

Dr. Darlene Brooks Hedstrom and Dr. Christian Raffensperger
Office Hours: BH MW 3:30-4:30 Raffensperger MW 9:15-10:15
Phone: BH x6338; Raffensperger x7843

Course Description Welcome to the survey of the history of Byzantium. As an archaeologist and a historian, we have designed this course with an eye to establishing a visual and textual history of the the Byzantine empire through the analysis of documentary, historical (Psellos, Anna Komnena, Michael Attaleiates) and artifactual (visual culture found in archaeological records and museum collections) evidence. The course also takes you into the world of the historiography surrounding the study of the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries.

Readings from the ancient world and modern scholarship will frame how you design a research project, which is the cornerstone of the course. For History Majors, this project may be developed further for the Senior Thesis (HIST 411).



This course is **writing intensive** and may count toward the interdisciplinary Premodern and Ancient World Studies (PAST) minor and Africana Diaspora Studies (AFDS).

Required Texts:

1. Gregory, Timothy. *History of Byzantium* (recommended)
2. Michael Attaleiates *The History* 2012.
3. Anna Comnena. *Alexiad.* 2006.
5. Psellos, *Chronographia.* 1966
6. READER-provided



Class Objectives

Through our discussions, readings, written exercises, and the viewing of material remains we will achieve the following goals:

- * We will challenge and **re-evaluate our own perceptions of history.**
- * We will accurately **identify and describe historical events and concepts** relevant to the imperial *and* cultural history of Byzantium.
- * We will enhance skills in reading and **interpreting primary and secondary sources** through evaluation and critical reading
- * We will develop **geographical literacy of the regions and civilizations** discussed in the course in the diverse territorial holdings associated with imperial boundaries of the early, middle and late Byzantine empires.
- * We will **construct arguments and counter-arguments** using historical events and concepts to support or refute historical ideas

* We will increase our confidence to **communicate clearly both in verbal and written** avenues through cooperative learning, reading, and a variety of written activities

In this course you can expect:

1.) **to experience class as interactive and engaging.**

2.) **to participate in a community of learners (faculty and students).** Education research shows that learning is more concrete when students engage by asking questions about material under study. Without inquisitiveness, students may become only passive participants in the classroom. You can expect that we will ask you questions, you will ask us questions, and you will ask questions of your peers. Together we can create a space in which to examine the past.

3.) **to teach and learn by close readings of visual and textual material.** The importance of this is that you are actually using pieces of history to understand the past. It is not fair for those who have prepared the reading that those that have not should benefit from their work. This is a collective learning experience and therefore we should be honest in our preparation for class meetings.



Assignments for the Course

Attendance (5%)

Active participation (5%)

Student Led Discussions (SLD), twice (8%)

Weekly reading quizzes (15%)

Two, 5-7 page primary source papers (5; 10%)

*everyone does the first one on Psellos

*second one is choice of Attaleiates or Anna Komnena

Two, 5-7 page historiography papers (5; 10%)

*everyone does the first one on Emperors/Empire

*second one is a choice between Core/Periphery or Byzantine Military

Final research paper (37%)

- 2 % Topics & Annotations #1
- 2 % Annotations Set #2
- 2 % Annotations Set #3
- 2 % Conference with Drs. BH or R
- 2 % Outline & Complete Bibliography
- 2 % Five complete pages with citations
- 5 % Twelve complete pages with citations
- 5 % Presentation of research
- 15 % Final paper due

A Word about Participation In this course participation is a key component of the assessment of your effort to learn the material. As a seminar, upper-level class, your daily participation is essential.

Attendance Policy

As part of your grade for this class, and to get the most out of the class, you are required to attend on a regular basis. Attendance in this class is worth 5% of your grade, and attendance will be taken on a regular basis. If you are going to miss class, let us know in advance. If you accumulate 5 absences over the course of the semester, you will receive a grade of F for your attendance. If you miss 10 **or more** classes over the course of the semester you will receive a grade of zero for your attendance, much worse than an F when calculating your final grade. You are solely responsible for signing the attendance sheet, or notifying us of your absence, as proof of your presence in class.

Academic Honesty

Wittenberg abides by a honor code. Students are expected to do their own work and to use care in using words of others. Academic dishonesty (cheating; plagiarism, etc.-see student handbook for full explanation) will result in a failing grade in the course.



Calendar of Readings and Assignments

Readings should be in preparation for the day that they are listed. A reading listed under “Monday” should be read for Monday’s class session.

