

Byzantine Art

Code: 100563
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Art History	OB	3

Contact

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Teachers

Manuel Antonio Castiñeiras Gonzalez

Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

A minimum knowledge of English or French is recommended in order to carry out the supervised and autonomous activities. It's worth remembering that most of the material for the course works are written in English.

The teaching methodology and the evaluation proposed in the guide may undergo some modification subject to the onsite teaching restrictions imposed by health authorities.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Context

This course is part of the general subject Medieval Art History, of 24 ECTS, which includes four courses: Art in Europe from the 4th to the 10th centuries, Byzantine Art, Romanesque Art and Gothic Art.

The aim of this course is to lay the ground to enable the student to know and be familiar with basic knowledge of the chronological development of the artistic image, its formal values, its iconographic meanings, artistic techniques and procedures as well as its reception in the Byzantine milieu.

Students are expected to acquire on the course analytical, comparative and critical tools and basic methodology in order to acknowledge several forms of cultural expression and mainly to place Byzantine forms of expression within their geographical and political framework as well as their transmission in Europe, the Slav world, the Eastern Mediterranean countries and the Middle East.

Goals

1-Students are expected to acquire deep knowledge on the Arts of Byzantium or Byzantine-like expressions with a particular focus on its chronological, formal and typological development within the Byzantine milieu.

2- The ultimate goal of the course is to acquire deep knowledge on the connections between Art and the historical, political and cultural background of Byzantine society and its areas of influence, as well as on the several functions and contents of the artwork within this period.

Competences

- Critically analysing from the acquired knowledge a work of art in its many facets: formal values, iconographic significance, artistic techniques and procedures, elaboration process and reception mechanisms.
- Interpreting a work of art in the context in which it was developed and relating it with other forms of cultural expression.
- Recognising the evolution of the artistic imagery from the antiquity to the contemporary visual culture.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Accurately defining and explaining an artistic object with the specific language of art criticism.
2. Analysing ideas about an artistic phenomenon in a given cultural context.
3. Analysing the creators of an artistic phenomenon in a specific cultural context.
4. Analysing the recipients of an artistic phenomenon in a specific cultural context.
5. Applying the iconographic knowledge to the reading of artistic imagery.
6. Connecting an artistic imagery with other cultural phenomena within its period.
7. Distinguishing the elaboration techniques and processes of an artistic object.
8. Efficiently presenting knowledge in oral and written form.
9. Encouraging creativity and fomenting innovative ideas.
10. Examining an artistic imagery and distinguishing its formal, iconographic and symbolic values.
11. Explaining the reception mechanisms of a work of art.
12. Identifying the artistic imagery, placing it into its cultural context.
13. Reconstructing the artistic outlook of a particular cultural context.
14. Working in teams, respecting the other's points of view and designing collaboration strategies.

Content

Unit 1. The Arts of Byzantium: Introduction. Justinian's prestigious models: architecture, mosaics, manuscript illumination, enamels, ivories and metalwork objects. Byzantine aesthetics, religious settings and expressions of faith: icons and the cult of sacred images. - Pilgrimage Art in Byzantium: (IV-X centuries): Eulogia, Charisteria and *Encolpia*.

Unit 2. The Art of Coptic Christianity: Byzantine Egypt. Monasticism, churches and rock sites. Iconography and visual content. Textiles. Liturgical implements. Icons and manuscript illumination.

Unit 3. Towards a Christian Orthodox Empire (680-843): Iconoclasm and the resolution of the Iconoclastic controversy. Islamic invasion: Umayyad Art and Byzantine Art. Iconoclasm as a sociological and conceptual phenomenon. Second Council of Nicaea (787). The role of women. Wall paintings, icons and manuscript illumination.

