instructor: Christina Maranci

course title: Heretics and Iconoclasts: Art and Architecture of the Christian East

institution: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

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stable URL: www.vafweb.org/resources/syllabi/maranci1.pdf
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
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

Tuesday, October 10: The Church Building as a Political Strategy
C. Maranci, “Byzantium through Armenian Eyes: Cultural Appropriation and the Church of Zuart’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
Skim *Aghtamar*.

**Thursday, October 26:** City of a 1001 Churches: The Medieval City of Ani
http://www.virtualani.freeserve.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

**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

**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

The Armenian Gospel Book: Codicology and Standard Iconography


A Clash of Cultures? Armenian Illumination and the Byzantine World

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

Defining Secular and Sacred in Medieval Armenian Illumination

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”