

## Nikolaou, Katerina

Professor  
of  
Byzantine History



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### Receiving hours:

Spring semester 2022-2023:

Tuesday 11.15-12.00

### Fields of Interest:

Byzantines' everyday life

Women's position and role in Byzantium

Hagiography (8th-11th c.)

Epigraphy

### Courses:

#### Winter Semester 2022- 2023:

##### II 13 *Byzantine History from the 4th to the 11th Century* (graduate)

This course introduces the students 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. The course examines 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

SI 79 ***Collective attitudes and individual pathways in Early and Middle Byzantium (4th-11h c.)*** (graduate seminar)

Our aim is to study and interpret the attitudes of ethnic, religious, gender, social, economic, professional, spiritual and other groups and strata in the Byzantine Empire (e.g. Romans - "Romioi", Greeks - Armenians - Jews - iconophiles - iconoclasts - saints - monks - women - eunuchs - rich - poor - farmers - slaves - artisans - soldiers - chroniclers - historians – intellectuals - teachers), while at the same time we follow, record and evaluate the individual routes taken by characteristic representatives.

**Spring Semester:**

II 133 Byzantine History: ***Love and politics in Byzantium*** (graduate)

The aim of this course is occasioned by a wish to view love, in its romantic expression, as a motive and a stimulus for political, constitutional and social changes that affect the empire directly, as well as indirectly or in the long term. The rationale behind this is to give prominence to the decisions and actions of individuals who played a leading role in Byzantine history, decisions and actions that derived from the love these persons had for their romantic partners and occasionally bordered on the abuse of power. It is to demonstrate that their actions –the result of long-term mental processes, which is usually the case with human feelings, as opposed to the impulsive unjustified acts usually born of rather “instinctive” romantic sentiments– contributed to the evolution of state institutions, the change in political direction or the realignment of social or “partisan” balances of power.

**Postgraduate seminar**

***Women in the public sphere (fourth-eleventh c.)***

**Summary:** The multidimensional image of Byzantine women's presence in — and contribution to — the wars of the Empire

from the sixth to the eleventh century is outlined. Needless to say, Byzantine women were never an active part of combat units; however, since armed conflict affects both men and women equally, although in diverse manners and varying degrees, the course illustrates the tangible, both active and passive, entanglement of women in war viewed broadly, not just in the battlefield. At the same time, it documents and comments upon the perception and use on the part of Byzantine authors of the image of women in an exclusively masculine war environment.

The participation of Byzantine women in the events that precede military confrontations, as well as in the actual conflicts themselves, is examined, and the consequences of the war on the empire's female population are explored.