An examination of ecclesiastical and secular architecture in Europe circa 800-1200. Buildings are explored in light of the demands of the patron(s), their use, and the design and technological skills of the master mason(s). The study of building materials and structural systems reveals how the edifice was constructed and how it continues to stand. The iconography of 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’ Romanesque buildings. Open to non-majors.

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

FA/ARTH 3542 ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

CLASSES: GCFA 130, Wednesdays 2:30 – 5:30

COURSE DIRECTOR: Malcolm Thurlby
Office: GCFA 260 – office hours by appointment.
email: thurlby@sympatico.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines ecclesiastical and secular architecture in Europe c. 800-1200. Buildings are explored in light of the demands of the patron(s), their use, and the design and technological skills of the master mason(s). The study of building materials and structural systems reveals how the edifice was constructed and how it continues to stand. The iconography of 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’ Romanesque buildings.
TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

REQUIRED READING:

RECOMMENDED READING


PROVISIONAL WEEKLY CLASSES:

Week 1: Roman and Early Medieval background.

Week 2: Carolingian and Ottonian architecture.

Week 3: First Romanesque architecture.

Weeks 4: Anglo-Saxon architecture.

Week 5: The German Empire North of the Alps.

Week 6: The Italian Peninsula and its Islands.
Week 7: Northern France and the East-West Section of the Loire Valley.
READING: Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, 80-113.

Week 8: France South of the Loire.
READING: Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, 114-123.

ANOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS

- Week 9: France East of the Loire, with the Kingdom of Burgundy.
READING: Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, 124-134.

Week 10: The Iberian Peninsula.

SLIDE TEST DUE IN CLASS

Week 11: England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland.
READING: Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, 147-162, 176-197.

Week 12: Central Europe and Scandinavia.
READING: Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, 163-174

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 your 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 Romanesque 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 strongly advised 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 strongly advised 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#. See also: http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity. No extensions are given for essays except for valid medical reasons (medical certificate required). Assignments handed in late will be penalized one full grade point per day.

SOME SUGGESTED ESSAY TOPICS
Roman aspects of Romanesque architecture.
Speyer Cathedral.
Saint-Philibert, Tournus.
Sant`Ambrogio, Milan.
Sainte-Foi, Conques
The White Tower, London.
Pisa Cathedral.
Jumièges abbey church
Saint-Etienne, Caen.
Lessay abbey church
Angouleme Cathedral and domed churches.
Norwich Cathedral.
Peterborough Cathedral.
The rib vault.
The iconography of Romanesque architecture.
The impact of the Norman Conquest on English architecture.
Winchester Cathedral.
The abbey church of Cluny and Burgundian Romanesque architecture.
Measure and proportion in Romanesque architecture.
Articulation in relation to use in Romanesque architecture.
The architecture of the Cistercians

GRADED ASSESSMENT

COURSE EVALUATION
One 1000-word annotated bibliography (15%), Due in class: February 19th
One ‘take-home’ slide examination (35%), Due in class: March 18th.
One 2500-word essay (excluding bibliography and notes) (50%), Due in class: April 1st.

LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE: MARCH 13th.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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. Also, a Google and Google Scholar search on any topic/building/ 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 web site will provide accurate and the most up-to-date information on a topic. This is absolutely NOT the case! Many web sites are very poorly researched and may even give inaccurate information. Always remember that web sites 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).
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University