

ARH 4200/ARH 6915 Early Medieval & Byzantine Art
University of Florida, School of Art + Art History, Spring 2026

Professor: Dr. Ashley Jones

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Lectures Mon period 5 (11:45am-12:35 pm) and Wed, periods 5-6 (11:45am-1:40pm), FAC 201
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-4pm, FAC 119a

Course Fees \$12.50

Catalogue Course Description:

This course will examine the art and architecture of Europe and the Mediterranean region from approximately the 4th to the 14th centuries.

Expanded Course Description:

This course will examine the artistic production of Europe and the Mediterranean in the early Middle Ages, particularly the 4th-10th centuries, with attention to how it was shaped by the material, iconographic, and ideological legacy of the Roman Empire. 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 Goals:

- Provide an overview of the history of art from the 4th through 10th centuries in Europe and the Mediterranean Region.
- Inform students about the variety of social, cultural, and economic contexts in which art was produced and used in order to explain how these contexts affected the objects' form and function.
- Heighten visual acuity and increase facility in communicating about works of art and architecture, as well as other aspects of the visual environment.
- Guide students to critically read and analyze scholarly and primary source texts and to relate art works to them.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to...

Identify, describe, and interpret works of art, architecture, and material culture from the 4th century to circa 1300 CE in Europe, the Mediterranean Basin, and the Near East, while also recognizing the works' continued importance in our contemporary world. (Content SLO: N)

- These outcomes will be assessed through class participation, the group project, exams, and the annotated bibliography.

Use the methods and vocabulary of art history to analyze how works of art and architecture and the cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems surrounding their creation mediate our understanding of both the past and the contemporary world. (Critical Thinking SLO: N)

- These outcomes will be assessed through the group project, exams, and the annotated bibliography.

Formulate oral and written analyses of works of art and architecture from this period in their historical and cultural context, while also reflecting on the ways that works of art and architecture mediate understanding of the contemporary world. (Communication SLO: N)

- These outcomes will be assessed through the group project, exams, and the annotated bibliography.

Secondary General Education Designation: International (N)

Area objectives available here: <https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

Note: A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit

Requirements:

This course has information available through UF's e-learning website called "Canvas." The syllabus, handouts, assignments, and images for exams will be available on Canvas. A passing grade requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed below. The scheduled lectures and reading assignments are subject to change upon the discretion of the instructor. It is the students' responsibility to check their UF email, their Canvas email, and listen to announcements in class pertaining to those potential changes to ensure they are up to date on assignments. The final grade is comprised of the following elements:

- Attendance **5%** and Participation **10%**
- Group Project **15%**
 - Part 1 5%, Part 2 5%, Presentation 5%
- Annotated Bibliography **25%**
 - Research Question 5%, First Draft 10%, Final Draft 10%
- Midterm Exam **25%**
- Final Exam **30%**

Description of Graded Work

Attendance 5%

Regular attendance is necessary to fulfill the participation requirement and ensure success in the class and a record of attendance will be kept. Attendance will be taken orally or via sign in sheet at the beginning of each class meeting. The instructor reserves the right to mark you absent if you arrive late or leave early. Much of the test material will come from lectures and discussions. If you miss a class meeting, you will still be responsible for all course content and logistical information covered during the class. Class will begin and end promptly. Please notify the instructor and the Teaching Assistant as soon as possible in the event of illness, emergency, or other unavoidable

absence from class. Exams can only be made-up or rescheduled in exceptional circumstances, please plan to attend the final exam at its scheduled date and time.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalogue at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Participation: 10%

Each class meeting will include discussion of the week's readings and other material presented in class. Students are assigned 3 points per course hour each week based on their participation (see the participation rubric below). A percentage is calculated based on the total number of participation points available in a semester, usually about 100. This then counts as 15% of the overall grade. If you have issues that inhibit you from joining freely in class discussion, please see the instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

Participation Rubric

Total Points: 9	High Quality	Average	Needs Improvement
Informed: Shows evidence of having done the assigned reading	3	2	1
Thoughtful: Shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised.	3	2	1
Considerate: Takes the perspective of others into account.	3	2	1

Group Project 15%

Students will be assigned to small groups to conduct investigations into archaeological/art historical "mysteries." Each group will be presented with a set of archaeological, historical, and art historical evidence, and a research question. For the first part of the assignment (5%), the group will work together to propose an answer to the question based on the provided evidence. For the second part of the assignment (5%), students will read and analyze published scholarly research on the question, and compare the authors' conclusions to the group's hypothesis. Each group will make an oral presentation to the class on their project (5%).

