

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
Early Christian and Byzantine Art

spring 2006
AH 3741

Dr. Stephanie Smith
Wed. 1-3:50
Classroom: Bliss 4002
Office: Bliss 4007

Office Hours:
Tues/Thurs. 3:30-5
Wed. 10:30-12:30
Office tel: 742-1547

Objectives

This course examines Christian art from its origins to circa 500 AD in the West and to 1453 in the Greek East. The course includes the study of architecture, painting, sculpture, and the portable arts. This course stresses change in art as part of social and religious developments.

This Course as a GER (General Education Requirement)

This course is Writing Intensive.

Prerequisite

Art 1541 or consent of the instructor.

Required Texts and Readings

Byzantine Art by Robin Cormack

Heaven on Earth Art and the Church in Byzantium ed. by Linda Safran

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required-excessive unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade regardless of performance on assignments. Students are responsible for all information presented in all classes, even those missed for legitimate reasons. Students are responsible for material from the assigned sections of the textbook and outside readings, which they are expected to have read before class.

Paper

There will be an eight- to ten-page research paper due at the end of the semester. Due dates for bibliography, annotated bibliography, outline, annotated outline, and final paper are included in the following tentative schedule. More complete instructions and grading policy for this assignment will be provided under separate cover.

Examinations

There will be two in-class exams and a final. Absence due to illness will be excused, and a make-up arranged, **only if the student notifies the instructor prior to the scheduled time, and presents a note from a doctor afterward.** Vacation and other travel plans will not be accepted as reasons for rescheduling any test.

Grading

Midterm 30 pts.
Paper 40 pts.
Final 30 pts.

Grading Scale

A 90-100 pts.
B 80-89 pts.
C 70-79 pts.
D 60-69 pts.
F <60 pts.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

All readings are from the assigned text unless otherwise noted.

- 1/18 Introduction and Overview
The Crisis of the Third Century: Art of the Late Empire to Constantine
- 1/25 Christian Art Before the Peace of the Church
Gary Vikan, "Byzantine Pilgrims' Art," in *Heaven on Earth*.
- 2/1 Meet in reference area of MAAG library (presentation by Tom Bell)
- 2/8 Constantine and the Triumph of Christianity
Robin Cormack, "Rome with a Christian Face? Early Byzantine Art 330-527," in *Byzantine Art*.
Joseph Alcherms, "Constantinople and the Empire of the New Rome," in *Heaven on Earth*.
Preliminary Bibliography Due in Class
- 2/15 Early Christian Church Decoration
Narrative and the Illustrated Book
- 2/22 The Golden Age of Justinian
Robin Cormack, "In the Shadow of St. Sophia Byzantine Art in the Sixth Century and its Aftermath 527-680," in *Byzantine Art*.
Bob Ousterhout, "The Holy Space: Architecture and the Liturgy," in *Heaven on Earth*.
- 3/1 The Golden Age of Justinian (Ravenna, and Mt. Sinai)
Susan Boyd, "Art in the Service of the Liturgy: Byzantine Silver Plate," in *Heaven on Earth*.
Annotated Bibliography Due in Class
- 3/8 **Midterm Exam**
- 3/15 Spring Break
- 3/22 Icons and Iconoclasm
Robin Cormack, "The Definition of an Orthodox Christian Empire Byzantine Art 680-843," in *Byzantine Art*.
Anna Kartsonis, "The Responding Icon," in *Heaven on Earth*.
- 3/29 Byzantine West (lecture begins at 2 pm in Zona Auditorium @ Butler)
Guest lecture given by Dr. Stephen Lucey from the College of Wooster
Outline Due in Class

- 4/5 Macedonian Renaissance
Robin Cormack, "Developments and Diversions in the Consolidated Empire Middle Byzantine Art 843-1071," in *Byzantine Art*.
Nancy Patterson Sevckenko, "Illuminating the Liturgy: Illustrated Service Books in Byzantium," in *Heaven on Earth*.
- 4/12 To Be Announced
Annotated Outline Due in Class
- 4/19 The Middle Byzantine Church: Architecture and Decoration
Robin Cormack, "The New Spirituality of the Eleventh Century and the World of the Twelfth Century," in *Byzantine Art*.
Henry Maguire, "The Cycle of Images in the Church," in *Heaven on Earth*.
- 4/26 Late Byzantine Art: 1204-1453
Robin Cormack, "Art in the Service of a Failing Society Late Byzantine Art 1204-1453," in *Byzantine Art*.
Final Paper Due in Class
- 5/3 Late Byzantine Art (cont.)
- 5/12 **Final Exam 10:30-12:30**