

# NYU Paris

## ARTH-UA 9250

### The Glory of Medieval France

#### Instructor Information

- Dr Karen Ralph
- Office hours Tuesday 11h-12h room 506
- kr68@nyu.edu

#### Course Information

- ARTH-UA 9250
- The Glory of Medieval France
- This course examines medieval art and architecture of France through an exploration of the monuments and moments that define our understanding of the period. The course moves from the Carolingian era to late Gothic to help students gain an understanding of medieval France through an analysis of monuments in their historic and cultural contexts. From the portals of Notre-Dame of Paris to the collections of the Musée de Cluny, we will seek to decode the symbolic language of medieval sculpture and architecture. Pairing texts and monuments, we will consider the writings of authors such as the Abbot Suger as we inspect his church of Saint-Denis, or as we study liturgical objects in the collections of the Louvre. Throughout the course we will consider how visual art during the Middle Ages helped shape cultural identity and express the political and religious agendas of the age. *Conducted in English.*
- Tuesday 12h30 – 14h  
Thursday 12h30 – 14h
  - [408]

#### Course Overview and Goals

##### Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Students will be able to critically read and discuss medieval imagery using the appropriate art historical language.
- Students will be able to identify the major artistic styles of the Middle Ages in France and articulate the primary social and historical forces which conditioned them.
- Students will be able to articulate the importance of visual imagery during the medieval period.

# Course Requirements

## Class Participation

Comprising attendance, participation, check marked homework, and pop quizzes

## Assignment 1

Essay (2,000-2,250 words) due on Tuesday 8 of October  
Details on NYU Classes

## Assignment 2

Research Paper (2,500–2,750 words) due on Tuesday 19 of November  
Details on NYU Classes

## Exams

Mid-term and final exam

## Assigned Readings

The assigned readings are available on NYU Classes or through the NYU Paris Library  
See the course schedule below for details

## Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<b>Assignments/Activities</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
Class participation	15%
Essay	15%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%



## Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A</b>	16-20	Outstanding
<b>A-</b>	15	Excellent
<b>B+</b>	14	Very Good
<b>B</b>	13	Good
<b>B-</b>	12	Satisfactory
<b>C+</b>	11	Above Average
<b>C</b>	10	Average
<b>C-</b>	9	Below Average
<b>D+</b>	8	Unsatisfactory
<b>D</b>	7	Low Pass
<b>D-</b>	6	Low Pass
<b>F</b>	5	Fail