For all linked source readings **print the text out and bring it to class—we will expect you to have read the text and prepared questions regarding the source.**

Week 1

Jan 9 Introduction & Overview

Jan 11 What is Byzantium?

Read: R Judith Herrin, “Introduction,” in *Women in Purple: Rulers of Medieval Byzantium* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001)

Jan 13 Three Historians:

Assignments

Biographies on the 3 Historians

Week 2 Psellos and the *Chronographia*

Jan 16 Psellos

Read: Psellos Bk 1 – Basil I (27-52)

Jan 18 Guest—Dr. Vlada Stanković

Read: *The History of Leo the Deacon*, trans. Alice-Mary Talbot and Denis F. Sullivan (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2005), 214–215.

ALSO ATTEND: HISTORY Colloquium 4:30 Dr. Vlada Stanković

Jan 20 Psellos

Read: Psellos Bk 5 – Michael V; Theodora (121-154)

Reading Quiz

SLD #1

Week 3

Jan 23 Psellos

Read: Psellos Bk 6 – Zoe/Theodora; Theodora (155-164; 261-274)

Jan 25 Psellos

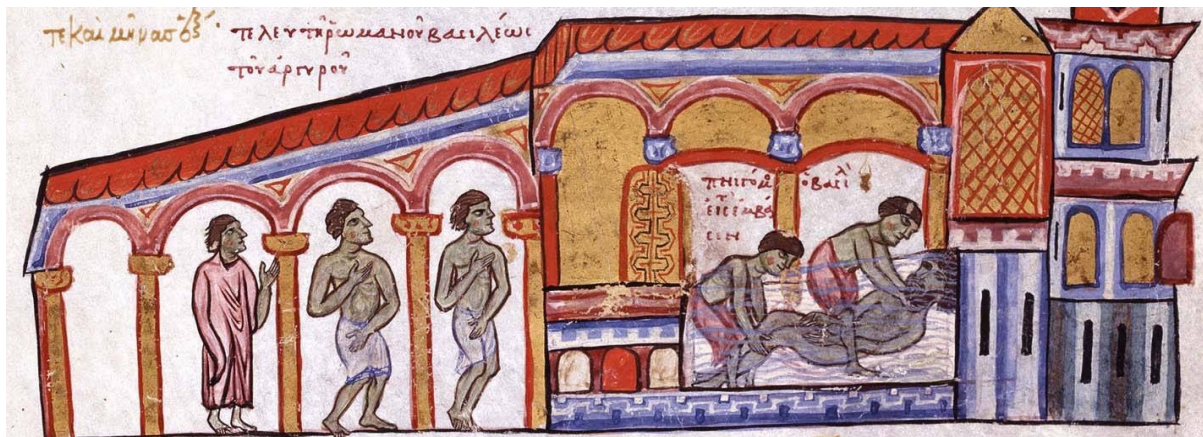
Reading Quiz

SLD #2

Read: Psellos Bk 7 – Isaac Komnena (302-330) **SLD #3**
 Jan 27 Psellos
Read: Psellos Bk 7 – Romanos IV (350-366) **SLD #4**

Week 4 Michael Attaleiates's *History*

Jan 30 Psellos **Reading Quiz**
Read: Psellos Bk 7 – Michael VII (367-380) Primary Source Paper #1 Due *everyone*
 Feb 1 Attaleiates
Read: Attaleiates Ch 1 – Dedication (3-7); Ch 2 – Preface (9-11); Ch 36 (587); Ch 4 – Michael V (14-29)
 Feb 3 Attaleiates
Read: Attaleiates Ch 5-9 – Monomachos (29-91) **SLD #5**



Week 5 Michael Attaleiates's *History*

Feb 6 Attaleiates **Reading Quiz**
Read: Attaleiates Ch 10 – Theodora (93-95); Ch 16- Romanos IV (169-185); Ch 24 Comparison (353-361) **SLD #6**
 Feb 8 Attaleiates
Read: Attaleiates Ch 20 Manzikert (261-303) **SLD #7**
 Feb 10 Attaleiates
Read: Attaleiates Ch 22-23 Civil War-Rouselius (305-351) **SLD #1**

Week 6

Feb 13 Attaleiates **Reading Quiz & SLD #2**
Read: Attaleiates Ch Ch 32-33 Nikephorus Bryenios (443-497); Ch 34 N. Bryenios (519-537) **Primary Source #2 Option 1**
 Feb 15 Byzantine Military Text
Read: R “The *Praecepta militaria* of the Emperor Nikephoros II Phokas (963-969)” in Eric McGeer, *Sowing the Dragon’s Teeth: Byzantine Warfare in the Tenth Century* (Washington D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2008)
 Feb 17 Religious Portrayal of Warrior Saints
Read: R “The Passion of St. Theodore the Recruit”

Week 7

Feb 20 Arab Historical Accounts of the Battle of Mazikert **Reading Quiz**

Read: R "Twelfth Century Arab Accounts" in *Turkish Myth and Muslim Symbol: The Battle of Manzikert*, ed. Carole Hillenbrand (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007)

Feb 22 Dr. Marica Cassis in class

Read: Mark Whittow, "Early Medieval Byzantium and the End of the Ancient World", *Journal of Agrarian Change*, Vol. 9 No. 1, January 2009 134–153.

