

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

Tentative Schedule of Topics, Fall 1994
1131 Humanities: 8:50-9:40 a.m., MTWF

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

- Nov. 28 - 35. Balkan Threats: Serbia and the Osmanli Turks
 Nov. 29 - 36. Byzantine Society and Social Organization
 Nov. 30 - 37. Palaiologan Learning and Culture
 Dec. 2 - Discussion & Slides: The Chora Monastery Church (Kariye Djami)
 Dec. 5 - 38. The Byzantine Morea
 Dec. 6 - Discussion & Slides: Mistra and its Monuments
 Dec. 7 - 39. The Final Decline and the Problem of Church Union
 Dec. 9 - 40. The Fall of Byzantium: 1453
 Dec. 12 - 41. The Heirs of Byzantium (1) The Greeks, the Turks, and the Russians
 Dec. 13 - 42. The Heirs of Byzantium (2) The West and the Hellenic Renaissance
 Dec. 14 - Retrospect and Discussion
 Dec. 23 - FINAL EXAMINATION (On the material of the entire course, but stressing Lectures 31-42): Friday morning, Dec. 23, at 10:05 p.m., in a room to be announced

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, paperback).
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. 12. (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 undergraduate. 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.