

BIS 218: BYZANTIUM IN THE 11th CENTURY: THE SOURCES' TESTIMONIES (1025-1081)

Due to the course the student will become familiar with the perception of the 11th century crisis of the contemporary or the slightly later Byzantine writers. The main points of their critique will also be identified. The reasons for the ineffectiveness of the Byzantine army in dealing with the Seldjuk raids in the east will be sought, while the defeat of the byzantine troops in 1071 in Mantzikert and the effectiveness of the reform measures taken by the emperors of the 11th century in the field of economy, will also be assessed. The testimonies of the byzantine sources will be taken into account, along with the successful or not choices of the emperors of such a critical period from the death of Basil II to the rise of Alexios I Comnenus to the byzantine imperial throne.

BIS 206: BYZANTIUM AND THE WEST IN THE 10th CENTURY

The course aims to present the cultural and other contacts that developed between the eastern Frankish state and Byzantium in the 10th century. In addition, the relations of Byzantium with the court of the Saxons before and after the marriage of the Byzantine princess Theophano to the heir to the German throne, Otto II, in 972 are examined. Finally, the relations with the papal church in the 10th century, as well as the relations of the latter with the Saxon rulers are studied. The "image" of Byzantium at the court of the Saxons is sought through "Ottonian historiography", while the Saxons' "Italian" policy, as well as their competition with Byzantium for the influence on southern Italy and for the Roman imperial title, are also explored.