ATTEND: 7 pm. History Colloquium by Dr. Marica Cassis

Feb 24 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

Read: Anna Komnena Prologue (3-7); Bk XV (471); Bk I (9-38) **SLD #3**

Week 8

Feb 27 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

Read: Anna Komnena Bk III (79-108)

Reading Quiz

SLD #4

Mar 1 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

Read: Anna Komnena Bk IV (109-122)

Topics & Annotations #1

SLD #5

Mar 3 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

Read: Anna Komnena Bk X (260-296)

SLD #6

BREAK

Week 9

Mar 13 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

Read: Anna Komnena Bk XIII (357-396)

Reading Quiz

SLD #7

Mar 15 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*

Read: Anna Komnena Bk XIV (397-430)

Primary Source #3 Option 2

Mar 17 THEME 1: Emperors and the Empire

Annotations Set #2

Read: R- Averil Cameron, "Empire" in *Byzantine Matters* (Princeton and Oxford, Princeton University Press, 2014)

Week 10

Mar 20 Emperors and the Empire

Reading Quiz

Read: R- Michael McCormick, "Emperors" in *The Byzantines*, ed. Guglielmo Cavallo (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992)

Mar 22

Read: R- Michael McCormick, "Emperors" in *The Byzantines*, ed. Guglielmo Cavallo (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992)

Annotations Set #3

Mar 24

Read: R- Anthony Kaldellis, *The Byzantine Republic: People and Power in New Rome* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015)

Week 11 Emperors and the Empire to Core/Periphery

***** Schedule a conference with Dr. BH or Dr. Raffensperger with prepared materials for meeting**

Mar 27

Reading Quiz

Read: R- Anthony Kaldellis, *The Byzantine Republic: People and Power in New Rome* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015)

Historiography Paper #1 everyone

Mar 29 THEME 2: Center & Periphery

Read: R- Leonora Neville, *Authority in Byzantine Provincial Society, 950-1100* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)

Mar 31

Read: R- Leonora Neville, *Authority in Byzantine Provincial Society, 950-1100* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004)

****ATTEND: KINNISON LECTURE:** Dr. Michael Blakey and the African Burial Ground in Manhattan

***** Saturday***** April 1-Optional, *Ohio Academy of History- Panel on Byzantium with Drs. BH, Raffensperger, Stanković, and Kadellis*

Week 12 Center and Periphery

Apr 3

Reading Quiz

Outline & Complete Bibliography

Read: R- Priscilla Scouzek, "Byzantium and the Islamic East" in *The Glory of Byzantium*, ed. Helen C. Evans and William D. Wixom (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997)

Apr 5

Read: R- Priscilla Scouzek, "Byzantium and the Islamic East" in *The Glory of Byzantium*, ed. Helen C. Evans and William D. Wixom (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997)

Apr 7

Read: R- Michael Angold, "Capital and Provinces" in *The Byzantine Empire, 1025-1204: A Political History* (London and New York: Longman, 1997)

Week 13 Center to Byzantine Military

Apr 10

Historiography Paper #2 Option 1

Read: R- Michael Angold, "Capital and Provinces" in *The Byzantine Empire, 1025-1204: A Political History* (London and New York: Longman, 1997)

Apr 12

5 FINISHED Pages

Read: R- Peter Schreiner, "Soldiers" in *The Byzantines*, ed. Guglielmo Cavallo (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992)

Apr 14 **University Holiday No Class**

Week 14

Apr 17

Reading Quiz

Read: R- Peter Schreiner, "Soldiers" in *The Byzantines*, ed. Guglielmo Cavallo (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992)

Apr 19

Read: R- Rob Nelson, "'And so, with the help of God': The Byzantine Art of War in the Tenth Century," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 65-66 (2011-12): 169-192.

Apr 21

12 FINISHED pages

Read: R- Rob Nelson, "'And so, with the help of God': The Byzantine Art of War in the Tenth Century," *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 65-66 (2011-12): 169-192.

