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instructor: Christina Maranci
course title: Heretics and Iconoclasts: Art and Architecture of the
Christian East
institution: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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Christina Maranci
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11pm to 12:15pm
Mitchell 195

Heretics and Iconoclasts: Art and Architecture of the Christian East

This class will explore the art of the Christian East from the fourth to seventeenth centuries AD. We will focus on Armenia, as the domed churches, illuminated manuscripts, and relief sculpture of this region present a distinctive tradition which can be approached from many directions, both formal and contextual. The objects and monuments to be considered raise broad questions regarding artistic style, function, theology, and social history. In addition, they reveal contact with the neighboring cultures of Byzantium, the Sassanian and Islamic Near East, Europe, and even China. In exploring the development of the field, we will thus become familiar not only with a set of objects defined as Armenian but also with larger issues of identity and cross-cultural dynamics.

Texts: Generally, on reserve in the library or on the internet. In the stacks, if indicated.

Also, I strongly recommend looking at the following websites:

General: <http://seelrc.org/webliography/armenian.ptml#cat6>

A reliable source for links to information on Armenian history, language, and culture.

Art: http://armenianstudies.csufresno.edu/arts_of_armenia/index.htm

This site contains short, illustrated summaries of Armenian art and architecture.

Assignments:

Three exams. All will consist of slide identifications, short comparisons, and the final will include an essay.

Graduate Student Assignments:

In lieu of the exams, you will be asked to write a 15-page research paper due Dec. 13. You will also be asked to give a group presentation to the class on Nov. 17.

Grade percentages:

Exam 1: 25%

Exam 2: 30%

Final: 35%

Class Participation 10%

Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:15 to 2pm or by appointment.

Lecture Schedule

Tuesday, September 5: Armenia: An Introduction

Thursday, September 7: ReOrientations in Geography, History, and Culture

http://www.workmall.com/wfb2001/armenia/armenia_geography.html
<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/europe/am.htm>
<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/armenian.htm>

Tuesday, September 12: Pre-Christian Art

Reading: Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *The Armenians*, pp. 1-29

visit: www.workmall.com/wfb2001/armenia/armenia_history_the_ancient_period.html

Thursday, September 14: Pre-Christian Art, ctd.

Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *The Armenians*, pp. 117-19

Thierry and Donabédian, *Armenian Art*, “Pagan Art of Armenia”

Tuesday, September 19: Church Architecture in Armenia and Syria

Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *The Armenians*, 97-103

Thierry and Donabédian, *Armenian Art*, “Architecture of the 4th to 6th centuries”

Thursday, September 21: Early Christian Sculpture in Armenia

Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *The Armenians*, 119-125

Thierry and Donabédian, *Armenian Art*, “Sculpture of the 4th to 6th centuries”

Tuesday September 26: Whispers from the East: Early Manuscript Illumination

Thomas Mathews, “The Early Armenian Iconographic Program of the Ejmiacin Gospel,”

Thursday, September 28: “The Decorated Space: Mosaics and Wall Painting”

Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *The Armenians*, pp. 136-140

Thierry and Donabédian, *Armenian Art*, “Armenian Painting of the 7th century”

Tuesday, October 3 Film: Atom Egoyan’s *Calendar*

Thursday, October 5 Archiving Memory and Constructing Identity

R. Krautheimer, “Armenia and Georgia”, *Early Christian and Byzantine Architecture*, pp. 321-330

Tuesday, October 10: The Church Building as a Political Strategy

C. Maranci, “Byzantium through Armenian Eyes: Cultural Appropriation and the Church of Zart‘noc”, *Gesta*

Thursday, October 12: Exam 1 Review

Tuesday, October 17: Exam 1

Thursday, October 19: Armenia and Georgia: Twin Caucasian Cultures?

Antony Eastmond, *Royal Imagery in Medieval Georgia*, passim

Tuesday, October 24: Between Byzantium and Islam: the Church of Aghtamar

Lynn Jones, "The Church of the Holy Cross and the Iconography of Kingship," *Gesta*, 33 (1994): 104-117 (in the stacks).
Skim *Aghtamar*.

