HIST 306- Byzantium: In the Middle  Spring 2017  2:15-3:20
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 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)
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?
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
   ALSO ATTEND: HISTORY Colloquium 4:30 Dr. Vlada Stanković
Jan 20 Psellos
   Read: Psellos Bk 5 – Michael V; Theodora (121-154)

Week 3
Jan 23 Psellos
   Read: Psellos Bk 6 – Zoe/Theodora; Theodora (155-164; 261-274)
Jan 25 Psellos
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)
Feb 8  Attaleiates
Read: Attaleiates  Ch 20 Manzikert (261-303)  SLD #6
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)
Feb 15 Byzantine Military Text
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
Feb 22 Dr. Marica Cassis in class
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*       Reading Quiz
Read: Anna Komnena Bk III (79-108)   SLD #4
Mar 1 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*       Topics & Annotations #1
Read: Anna Komnena Bk IV (109-122)   SLD #5
Mar 3 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*       Reading Quiz
Read: Anna Komnena Bk X (260-296)   SLD #6
BREAK

Week 9
Mar 13 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*       Reading Quiz
Read: Anna Komnena Bk XIII (357-396)   SLD #7
Mar 15 Anna Komnena, *Alexiad*       Primary Source #3 Option 2
Mar 17 THEME 1: Emperors and the Empire
Mar 22
Mar 24
**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**  

Mar 29  
**Historiography Paper #1 everyone**

Mar 31  

**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 Kaldellis*

**Week 12** Center and Periphery

Apr 3  
**Reading Quiz**  
Outline & Complete Bibliography


Apr 5


Apr 7


**Week 13** Center to Byzantine Military

Apr 10  
**Historiography Paper #2 Option 1**


Apr 12  
**5 FINISHED Pages**


Apr 14  
**University Holiday No Class**

**Week 14**

Apr 17  
**Reading Quiz**


Apr 19


Apr 21  
**12 FINISHED pages**

Week 15
Apr 24  Reading Quiz

Apr 26  Historiography Paper #3 Option 2

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)
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