

BAT 107 Monumental Topography of Byzantine Thessaloniki

The subject of the course is the architecture, sculpture, and painted art of Thessaloniki, from the Early Christian period to the Ottoman conquest of the city in 1430. The study of funerary art, a fundamental element of the city's history, is connected with references to the art of the catacombs of Rome, in the cases where the surviving monuments allow such a comparison. The most emblematic monuments of the Early Christian, Middle, and Late Byzantine periods, including the city walls, are given a thorough examination. Regarding the Late period, particular emphasis is given to the analysis of the so-called "Thessaloniki school", and its connection with other "art schools" of the empire and regions influenced by its art.

BAT 102 Byzantine Illuminated Manuscripts

The manuscript in Antiquity and the Medieval period: materials, form, composition, scripture, conditions of authorship. Illumination of manuscripts in Antiquity, evolution from the roll to the codex. Decoration of manuscripts in Byzantium: types, subjects. The importance of the colophon. Iconography in the most widespread religious-liturgical books: gospel, lectionary, psalter, homilies, in addition to inter-manuscript connections (e.g. production in the same scriptorium). The Macedonian Renaissance (Photius, Constantine VII Porphyrogennetus), and comparison with contemporary works of minor art. Manuscripts as evidence for the non-extant monumental painting of Constantinople. Presentation of lay and religious manuscripts from the Early Christian, Middle and Late Byzantine periods. Critical assessment of theories regarding the copying of Byzantine manuscripts in Georgia and Armenia.