

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

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Fall 1987
2115 Humanities: 8:50-9:40 a.m., MTWF

- Sept. 2 - 1. Introduction; The Mediterranean World and the Roman World-State
Sept. 4 - 2. Third-Century Crises, and the Reforms of Diocletian and Constantine
Sept. 7 - Discussion and Slides: Two Imperial Palaces, Piazza Armerina and Split
Sept. 8 - Discussion and Slides: Late Imperial Art and Expression, Pagan to Christian
Sept. 9 - 3. The Rise of Christianity
Sept. 11 - 4. Christianity and the Imperial State
Sept. 14 - 5. Early Doctrinal Controversy
Sept. 15 - 6. Christian Culture in the Patristic Age
Sept. 16 - 7. The Barbarians and the Division of the Empire
Sept. 18 - 8. The Survival of the Empire in the East
Sept. 21 - Discussion and Slides: Ravenna, the "Sacred Fortress"
Sept. 22 - 9. Justinian and his Age (1)
Sept. 23 - 10. Justinian and his Age (2)
Sept. 25 - 11. From Justinian to Herakleios
Sept. 28 - Discussion and Slides: Early Constantinople, and Haghiá Sophia
Sept. 29 - 12. Seventh-Century Re-organization and Survival
Sept. 30 - 13. From the Later Herakleians to the Isaurians
Oct. 2 - Discussion
Oct. 5 - FIRST EXAMINATION (On the material of Lectures 1-13)
Oct. 6 - 14. Byzantium in the Eighth Century
Oct. 7 - 15. Iconoclasm
Oct. 9 - 16. The Church and Byzantine Spirituality
Oct. 12 - Discussion and Slides: Byzantine Churches in Constantinople and Thessaloniki
Oct. 13 - 17. Byzantium in the Ninth Century
Oct. 14 - 18. The Photian Schism and the Conversion of the Slavs
Oct. 16 - 19. Byzantine Education, Learning, and Scholarship
Oct. 19 - 20. Byzantium in the Tenth Century
Oct. 20 - 21. Byzantine Law and Social Legislation during the Macedonian Period
Oct. 21 - 22. Byzantine Economic Life and Organization
Oct. 23 - Discussion and Slides: Byzantine Coinage
Oct. 26 - 23. Byzantine Military and Naval Science and Technology
Oct. 27 - Discussion and Slides: Byzantine City Walls, Constantinople and Thessaloniki
Oct. 28 - 24. Byzantium in the Eleventh Century
Oct. 30 - 25. Eleventh-Century Crises (1) Italy: Normans, Papacy, and Schism
Nov. 2 - 26. Eleventh-Century Crises (2) The East: Russia, Armenia, and the Turks
Nov. 3 - Discussion and Slides: Byzantine Churches in Greece (Athens & Greek Countryside)
Nov. 4 - 27. The Komnenian Dynasty and Imperial Recovery
Nov. 6 - NO CLASS MEETING (To be replaced by a later session at the instructor's home,
to be arranged, with slide presentation on aspects of Byzantine art)
Nov. 9 - 28. Byzantium and the Crusaders
Nov. 10 - 29. Byzantine Literature and Historiography
Nov. 11 - 30. The Angelan Collapse and the Fourth Crusade
Nov. 13 - Discussion and Slides: Venice, Byzantium's Brat
Nov. 16 - Discussion
Nov. 17 - SECOND EXAMINATION (On the material of Lectures 14-30)
Nov. 18 - 31. The Latin Empire and the Crusader Principalities
Nov. 20 - 32. The Rival Byzantine Successor States

Nov. 23 - 33. Laskarid Nicaea and the Palaiologan Restoration
 Nov. 24 - 34. Fourteenth-Century Internal Strife and Decay
 Nov. 25 - 35. Balkan Threats: Serbia and the Osmanlı Turks
 THANKSGIVING RECESS

Nov. 30 - 36. Byzantine Society and Social Organization
 Dec. 1 - 37. Palaiologan Learning and Culture
 Dec. 2 - Discussion and Slides: The Chora Monastery Church (Kariye Djami)
 Dec. 4 - 38. The Byzantine Morea
 Dec. 7 - Discussion and Slides: Mistra and its Monuments
 Dec. 8 - 39. The Final Decline and the Problem of Church Union
 Dec. 9 - 40. The Fall of Byzantium
 Dec. 11 - 41. The Heirs of Byzantium (1) The Greeks, the Turks, and the Russians
 Dec. 14 - 42. The Heirs of Byzantium (2) The West and the Hellenic Renaissance
 Dec. 15 - 43. Retrospect and Discussion

Dec. 19 - FINAL EXAMINATION (On the material of the Entire course, but stressing Lectures 31-42): officially scheduled for Sunday afternoon, at 12:25 p.m. [May The Computer, the All-Wise, the Compassionate, ever be Blessed!], in a room to be announced; possible alternate scheduling to be discussed further.

COURSE TEXTS:

1. Students are required to buy, and to read in full: G. Ostrogorsky, History of the Byzantine State (Second English Edition, Rutgers University Press, 1969).
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 entitled "[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. 7. (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. All 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 MWF, with appointments possible at other times.