Week 15

Apr 24

Reading Quiz

Read: R- John Haldon, et al., “Marching Across Anatolia: Medieval Logistics and Modeling the Mantzikert Campaign” *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 65-66 (2011-12): 209-235.

Apr 26

Historiography Paper #3 Option 2

Read: R- John Haldon, et al., “Marching Across Anatolia: Medieval Logistics and Modeling the Mantzikert Campaign” *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 65-66 (2011-12): 209-235.

Apr 28 **Presentation Group A**

Week 16

May 1 **Presentation Group B**

May 3 **Presentation Group C**

FINAL EXAM REQUIREMENT

Final Paper Due May 8th 5 pm

Maps for geographical study and quiz preparation follows in the syllabus.

General Periodization

The Macedonian Dynasty (862-1056)

Michael III (856-67)
Basil (867-886)
Leo VI (886-912)
Alexander (912-913)
Zoe (913-919)
Romanos I (920-944)
Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos (945-959)
Theophano (963)
John I Tzimiskes (969-976)
Basil II (976-1025)
Constantine VIII (1025-1028)
Romanos III Argyros (1028-1034)
Michael IV the Paphlagonian (1034-1041)
Constantine IX Monomachos (1042-1055)
Theodora (1055-1056)
Michael VI Bringas (1056-1057)
Isaakios I Komenos (1057-1059)



The Doukas Dynasty (1059-1078)

Constantine X Doukas (1059-1067)
Eudokia Makrembolitissa (1067 and 1071)
Romanos IV Diogenes (1068-1071)
Michael VII Doukas (1071-1078)

Nikephoros III Botaneiates (1078-1081)

The Komnenids (1081-1185)

Alexios I Komnenos (1081-1118)
John II Komnenos (1118-1143)
Manuel I Komnenos (1143-1180) and Maria of Antioch
Alexios II Komnenos (1180-1183)
Alexios III Angelos (1195-1203)
Theodore I Komnenos Laskaris (1205-1221)
John III Doukas Vatatzes (1221-1254)
John Komnenos Doukas (1240-1242)





Digital Humanities Sites for Material Culture
Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Seals

Excavation Sites-in Alphabetical Order

[Amorium, Turkey. Director is Christopher Lightfoot, Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

[Aphrodisias](#)

[Avkat, Turkey. Director is John Haldon, Princeton](#)

[Beit Lehi, Israel. Director is Oren Gutfeld, Michigan](#)

[Bir Madhkur, Jordan. Director is Andrew M. Smith, George Washington](#)

[Çadır Höyük, Turkey. Director is Sharon Steadman, SUNY Cortland](#)

[Mount Menoikeion, Monastery of Hagios Ioannis Prodromos, Greece. Director is Nikos Bakirtzis, Princeton.](#)

[Sohag, Egypt. Executive Director is Stephen Davis, Yale. Excavations is Gillian Clark; Darlene Brooks Hedstrom 2005-2007](#)

[Umm el-Jimal, Jordan. Director is Birt DeVries, Calvin.](#)

[Wadi Natrun, Egypt. Executive Director is Stephen Davis, Yale. Archaeological Director is Darlene Brooks Hedstrom, Wittenberg.](#)

Relevant Websites

[Byzantium Working Group](#)

[Digital Atlas of Roman and Medieval Civilizations](#)

[MPMAM: Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology in the Mediterranean](#)

[Byzantium: 330-1453, Royal Academy of Arts Exhibit](#)

Author Niketas Choniates



Assignment Guide

January 13

Investigate the lives of Michael Psellos, Michael Attaleiates, and Anna Komnena. Prepare three, single-page biographical profiles of each author.

Typed, single pages at least 400 words. Include citations

January 30

Primary Source Paper #1

February 13

Primary Source Paper #2 Option (complete either #2 or #3)

March 1

Topics and Annotations #1 (5 sources)

March 15

Primary Source Paper #3 Option (complete either #2 or #3)

March 17

Annotations Set #2 (5 more sources)

March 22

Annotations Set #3 (5 more sources)

March 27

Historiography Paper #1

April 3

Outline and Complete Bibliography in Correct CMS Format

April 10

Historiography Paper #2 Option (complete either #2 or #3)

April 12

Five finished pages of Final Paper with complete footnotes and bibliography

April 21

Twelve finished pages of Final Paper with complete footnotes and bibliography

April 26

Historiography Paper #3 Option (complete either #2 or #3)

April 28, May 1, or May 3

Presentation of Research

May

FINAL PAPER SUBMITTED