EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
ART HISTORY
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Visual Art Art History
FA / ARTH 4800B3.0 SECTION M
EARLY AND HIGH GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
Offers an examination of the theory, structure, form, function, iconography and development of architecture in Canada circa 1870-1900. Chronological and thematic approaches are used. Emphasis is placed on architectural-historical methodologies and on skills necessary for original research into specific buildings and/or architects. Student projects are designed to hone these research skills. Walking tours of Toronto and a visit to Guelph, Galt and Paris are an integral part of the course. Course credit exclusion: FA/VISA 4720E 3.00.

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 / SEMR / W</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

FA/ARTH 4800B 3.0 EARLY AND HIGH GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE
COURSE DIRECTOR: MALCOLM THURLBY, GCFA ROOM 260.
e-mail: thurlby@sympatico.ca
OFFICE HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT
CLASSES: Monday 11:30 – 2:30, GCFA Room 130

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the architecture, sculpture, stained glass, painting, fittings and use of Gothic churches in France, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland from the 12th to the mid-13th 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 churches.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

REQUIRED READING
RECOMMENDED READING
Patrick Demouy et al, Reims: La cathédrale (Zodiaque 2000).
Allan Doig, Liturgy and Architecture from the Early Church to the Middle Ages (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008).
Alain Erlande-Brandenburg, Gothic Art (New York, 1989).


Laurence Keen, 'Almost the Richest City': Bristol in the Middle Ages: *British Archaeological Association Conference Transactions*, XIX (1997).


Peter Kidson, 'Panofsky, Suger and St-Denis', *Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institute*, 50 (1987), 1-17.


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


Edward S. Prior and Arthur Gardner, *An Account of English Medieval Figure Sculpture* (Cambridge 1912).


Matthew M. Reeve and Malcolm Thurlby, ‘King John’s “Gloriette” at Corfe Castle: Masons, Patrons and the Question of Style in Early Gothic Castles’, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 64, no. 2 (2005), 168-185.


Alain Saint-Denis *et al.*, *Laon: La cathédrale* (Zodiaque 2002).


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.


PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

**Week 1:** Introduction: The beginnings of gothic architecture; Abbot Suger and Saint-Denis  
**READING:** Wilson, 7-43.

**Week 2:** Early gothic cathedrals in France 1140-1194  
**READING:** Wilson, 44-72

**Weeks 3 and 4:** The beginnings of gothic architecture in England  
**READING:** Wilson, 72-90

**Weeks 5 – 8** Literature Reviews in class.

**Abbot Suger and Saint-Denis**


**Canterbury Cathedral Choir 1175-1184**

**Lincoln Cathedral: St Hugh’s Choir**

Articles on Lincoln Cathedral, St Hugh’s Choir, RIBA Journal, 3rd Series, 18 (1911), Scott Library NA 12 R653

**Westminster Abbey and Henry III:**

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments: An Inventory of Historical Monuments in London, Volume 1, Westminster Abbey (HMSO 1924) https://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/london/vol1
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.

**Weeks 9 -12 Research Presentations in class**

**RESEARCH ESSAYS**

It is important that we consult closely on all aspects of essay research and writing. 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 early and high Gothic 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#_Toc89156096). 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**

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: The Early Gothic Fabric
Early Gothic Wells Cathedral
Glastonbury Abbey Great Church
St Hugh’s Choir, Lincoln Cathedral
Lausanne Cathedral
New Shoreham, St Mary de Haura
Boxgrove Priory
All Saints, Crondall (Hampshire)
Chartres Cathedral 1194-1220
Bourges Cathedral
Arbroath Abbey
Glasgow Cathedral
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin
Slisbury Cathedral
Amiens Cathedral
Bayeux Cathedral
The eastern arm of Worcester Cathedral
The West Portals of Reims Cathedral
Limburg an der Lahn Cathedral
Bonn Cathedral
Magdeburg Cathedral
Beauvais Cathedral
Ely Cathedral 1234-1252
Westminster Abbey 1245-1269
The Angel Choir of Lincoln Cathedral, 1256-1280
Hereford Cathedral North Transept
Lichfield Cathedral nave
The Judgment Portal of Lincoln Cathedral
Tracery in Early English windows
The English Gothic Vault
The 'Thick Wall' in English Gothic Architecture

GRADED ASSESSMENT

COURSE EVALUATION
One literature review presentation in class (25%)
One research presentation in class (25%)
One 4000-5000-word essay (excluding bibliography and notes) (40%) Due in class March 30th
Class participation (10%)

March 13th LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE

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).

To end this section on a positive note, Mapping Gothic France:http://mappinggothic.org/ is an excellent source, especially for images.
For medieval stained glass, see http://vidimus.org/

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

Moodle @ York University