EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
ART HISTORY
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art Art History
FA / ARTH 3541 3.0 SECTION M
THE GOTHIC CATHEDRAL
FALL 2018 / WINTER 2019

Last Modified Date: 01/08/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Examines the architecture, sculpture, stained glass, painting, fittings and use of Gothic cathedrals in Europe from the 12th to the 15th century. Buildings are explored in light of the demands of the patron(s), the design and technological skills of the master mason(s) and artists, and the liturgical requirements of the clergy. Plans and elevations are examined with regard to systems of practical geometry, while the study of building materials and structural systems reveals how the edifice was constructed and how it continues to stand. The iconography of individual buildings is investigated so as to determine the aspirations of the patron(s) and the meaning of the buildings to society. Emphasis is placed on architectural-historical methodologies and on the development of ‘archaeological’ skills necessary to ‘read’ Gothic cathedrals.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thurlby, Malcolm</td>
<td>Sec. M / LECT / W</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

This course examines the architecture, sculpture, stained glass, painting, fittings and use of Gothic cathedrals in Europe from the 12th to the 15th century. Buildings are explored in light of the demands of the patron(s), the design and technological skills of the master mason(s) and artists, and the liturgical requirements of the clergy. Plans and elevations are examined with regard to systems of practical geometry, while the study of building materials and structural systems reveals how the edifice was constructed and how it continues to stand. The iconography of individual buildings is investigated so as to determine the aspirations of the patron(s) and the meaning of the buildings to society. Emphasis is placed on architectural-historical methodologies and on the development of ‘archaeological’ skills necessary to ‘read’ Gothic cathedrals.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

REQUIRED READING

RECOMMENDED READING


Francis Bond, *An Introduction to English Church Architecture from the Eleventh to the Sixteenth Century* (London 1913).


John Britton, *Cathedral Antiquities* 5 vols (London 1835)


**Stuart Harrison and Paul Barker, ‘Ripon Minster: An Archaeological Analysis and Reconstruction of the 12th-Century Church’, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, CLII (1999), 49-78.**


Kenneth Milne, ed. *Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin* (Dublin 2004).


Edward S. Prior, Gothic Art in England (London 1900).
Edward S. Prior and Arthur Gardner, An Account of English Medieval Figure Sculpture (Cambridge 1912).
Alain Saint-Denis et al, Laon: La cathédrale (Zodiaque 2002).
Dany Sandron, Amiens: La cathédrale (Zodiaque 2004).
Janet E. Snyder, Early Gothic Column-Figure Sculpture in France: Appearance, Materials and Significance (Farnham: Ashgate, 2011).
Roger Stalley, George Edmund Street and the restoration of Christ Church, Dublin (Dublin 2000).

Malcolm Thurlby, ‘Did the late 12th-century nave of St David’s Cathedral have stone vaults?’ *Antiquaries Journal*, 83 (2003), 9-16.


Christopher Wilson, ‘Calling the Tune? The Involvement of King Henry III in the Design of the Abbey Church at Westminster’, *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*, 161 (2008), 59-93.


Nancy Wu, *Ad Quadratum: the practical application of geometry in medieval architecture* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2002)

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Jan. 9. Introduction: The beginnings of gothic architecture

READING: Wilson, 7-43.

Jan. 16. Early gothic cathedrals 1140-1194

READING: Wilson, 44-72

Jan. 23. The beginnings of gothic architecture in England

READING: Wilson, 72-90


READING: Wilson, 72-90
February 6. French High Gothic.
   READING: Wilson, 91-114.
   READING: Wilson, 114-119.
February 20. **READING WEEK: NO CLASS**
February 27. Rayonnant Gothic.
   READING: Wilson, 120-144.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS**
March 6. German and Early English Gothic
   READING: Wilson, 144-178

March 8. **LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE**
   READING: Wilson, 178-188
March 20. The Decorated Style.
   READING: Wilson, 189-204.

