

Chrestou Irene

**Assistant Professor
of
Byzantine History**



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Fields of Interest:

Political History of Byzantium. International Relations. Imperial Ideology.
Administration and Institutions. Relations between State and Church. Society and
Everyday Life of the Byzantines.- Hagiography (6th-11th c.). Epigraphy.

Courses:

Winter Semester:

II 13 Byzantine History A: Byzantine history from the 4th to the 11th century

(graduate). The course introduces to the history of Byzantium from the fourth to the eleventh century, focusing on selected aspects of the empire's history, while adhering to a basic chronological frame. There is examined the structure of the Byzantine state (as well as challenges and changes to that structure), political ideology, religious developments as well as specific topics of economic and cultural history, military and cultural interactions with neighbors.

SI 88 Byzantine figures in their public and private space (middle Byzantine period)

(graduate). The course introduces students to public and private

life of prominent persons of the Byzantine society. The students will compose an essay using modern bibliography and primary source selection.

Spring Semester:

SI 212 Power and contestation in Byzantium (graduate). The course focuses on the Byzantine imperial ideology and those constitutional factors as well as social groups which could dispute emperors' power. The course emphasizes on historical events which reveal initiatives and reaction of the civil and military authority with the scope of degrading the emperor or reestablishing his dominance. Emphasis is also placed on revolts, rivals and uprisings, which express the discontent of the citizens for certain actions and political decisions of their sovereign.

7th-9th centuries: an era of restoration and reform (postgraduate). The seminar focuses on the political, military, religious and cultural circumstances that prevailed within three centuries of Byzantine history, since issues such as the loss of large urban centres of the East, the downgrading of urban economy, as well as intellectual, political and religious problems, led the state to the reconsideration of its priorities and the resulting reconstruction and reform. By examining the new course of the Empire, which from the 7th century onwards virtually abandoned the vision of "universality" (which necessarily included also the western-European territories of the Roman Empire) to eventually lean on the capacity of compact populations in the East, the researcher realises how the preceding reconstruction of the state resulted in political, military and cultural progress, which occurred during the time of the "Macedonian dynasty".