Annotated Bibliography 25%

In lieu of a full research paper, students will propose an original research question, and prepare an annotated bibliography of scholarly sources addressing their question. The assignment will be completed in three phases: a proposal of 1-3 ideas for a research question, to be discussed with the instructor (5%); a draft annotated bibliography (10%); a final annotated bibliography (10%). The bibliography should be as comprehensive as necessary to address the research question. The annotation for each source should briefly summarize the source's argument and role in the scholarship, and detail how the student would make use of it in the hypothetical research paper.

Midterm Exam 25% and Final Exam 30%

The midterm and the final are both in-class exams and will consist of three timed sections: three extended ID responses (15 minutes), a short essay comparing two images (one on the midterm and two on the final exam; 15 minutes each), and a longer essay question (30 minutes). The midterm will be 60 minutes total and the final exam will be 75 minutes total. Exam content will be drawn from readings, terms, and examples discussed in class. A list of study images will be provided. This information will be posted along with more details on expectations and grading on Canvas under the Midterm and Final Exam tabs on the "Assignments" page.

All assignments must be submitted via **Canvas** and are due at **midnight** unless otherwise noted.

Campus Health and Safety Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit shcc.ufl.edu/.

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 911. Reach the emergency room at 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center.

University Police Department: Visit police.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161

Academic Policies and Resources:

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

Email policy: You are requested to use your UFL email as your primary email. Important information, including readings, assignments, etc., will be disseminated via Canvas announcements. Please make sure that you are signed up to receive notification of course announcements. Emails sent to the professor will usually be returned within 48 hours.

Accommodation: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure **as early as possible in the semester.**

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on ten criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask me.

UF's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced. This means a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. For information on what constitutes plagiarism, consult the UF Plagiarism Guide at <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/stdentplagiarism.html> and "Misuses of Sources" on the course website. If you have any questions, please ask me. An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
% Equivalent	93% and above	90-92%	87-89%	83-86%	80-82%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	67-69%	63-66%	60-62%	59% and below

Please note: A grade of C- or below will not count toward major requirements. See the following web page for information on UF policies for assigning grade points:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services career.ufl.edu/.

Library Support: cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio: 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

On-Line Students Complaints: distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/

Important Dates

January 12:	First Day of Class
January 14:	No class meeting, research day: begin researching potential topics and research questions for the Annotated Bibliography.
January 15:	Drop/Add Deadline
January 19:	MLK Day, NO CLASS
February 4:	Deadline for Approval of Annotated Bibliography topic
February 25:	Midterm Exam
March 11:	Draft Annotated Bibliography Due
March 16 & 18:	Spring Break, NO CLASS
April 15:	Annotated Bibliography Due
April 22:	Last Day of Class
April 29:	Final Exam, 10:00am-12:00pm, FAC 201

Schedule of Topics:

WEEK 1

1/12 Monday: Introduction

WEEK 2

1/21 Wednesday: Sarcophagi and Catacombs

WEEK 3

1/26 Monday: Early Christian Art

1/28 Wednesday: The Age of Constantine

WEEK 4

2/2 Monday: The Age of Constantine

2/4 Wednesday: The Age of Constantine
Annotated Bibliography topic selection due

WEEK 5

2/9 Monday: Heresy and Orthodoxy

2/11 Wednesday: The Age of Justinian

WEEK 6

2/16 Monday: Pilgrimage

2/18 Wednesday: Arts of the Book

WEEK 7

2/23 Monday: Review

2/25 Wednesday: Midterm Exam

WEEK 8

3/2 Monday: Islam in the Mediterranean

3/4 Wednesday: Islam in the Mediterranean

WEEK 9

3/9 Monday: Icons before Iconoclasm

3/11 Wednesday: The Iconoclastic Controversy

Draft Annotated Bibliography Due

3/16-3/20 SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10

3/23 Monday: Carolingian Art

3/25 Wednesday: Carolingian Art

WEEK 11

3/30 Monday: Encounters and Exchanges

4/1 Wednesday: Encounters and Exchanges

WEEK 12:

4/6 Monday: Nature and Landscape

4/8 Wednesday: Nature and Landscape

WEEK 13

4/13 Monday: In-Class Discussion of Draft Bibliographies

In-Class Work on Group Projects

4/15 Wednesday: War & Conquest

Annotated Bibliography Due

WEEK 14

4/20 Monday: War & Conquest

4/22 Wednesday: Final Review

In-Class Presentations of Group Projects

4/29 Wednesday: Final Exam, 10:00am-12:00pm, FAC 201