The University of Florida, School of Art + Art History, Spring Semester 2013
ARH 4200 Early Medieval and Byzantine Art
Mondays, periods 3-4, 9:35 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, period 3, 9:35 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.
FAC 201

Prof. Ashley Jones
Office Hours Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., FAC 121, and by appointment
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Course Description:
This course will examine the artistic production of the early Byzantine Empire, the early Islamic caliphate, and the so-called Barbarian Successor Kingdoms of Western Europe, with particular attention to how it was shaped by the material, iconographic, and ideological legacy of the Roman Empire. Engaging with both primary sources, such as Gregory of Tours' History of the Franks and with the recently-revived scholarly debate over the "Fall" of Rome, we will consider questions such as the self-definition of rulers and dynasties as the legitimate heirs of the Romans, the material re-use of the past, and the conceptual recreation or stylistic imitation of historical forms by examining a range of artistic media, from monumental architecture and sculpture to manuscript miniatures and jewelry.

Course Objectives:
- To gain familiarity with key monuments of early medieval and Byzantine art.
- To identify and describe material, technical, and stylistic attributes of art works within the contexts—including historical, political, geographic, and religious—in which they were created.
- To effectively describe, tentatively identify and assign geographic and chronological markers to unfamiliar works of art and architecture through comparison with familiar monuments.
- To critically read and analyze theoretical and primary source texts and to relate art works to them.

General Requirements:
- Attendance and Participation 15%
- Short Paper 20%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Final Exam 35%

One short, 5-8 page paper will be due in class on December 3. Papers will not be accepted by email except by prior arrangement with the instructor. For the paper you should choose a single work of art, or a small group of related art works. The paper must include: a formal description and analysis of the work of art; an analysis of its iconography; and a description of the provenance of the art work (from its creation to the present), including what is known or what you would, based on your foregoing analysis, argue are the circumstances of its creation. The paper must make explicit, critical reference to at least one scholarly source.

Exams will include slide identifications, questions that ask you to critically relate two or more art works, and longer essay questions. The final exam will focus on material presented in the second half of the course.

Graduate Requirements:
In addition to the general requirements, students taking the course for graduate credit must complete the following requirements:
- Additional readings, as assigned
- 15-20 page final research paper, the topic of which must be approved by Dr. Jones
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Required Textbooks:


Important Dates:

August 25: First Day of Class
August 29: Drop/Add Deadline
October 13: Midterm Exam
October 15: Deadline for Approval of Research Paper Topic (for Grad Students)
November 26: No Class, Thanksgiving Break
December 3: Short Paper Due in Class
December 10: Last Day of Class, Graduate Research Papers Due
December 10: Drop with College Petition (without failing grade) Deadline
December 18: Final Exam, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., FAC 201

Email Policy

You are requested to use your UFL email as your primary email. Important information, including supplementary readings, assignments, etc., will be disseminated via the class list-serve. You are subscribed to the list-serve with your UFL email. Emails sent to the professor will usually be returned within 48 hours.

Class Attendance/Demeanor Policy

Your attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in a reduction in your participation grade. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade. In your peer critiques, you are expected to offer constructive criticism in a collegial manner.

Please also see the UF attendance policy:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences

Deadlines and Making-Up Missed Materials

Make-up exams can only be offered to those with an excused absence. Extensions to deadlines will not be given except under exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor. Each day late for any assignment will result in a lowered 1/3 letter grade for that assignment (A to A- for example).

Grading Scale

Grades are tabulated on a 100-point scale and a letter grade is assigned as follows:
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If you have questions about how grade points are assigned by the University, go to: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Academic Honesty

The university’s policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. Full information regarding these policies is available at the following links: Academic Honesty: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html#honesty

Honor Code: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php

Student Conduct: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php

Students with Disabilities

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Anyone requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide you with the necessary documentation, which you must then provide to me when requesting accommodation. Please make your request at least one week before the needed accommodation.

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

University Counseling & Wellness Center

3190 Radio Road P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100 Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/
 Provisional Course Outline:  
Readings not in the textbooks will be available via ARES course reserve. Supplementary readings may be announced to students via the list-serve or e-learning.

Monday, Aug. 25: Introduction

“Early Christian” Art:

Wed., Aug. 27: Sarcophagi and Catacombs

Mon., Sept. 1:  
NO CLASS, Labor Day

Wed., Sept. 3: Christ the King

Constantine and the foundation of Byzantium:

Mon., Sept. 8, and Wed., Sept. 10: Constantine the victor

Mon., Sept. 15 and Wed., Sept. 17: Constantine the founder

Mon., Sept. 22, and Wed., Sept. 24: Constantine the church builder

Early Byzantine Art:

Mon., Sept. 29, and Wed., Oct. 1: Byzantine Art before Iconoclasm: mosaics, murals and icons


Mon., Oct. 13: Midterm Exam

Wed., Oct. 15: The Iconoclastic controversy


Other heirs to the Romans:


Mon., Nov. 3, and Wed., Nov. 5: Ostrogoths in Italy

Mon., Nov 10, and Wed., Nov. 12: Visigoths in Spain

Mon.m Nov. 17, and Wed., Nov. 19: Merovingian Royal Graves

Mon., Nov. 24: Post-Roman Britain
Read:

Wednesday, Nov. 26:  
NO CLASS, Happy Thanksgiving!
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The “Triumph of Barbarism and Christianity?”:


Wednesday, December 3: Short Paper Due in Class

Mon. Dec. 8, and Wed., Dec. 10:
Carolingians Continued/Catch-Up/Review for final exam

Final Exam: Thursday, December 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., FAC 201