**SLIDE TEST DUE IN CLASS**
March 27. The Perpendicular Style.
   READING: Wilson, 204-223

April 3. Late gothic.
   READING: Wilson 224-291

**ESSAY DUE IN CLASS**

**ESSAYS**

It is important that we consult closely on all aspects of essay writing. The first assignment will be an annotated bibliography on the topic chosen for you first essay. You should select a topic for your essay by the end of the fourth week of term; there are some suggested topics listed below but I am open to ideas for research on all aspects of Gothic art and architecture. One of the key factors is to make sure that appropriate literature is available on the subject you plan to research; that is where I can help. **You are required to discuss your intended topic with me so that I may assist with bibliographical and organizational matters.** The next step is for you to go ahead with the research, always keeping in mind that you have to organize the material into a coherent thesis. I tend to work with a collection of key points and images which I try to arrange in as straightforward a fashion as possible. Then, each point can be amplified/embroidered as necessary. You should aim at having an outline completed two weeks before the due date of the essay. **Once again, you are required to consult with me to discuss the outline of your essay.** You are now ready to prepare the final draft. Use a correct and consistent form of footnotes or endnotes in citing references - consult standard manuals of form. Footnotes (endnotes) are required not only when you quote from a particular source but also when you take up an idea, theory or point from any source. **Remember that penalties for plagiarism are severe - for York University Policy on Academic Honesty see:** [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69#_Toc89156096](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69#_Toc89156096). See also: [http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity). **No extensions are given for essays except for valid medical reasons (medical certificate required). Essays handed in late will be penalized one full grade point per day.**

**SOME SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS**

Abbot Suger and Saint-Denis
The Royal Portal of Chartres Cathedral
The early Gothic fabric of Sens Cathedral
Laon Cathedral
The early gothic fabric of Notre-Dame, Paris
Canterbury Cathedral 1175-1184
The rebuilding of Chichester Cathedral in the late twelfth century
Ripon cathedral
Early gothic Wells Cathedral
St Hugh's Choir, Lincoln Cathedral
Lausanne Cathedral
Chartres Cathedral 1194-1220
Bourges Cathedral
Glasgow Cathedral
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin
Salisbury Cathedral
Amiens Cathedral
Bayeux Cathedral
The eastern arm of Worcester Cathedral
The West Portals of Reims Cathedral
Bonn Cathedral
Magdeburg Cathedral
Beauvais Cathedral
Ely Cathedral 1234-1252
Westminster Abbey 1245-1269
The Angel Choir of Lincoln Cathedral
Exeter Cathedral
The Judgment Portal of Lincoln Cathedral
The nave of York minster
Bristol Cathedral
The Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral
Siena Cathedral
Florence Cathedral
Milan Cathedral
Gloucester Cathedral circa 1331-1357
The nave of Canterbury Cathedral
The English Gothic Vault
The 'Thick Wall' in English Gothic Architecture

USES AND ABUSES OF THE INTERNET

The Internet can be both a blessing and a curse. On the plus side, most library catalogues are available online. Therefore, you are able to do things like catalogue searches at home and avoid the possibility of having to wait for a terminal in a library. Similarly, an increasing amount of archival material is now available on-line; much museum, gallery and historical material can now be accessed this way, including images of illuminated manuscripts. Also, a Google search on any topic/building/manuscript etc., can turn up some excellent, little-known material; my rule is now to Google everything! On the down side, it is often assumed that a particular website will provide accurate and the most up-to-date information on a topic. This is absolutely NOT the case! Many websites are very poorly researched and may even give inaccurate information. Always remember that websites can be posted by anyone; there is no check on the system. By contrast, seriously researched academic publications - whether books from academic presses or articles in
academic journals – have undergone a peer-review process, one that involved two, three or even four ‘expert’ readers. Thus it makes good sense to make full use of traditional published sources in the library – periodical articles in specialized journals are especially useful (many available on jstor).

WEBSITE: Mapping Gothic France: http://mappinggothic.org/

GRADED ASSESSMENT

COURSE EVALUATION
One 1000-word annotated bibliography on your essay topic (10%) Due in class February 27.
One ‘take-home’ slide examination (40%) Due in class March 20.
One 2500-word essay (excluding bibliography and notes) (50%) Due in class April 3

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.
Moodle @ York University