Unit 4. Middle Byzantium (843-1204): Byzantium's continuous engagement with its ancient past and the re-establishment of icon veneration. Macedonian and Komnenian Renaissance. -Courtly Art: architectural renewal of Constantinople. -Art in the monastery: domed cross-in-square plan. The Hosios Loukas model. -Mount Athos. -Cappadocia: architecture and rock painting. -Second flowering of Hellenistic aesthetics: an intensified revival of interest in classical art forms and ancient literature: mosaics, manuscript illumination, and ivory carving. Komnenian painting: pathos and movement. Mosaic and fresco programmes decorating vaulted and domed spaces to complement narrative.

Unit 5. The Arts of Armenia: Peculiarities of the Armenian Christianity. The Armenian principalities. The Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia. Greater Armenia and Lesser Armenia. -Armenia and Byzantium (9th-11th centuries): architecture, carved reliefs and wall paintings. Aght'amar. *Khatchkar*. Manuscripts and metalwork objects. -Armenia and the Crusades (12th century). The Arts of the Great Armenia (13th-15th centuries): architecture and manuscript illumination.

Unit 6. Byzantium and the West: Italy, maritime trade and Constantinople: bronze doors. -Interchange networks within the Crusades and the Latin Conquest of Byzantium: the concept of Crusader Art. -Venice, Norman Sicily, Cyprus and the Holy Land. Architecture and pictorial arts: circulation of Constantinopolitan models and local traditions. St. Mark's Treasure. Byzantine models in the West.

Unit 7. Palaiologan Renaissance: Colourful use of materials and decorative motifs. Constantinople, Thessaloniki and Mystras. New pictorial humanism: narrative, expression, mimesis and antiquarianism. The Manual of the Painter of Mount Athos. Presence of Byzantine Art in Spain: the Skylitzes manuscript, The Cuenca diptych and the Akathistos Escorialensis.

Unit 8. Byzantine Art: from the Balkans to Russia: Serbia, Bulgaria and Moravia. Russian-Byzantine architecture: Kiev and Novgorod. Moscow: the third Rome. Ivories and icons. Theophanes the Greek and Andrei Rublev.

Unit 9. Women and arts in Byzantium. Lineage, education, patronage and devotions.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lessons (From Units 1 to 9), tuition and study (Units 1-9)	120	4.8	3, 4, 2, 12, 5, 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 6, 14
Type: Supervised			
Seminars and discussions in the classroom	10	0.4	3, 4, 2, 7, 11, 13, 6, 14
Type: Autonomous			
To write a review paper to be delivered	20	0.8	3, 4, 2, 12, 5, 7, 10, 14

Master classes, class discussions and seminars, compulsory readings and book review, individual exercises.

Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to

evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

The teaching methodology and the evaluation proposed in the guide may undergo some modification subject to the onsite teaching

restrictions imposed by health authorities

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
First Evidence: Review and questionnaire on the reading of a book or articles	20%	0	0	3, 4, 2, 12, 5, 1, 7, 10, 11, 13, 6
Second Evidence: first exam	30%	0	0	1, 14
Third Evidence: second exam	50%	0	0	2, 12, 5, 9, 13, 6, 8, 14

I-Continuous evaluation:

First exam: Units 1-2-3-

Second exam:Units 4-5-6-7-8-9

Control of compulsory readings: article or book review

The final grade will be the result of the addition of the book/or article review (20%), the first exam (30%) and the second exam

(50%).

To pass the course, the student must add a minimum of 50% of the total score.

The student who does not pass the course and has a minimum final grade of 3.5 may take a reassessment exam in which he will be

examined of the suspended part.

As far the reassessment exam is concerned, its date is officially fixed. Who has not submitted the book/article review cannot

pass this exam.

Students will receive the grade of "Not evaluable" as long as they have not submitted more than 30% of the evaluation activities.

At the time of each evaluation activity, the teacher will inform the students (Moodle) of the procedure and date of revision of the

grades.

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an

assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the

event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this

subject

II-Unique evaluation:

The single assessment will consist of a written test that includes the first (30%) and second (50%) exams (80% of the total mark), and the delivery of a review of a book or article (20% of the total mark).

III- Processes

-On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

-Unique evaluation: The same assessment method as continuous assessment will be used.

