Century Internal Strife and Decay
Nov. 22 - NO CLASS MEETING (To be replaced by a session at the instructor's home, to be arranged, with some supplemental slides)
COURSE TEXTS:


2. Students are also expected to read (at least partially), but NOT necessarily to purchase: A. A. Vasiliev, History of the Byzantine Empire, 324-1453 (University of Wisconsin Press paperback edition, 2 vols.). The required portions are: the Introduction, the sections titled "[Education,] Literature, Learning, and Art" at the end of each chapter, the section "Byzantine Feudalism" (pp. 563-579), and the section "Byzantium and the Italian Renaissance" (pp. 713-722); but the remainder of the book (its treatment of political and general history) may be read as an optional supplement to (though not as a replacement of) Ostrogorsky's book. The Vasiliev volumes are available on Reserve at the Helen C. White College Library (while the Ostrogorsky is not), and are also in stock at the Bookstores as an optional item. (Or, students might want to pair up and split the costs of purchasing both Ostrogorsky and Vasiliev together as a more bearable way of spreading the financial obligations between them)

REQUIREMENTS: Undergraduates may take the course for either 3 or 4 credits. Those taking it for 3 are NOT required to write a term paper, but those taking it for 4 must do so, selecting a topic in consultation with the instructor. Course work is otherwise the same for all undergraduates: all are expected to attend all four hours of class each week, and to take all three of the exams. Students on the 3-credit plan may, however, substitute a term paper in place of the second exam if they desire; and students taking the 4-credit plan may also write a second paper in place of the second exam, if they wish. All topics for papers must be cleared with the instructor; and ALL papers are to be due by classtime Dec. 9. (Any papers received late, unless with the express and justified permission of the instructor, obtained in advance, will be subject to a reduction in grade.) Students wishing Honors credit may earn this through some additional reading and discussion work, to be arranged with the instructor. Graduate students receive 3 credits for the course, but are required to write a term paper, plus attending all class meetings and taking all exams, as per the 4-credit format for undergraduates. All students should be absolutely certain they are registered for the correct number of credits, corresponding to the work they will do in the course as per the above alternatives. Term papers are to be substantial efforts, between 10 and 35 pages in length (appropriate to the topic), and written in good English, in accordance with standardized practices, including footnotes (or endnotes) and bibliography. The instructor welcomes all students for consultation or discussion as desired. His office is 4119 Humanities, and office hours will be 10:00-10:45 WFT, with appointments possible at other times.