Thursday, October 26: City of a 1001 Churches: The Medieval City of Ani
<http://www.virtualani.freemove.co.uk/history/part1.htm>
and visit monuments that are hotlinked on map.

Tuesday, October 31: Manuscript Art of Armenia, 11-14th centuries
Thomas Mathews, "The Classic Phase of Bagratid and Artsruni Illumination"

Thursday, November 2: A Cosmopolitan Art: The Manuscripts of Cilicia
Helen C. Evans, "Armenian Art looks West: T'oros Roslin's Zetyun Gospels"
D. Kouymjian, "Chinese Elements in Armenian miniature painting in the Mongol Period"

Tuesday, November 7: Image-Smashing and Other Heresies
Sirarpie Der Nersessian, "Image Worship in Armenia and its Opponents"

Thursday, November 9: Class Cancelled

Tuesday, November 14: Exam 2

Thursday November 16: Field Trip to St. John's Armenian Church

Tuesday, November 21: Graduate Student Presentations

Thursday, November 23-26: Thanksgiving Recess

Tuesday, November 28: The Armenian Monastic Complex
Thierry and Donabédian, *Armenian Art*, "Art of Northern Armenia from the 12th-15th century—Religious Architecture"

Thursday, November 30: Enemy of Christians?
Priscilla Soucek, "Armenian and Islamic Manuscript Painting: A Visual Dialogue".

Tuesday, December 5: Armenia outside Armenia: Art of the Diaspora
H. Evans and S. Merian, "The Final Centuries: Armenian Manuscripts of the Diaspora"

Thursday, December 7: Medieval and Modern Armenian Identities
Maranci, "The Armenian Churches of New England: Tradition and Adaptation"

Tuesday, December 12: Review

FINAL EXAM: 10-12NOON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006
Suggested Reading

Armenian Manuscripts

Thomas Mathews, “The Art of the Armenian Manuscript”, *Treasures in Heaven: Armenian art, religion, and society* (New York: Pierpont Morgan Library, 1998).

The Armenian Gospel Book: Codicology and Standard Iconography

Sylvie L Merian, Thomas F. Mathews, and Mary V. Orna, “The Making of an Armenian Manuscript”, *Treasures in Heaven. Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts* (New York: Pierpont Morgan Library, 1994). ILL

“Two Interpretations of the Ten Canon Tables”, trans. James R. Russell, *Armenian Gospel Iconography: The tradition of the Glajor Gospel* (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1991). ILL

A Clash of Cultures? Armenian Illumination and the Byzantine World

Helen Evans, “The Armenians”, *Glory of Byzantium. Art and Culture of the Middle Byzantine Era* (New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997), pp. 350-363 (in the stacks).

A Medieval Armenian Model-Book

If you have French: Sirarpie Der Nersessian, “Copies de Peintures Byzantines dans un Carnet arménien de Modèles”, *Études byzantines et arméniennes*, pp. 673-682.

Armenian Cilicia: Artistic Personality and Questions of Style

L. Cugaszyan, “Cilician Book Painting: Miniatures of T'oros Roslin and Italian Art”, *Fifth international Symposium on Armenian art, Venice 1988* (Venice: Mechitarists, 1991), pp. 321-332. ILL

Defining Secular and Sacred in Medieval Armenian Illumination

Look through: Frederic Macler, *L'enluminiere profane arménienne*, (Paris: Librairie Orientaliste P. Geuthner, 1928). ILL

If you have French: Sirarpie Der Nersessian, “Miniatures de la Bataille des Vardaniens”, *Études Byzantines et Arméniennes*, pp. 701-704.

Late Medieval Gospels in Armenia and the Diaspora: Cultural Identity and Cultural Exchange

Alice Taylor, “Armenian Art and Armenian Identity”