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instructor: Christina Maranci
course title: French Gothic Architecture
institution: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
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Syllabus: French Gothic Architecture (Art History 426)

Building the sacred. Constructing a heaven on earth. How would you go about creating such a space? What would it look like to a person living in the Middle Ages? These are some of the questions you will explore. We will consider the construction and engineering of cathedrals, their architectural forms, and the exportation of the style to England, Germany, Spain, and Italy from the 12th to 14th centuries. Sculpture, metalwork, and painting of the era will also be examined.

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Office Hours: Mondays, 12-1pm
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Class Times: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 3:15.

Grade Percentages:

Mid-Term 25%
Project/Paper 30%
Final 35%
Class Participation 10%

Assignments: Mid-Term (March 14)
Research Paper/Project (Due April 23)
Final Exam (Tuesday, May 17, 12:30-2:30)

Attendance: Attendance will be taken in lecture throughout the semester. If you are absent over three times without giving me prior notice or a good reason, you will be marked down three points on your final numerical grade.

Lateness: If you are late over three times to lecture, you will be marked down three points on your final numerical grade.

Graduate Students: You are required to take the mid-term and final. You will also be asked to make a short presentation to the class. In lieu of the undergraduate paper of 4/19, you will be asked to write a research paper of c. 15 pages.

Readings: Assigned readings are to be done prior to lecture. You will be asked questions about the readings.

D2L: Announcements, handouts, digital lecture files, and exam review materials are available on our D2L coursesite. Lectures will typically be posted after the day they are delivered.

Exams:

Both the mid-term and final exams will focus on slide identifications and comparisons. We will discuss the exam more in class and practice comparing slides during the lectures. No make-ups or incompletes will be allowed except in emergencies.

Mid-Term Assignment

Option #1: The Paper

In this paper, you will be asked to choose a building that falls within the geographical and chronological parameters of the course, and write five-to-eight pages in which you 1) describe the structure using standard architectural terms, 2) give an account of its building history, delineating the successive phases of construction if relevant, and 3) discuss one aspect of the work that is most important (i.e. patron, architectural sources, social/urban context, etc.)

Option #2: The Project

In lieu of a paper, you may also undertake a studio project in which you recreate a work of Gothic architecture. This may be undertaken as a plan or as a model, and your success will depend on your ingenuity and faithfulness in reproducing your model-- the more precisely and completely you replicate the structure, the better.

Required Textbooks:

Michael Camille, *Gothic Art: Glorious Visions*

Stoddard, *Art and Architecture in Medieval France*

Both of these are available at the UWM Bookstore.

Additional readings on Reserve in Library:

Otto von Simson, *The Gothic Cathedral*

Christina Maranci, *Medieval Armenian Architecture*

Paul Frankl, *The Gothic*

Barbara Abou el-Haj, "The Urban Setting for Late Medieval Church Building: Reims and its Cathedral between 1210 and 1240" (on reserve for 180-901)

Andrew Martindale, *Gothic Art*

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

January 22: Introduction to the Course: What is Gothic?

January 24: The Romanesque Precedents, Part One

Stoddard: pp. 3-11; pp. 31-52

January 29: The Romanesque Precedents, Part Two

Stoddard: pp. 53-68

January 31: The Early Gothic: Historical Background

Stoddard: pp. 93-100

Simson: pp. 61-90

February 5: The Early Gothic: Architecture

Stoddard: pp. 101-111

Recommended: Simson: pp. 91-141

February 7: The Hunt for Origins: Armenia, Islam, India, and Trees

Maranci, *Medieval Armenian Architecture*, chapter five

February 12: The Development of Gothic Architecture: Sens, Noyon, and Laon

Stoddard: pp. 113-136

February 14: The Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Paris, and its Sculpture

Stoddard: pp. 137-152

February 19: The Cathedral of Chartres and the Economics of Construction

Simson: pp. 159-182

February 21: The Architecture of Chartres Cathedral

Simson: pp. 183-241

February 26: Gothic Architecture as Sacred Space

Camille: pp. 27-68

February 28: Gothic Cathedrals: Monuments to Human Virtue or Barbarism?

Barbara Abou el-Haj, "The Urban Setting for Late Medieval Church Building: Reims and its Cathedral between 1210 and 1240" (on reserve)

March 5: Getting Higher and Higher: Amiens, Bourges, and Beauvais Cathedrals

Stoddard: pp. 211-241

March 7: High Gothic Sculpture and Painting

Stoddard: pp. 253-276

Camille: pp. 3-17

March 12: Review for Mid Term

March 14: Mid Term

March 18-25 Spring Recess

March 26: The Rayonnant Style

Stoddard: pp. 279-292

March 28: The Sainte Chapelle and the Culmination of Gothic Aesthetics

Stoddard: pp. 292-310

April 2: Late Gothic Sculpture

Martindale: pp. 85-123
Stoddard: pp. 335-342

April 4: Gothic Reliquaries, Ivories, and Enamels

Stoddard: pp. 355-390

April 9: Heavenly Light: Gothic Stained Glass

Stoddard: pp. 266-273

Recommended:

Simson: pp. 21-58

April 11: Class Cancelled for academic conference.

April 16: Gothic Manuscript Illumination

Stoddard: pp. 343-353

Camille: pp. 3-17

April 18: The Gothic in England

Martindale: pp. 101-118

April 23: The Gothic in Germany and Spain

No Reading.

PAPER/PROJECT DUE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

April 25: Gothic Architecture in Italy

Martindale: pp. 145-151

Recommended:

M. Trachtenberg, "Gothic/Italian Gothic: Toward a Redefinition" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 50 (1991):22-37

April 30: Film: The Gothic Cathedral

May 1: Victorian Gothic, Gothic Revival, and "Goths" in Milwaukee

May 2: Field Trip to Gothic Revival Buildings in Milwaukee

May 7: Review for Final

May 9: Graduate Student Presentations

May 16: Final Exam, 12:30-2:30 in lecture hall.