

Art History W4357
Gothic Architecture
Syllabus

Fall 2004
Monday and Wednesday, 1:10-2:25 p.m.
612 Schermerhorn Hall

Medieval Architecture website:
<http://www.learn.columbia.edu/medmon/>

Professor Stephen Murray
605 Schermerhorn Hall, 854-8521
Email: sm42@columbia.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 10.00am to
noon

Teaching Fellows:

Meredith Fluke (mf687@columbia.edu) T 11.00-11.50am; Th 2.00-2.50pm Scher. 934
Johanna Seasonwein (jgs2003@columbia.edu) M 10.00-10.50am; 3.00-3.50pm Scher 934

Class Description:

How have "Gothic" edifices been represented in words and images? This course examines Gothic monuments and considers the historiography and theories that they have generated.

Requirements:

Attendance at lecture is essential. Undergraduate students are also required to enroll in a discussion section. Final grades will reflect attendance and participation in the classes and sections.

There will be a formal in-class mid term and final examination.

All students will also be asked to write a short (about fifteen page) research paper, to be handed in on December 13. Written proposals for these papers will be requested before mid-term.

Readings:

All readings have been put on reserve in Avery Library. Additionally, assigned articles and selected portions of books have been made available online as digital documents in Courseworks. A few articles are also located online in JSTOR, a digital database accessible through the Columbia Libraries website. These readings have been noted with a star below. If you have any questions about Courseworks or JSTOR, please ask one of the teaching fellows.

There is no required textbook for the class; however, for those students who wish to purchase a textbook, copies of Nicola Coldstream's *Medieval Architecture* (Oxford History of Art series) have been ordered at Labyrinth Books; the cost is \$19.95.

Course Outline:

PART I: Historiography and theory of Gothic; the problem of “representation” and “narrative”

Week 1

Wed Sep 8. Introduction to the course. Digital resources. Reading: Davis (1999).
Familiarize yourself with the website.

Week 2

Mon Sep 13. The problem of representation. Telling the story of “Gothic.” Readings:
Gombrich (1985) 81-98; Frankl (1960) 252-284; Rowland (1998) 193-244, esp. 226.

Wed Sep 15. Visit to the cathedral of Saint John the Divine

Week 3

Mon Sep 20. Gothic reinvented. The nineteenth century. Readings: Lears (1961) 141-
183; Bergdoll (1990) 1-30; Brooks (1999).

Wed Sep 22. Word and architecture. The modern narrative and the “post modern” turn.
Readings: Bony (1983) 1-3; Sauerländer (1984); Crossley (1992); [Frankl (2000) 7-31].

PART II: Medieval Witnesses: Desire; Compression; Representation

Week 4

Mon Sep 27. Word and architecture; witness and edifice. Abbot Suger of Saint-Denis.
Readings: Panofsky (1946)1-37; 1-37; *Kidson (1987); Grant (1998) 238-274.

Wed Sep 29. Witness and edifice. Suger (continued).

Week 5

Mon Oct 4. Liturgy and architecture Readings: Harper (1991).

Wed Oct 6. Witness and edifice: Gervase of Canterbury. Readings: Frisch (1971); Willis
(1845); Kidson (1969). Gervase text is on *Medarch* website

Week 6

Mon Oct 11. Witness and edifice: Villard de Honnecourt Readings: *Bucher (1968);
Barnes (1982) xix-lv; Bechmann (1991) 13-20.

Wed Oct 13. Technology: Gothic structure. Readings: Abraham (1934); Mark (1982) 2-
17.

Week 7

Mon Oct 18. The production of buildings: castles and towns. Masons and materials.
Readings: Kimpel (1977); Recht (1989); Coldstream (1991) 83-113.

Wed Oct 20. The city of Paris.

Week 8

Mon Oct 25. **Mid-term exam**

PART III: Means of production: Expansion

Wed Oct 27. Notre-Dame of Paris. Readings: *Murray (1998); Binding (1999) 131-151; Kimpel (1990) 148-178; Wilson (1992) 48-54; Bony (1983) 137-145.

Week 9

Mon Nov 1. **No class** (academic holiday)

Wed Nov 3. Noyon, Laon, Fontevrault and Poitiers: Gothic and alternative Gothics. Readings: Binding (1999) 131-151; Kimpel, (1990) 178-214; Wilson (1992) 54-72; Bony (1983) 157-179.

Week 10

Mon Nov 8. Chartres and Bourges. Readings: Binding (1999) 152-167; Kimpel (1990) 253-261 & 294-305; Wilson (1992) 91-101; Bony (1983) 198-157.

Wed Nov 10. Reims and Amiens. Readings: Murray (1996).

Week 11

Mon Nov 15. King Louis IX and the "Court Style." Reading: Branner (1965) 1-11.

Wed Nov 18. Beauvais Cathedral: commune, bishop and king. Readings: Murray (1989) 25-50; Mussat (1982).

Week 12

Mon Nov 22. Figurative programs: sculpture. Readings: Sauerländer (1972) 10-20; Murray (2004).

Wed Nov 24. Figurative programs: stained glass. Reading: Kemp (1997) 3-21.

Week 13

Mon Nov 29. England. Readings: Brieger (1957); Binski (1995) 1-9.

Wed Dec 1. Germany. Reading: Nussbaum (2000) 49-64.

Week 14

Mon Dec 6. Italy and Spain. Readings: *Bruzelius (1991); Binding (1999), 187-225.

Wed Dec 8. Late Gothic. Readings: Murray (1987) 1-17; Bialostocki (1966); Neagley (1998) 1-22.

Week 15

Mon Dec 13. **Last class**