# Course Schedule

## Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1 September 3 and 5	Introduction to French Medieval Art and Architecture	<b>Strongly</b> suggested reading: Lawrence Nees, Ch. 1 ‘The Roman Language of Art’, Ch. 2 ‘Early Christian Art’, and Ch. 3 ‘Conversion’ in <i>Early Medieval Art</i> , pages 17-30, 31-46, and 47-62	
Week 2 September 10 and 12	Art of the Carolingian Empire: Charlemagne’s <i>Renascence</i>	Lawrence Nees, Ch. 10 ‘Art at Court’ in <i>Early Medieval Art</i> , pages 173-195  Roger Stalley, Ch. 1 ‘The Christian Basilica’, Ch. 2 ‘The Carolingian Renaissance: The Basilica Transformed’ and Ch. 3 ‘Symbolic Architecture’ in <i>Early Medieval Architecture</i> , pages 17-36, 37-59 and 59-83  James Snyder, Ch. 10 ‘Charlemagne: <i>Renovatio Imperii Roman?</i> ’ in <i>Mediaeval Art</i> (New York, 1989: Abrams), pages 191-229	
Week 3 September 17 and 19	Relics, Pilgrimage Roads, and the Romanesque Church	Lawrence Nees, Ch. 12 ‘Towards a New Age’ and ‘Conclusion’ in <i>Early Medieval Art</i> , pages 213-244  Roger Stalley, Ch. 8 ‘Architecture and Monasticism’ in <i>Early Medieval Architecture</i> , pages 167-190	
Week 4 September 24 and	Problems and Solutions in Romanesque Art and	Roger Stalley, Ch. 6 ‘Art and Engineering’ and Ch. 9 ‘The	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
26	Architecture	Language of Architecture' in <i>Early Medieval Architecture</i> , pages 121-146 and 191-212	
Week 5 October 1 and 3  Thursday 3: Class visit to the Musée du Louvre	Art and Sculpture in the Romanesque World	James Snyder, Ch. 16 'The Pilgrimage Roads and Regional Styles' and Ch. 17 'Cluny and Burgundy', pages 261-273 and 274-290	
Week 6 October 8 and <b>11</b>  <b>Friday 11: Class visit to Saint-Denis</b>	Abbot Suger and the Rise of Early Gothic	Erwin Panofsky, <i>Abbot Suger on the Abbey Church of Saint-Denis and its Art Treasures</i> (Princeton and Sussex, 1979: Princeton University Press), pages 41-81	Essay due in class on Tuesday 8
Week 7 October 15 and 17	Revision and Mid-Term Exam		Mid-term exam covering material from sessions 1 to 6
Week 8 October 22 and 24  Thursday 24: Class visit Notre-Dame or TBD	Towards High Gothic: Notre-Dame de Paris and Laon	Paul Frankl, Ch. 2 'The Transition' in <i>Gothic Architecture</i> (New Haven and London, 2000: Yale University Press), pages 51-66  Stephen Murray, 'Notre-Dame of Paris and the Anticipation of Gothic', <i>The Art Bulletin</i> , volume 89, number 2 (June 1998), 229-253	
Week 9 November 5 and <b>8</b>  <b>Friday 8: Class visit to Chartres</b>	High Gothic: Chartres, Bourges and Reims	Paul Frankl, Ch. 2.I 'The Beginnings of the Gothic Structural System' in <i>Gothic Architecture</i> (New Haven and London, 2000: Yale University Press), pages 67-84	
Week 10 November 12 and 14	From High to <i>Rayonnant</i> Gothic: Amiens and Beauvais	Paul Frankl, Ch. 3 'The High Gothic Style' in <i>Gothic Architecture</i> (New Haven and London, 2000: Yale University Press), pages 105-181	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
<p>Week 11 November 19 and 21</p> <p>Thursday 21: Class visit to the <i>Sainte-Chapelle</i></p>	<p>Saint-Louis and <i>La Sainte-Chapelle</i></p>	<p>Robert Branner, 'Paris and the Origins of the Rayonnant Gothic Architecture down to 1240', <i>The Art Bulletin</i>, volume 44, number 1 (March 1962), 39-51</p> <p>Christopher Wilson, Ch. 2.3 'The Rayonnant Style' and Ch. 2.4 'High Gothic and Rayonnant Facades' in <i>The Gothic Cathedral: The Architecture of the Great Church 1130-1530</i> (London, 1990: Thames and Hudson), pages 120-137</p>	<p>Research paper due in class on Tuesday 19</p>
<p>Week 12 November 26 and 28</p> <p>Thursday 28: Class visit to the Musée du Cluny</p>	<p>Art, Sculpture, and Craftsmen in the Gothic World</p>	<p>Roger Stalley, Ch. 5 'Patron and Builder' in <i>Early Medieval Architecture</i>, pages 103-121</p> <p>Nicola Coldstream, Ch.3 'Patron and Builder' in <i>Medieval Architecture</i> (Oxford, 2002: Oxford University Press), pages 83-116</p>	
<p>Week 13 December 3 and 5</p>	<p>Late Medieval France and the Gothic Style Abroad</p>	<p>James Snyder, Ch. 23 'Opus Francigenum Abroad' in <i>Mediaeval Art</i> (New York, 1989: Abrams), pages 402-437</p> <p>Paul Frankl, Ch. 4 'The Late Gothic Style' in <i>Gothic Architecture</i> (New Haven and London, 2000: Yale University Press), pages 187-241</p>	
<p>Week 14 December 10</p> <p><b>No session on December 12</b></p>	<p>Revision</p>		
<p>Week 15 December 17</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>		<p>Mid-Final exam covering material from sessions 7 to 14</p>

# Course Materials

## Required Textbooks & Materials

- Course reader: available on NYU Classes
- Paul Frankl, *Gothic Architecture* (New Haven and London, 2000)
- James Hall, *Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art* (London, 2008)
- Lawrence Nees, *Early Medieval Art* (Oxford, 2002)
- Roger Stalley, *Early Medieval Architecture* (Oxford, 1999)
  - The textbooks are all available in the NYU Paris Library

## Useful Textbooks & Materials

- *Grove Dictionary of Art* available through the NYU Library
- Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History: [www.metmuseum.org/toah/](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/)
- Mapping Gothic France: <http://mappinggothic.org/>
- The Corpus of Medieval Narrative Art: <http://medievalart.org.uk/>

## Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

# