We are used to think about Byzantine art as one that derives from the cult of painted images – portable icons or interior church decorations. However, one cannot understand fully Byzantine ecclesiastical visual culture without paying attention to the cult of relics. Relics – material remains of Christ, Mary, or other Christian Saints, as well as material objects connected to them – stand at the very base of Christianity in general and of the Orthodox faith in particular. In this course we shall examine how the cult of relics shaped the Byzantine visual culture in monumental ecclesiastical building, in paintings, and above all in minor arts. Special Primary written sources will be regularly examined and discussed.

The course is based on weekly reading in English (home reading is obligatory). The course includes tours in Jerusalem.


7. From Mandyion to Veronica: Picturing the "Disembodied" Face and

-Polychromatikon – Byzantine Court Culture from 829 to 1204, Washington, D.C., 1997, pp. 53-79.


-Bibliographie:  
  - Baert, B., A Heritage of Holy Wood: The Legend of the True Cross in Text and Image (Cultures, Beliefs and Traditions: Medieval and Early Modern Peoples), Leiden,
2004.