IV-Conditions for the grade "Not assessed/Not submitted"

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items

V-Plagiarism and fraudulent behaviour

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

VI-AI

This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

Bibliography

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-Manuel Castiñeiras, "La Μεγάλη ἐκκλησία: un edificio admirable", pp. 5-25

-Inmaculada Pérez Martín, "San Salvador de Cora, ayer y hoy", pp. 79-88.

-Alfredo Calahorra, "El Patrimonio Palatino de Constantinopla (ss. XIX-XXI): itinerario, valoración y perspectivas de futuro", pp. 106-126.

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Museums

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www.benaki.gr (Benaki Museum, Athens)

www.culture.gr (Byzantine and Christian Museum, Athens)

www.alincom.com/tretiakov (The State Tretyakov, Moscow)

Byzantine Art

- The Sveltana Tomekovic Database of Byzantine Art: <http://ica.princeton.edu/tomekovic/>
- Byzantium 1200 (3-D virtualreconstruccions of Byzantine monuments): <http://www.byzantium1200.com/>
- Iconotheque Numerique HAAByzance (C. Vanderheyde)/ Université Libre de Bruxelles
<http://bib18.ulb.ac.be/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/shu022&CISOSORT=titlejr&CISOSTART=1,21>
- Student Network for Byzantine and Medieval Studies <http://snbms-ucy.weebly.com/>
- **Porphyra** <http://www.porphyra.it>
- Documentary on Mount Athos: <https://athosweblog.com/2016/12/26/1877-athos-film-with-drone-scenes/>

www.fordham.edu/halsall/medweb

www.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/labyrinth-home.html

www.courtauld.ac.uk/pages/indexframe.html

MONUMENTS:

-Rotunda in Thessaloniki:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6ei12EaTLg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8aGI9g0MdY&t=176s>

-Hagia Sophia (major changes):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFOIOZzO3jY&feature=youtu.be>

Hagia Sophia's church in the byzantine time: <https://youtu.be/HQ9KfQBwhls>

Theotokos, apse, Hagia Sophia (Iconoclasm and Iconoluds):

Speakers: Dr. Steven Zucker and Dr. Beth Harris. Created by Beth Harris and Steven Zucker.

<https://youtu.be/EmQ1TdoT-zE>

Hagia Sophia: Masterpiece Deesis Mosaic and the Byzantine Renaissance: <https://youtu.be/38asbg1WdA8>

Monastery of Saint Catherine of Sinai

<http://www.world-heritage-tour.org/africa/north-africa/egypt/saint-catherine/map.html>

Icons from Sinai

PRESENTATION:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NicalTC4bLI>

<https://vimeo.com/9708525>

Father Justin's talk <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJsBqWSRFQ8>

Mount Athos:

<https://youtu.be/dY1MjA7AWRM>

Panagia Asinou

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U__pZmxXUpl&t=&fbclid=IwAR2xDG1xGeoKJ8XofTvO3pfsI9_R1QqOT8qE-

Coptic Art

Elizabeth Bolman talks on the Red Monastery:

<https://youtu.be/5-bcdKpM9h4>

Armenia

<http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/>

-Churches of Historic Armenia

-Index of Armenian Art: Armenian Architecture

-Index of Armenian Art: Armenian Miniatures

-Saint Gregory of Ani

<http://www.virtualani.org/mren/index.htm>

<http://socalgalopenwallet.blogspot.com/2011/08/interiors-of-st-grigor.html>

-History of Byzantium (youtube):

-Justinian I, 527-565:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpWs0bheq8I>

-Byzantium, 843-1095 CE: Development, Apogee, Crisis, Crusade

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcwVnL67WhQ>

-Byzantium, 1081-1204 CE: The Ascendancy of the Military Aristocracy (2.0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQlbXLQcdIQ>

-Fourth Crusade, 1202-1204

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2O-sTjluS0>

-Byzantium, 1204-1453: Restoration, Twilight, and Fall

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpb9sJuRkrQ>

Software

"If specific programming is required, it will be indicated appropriately"

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed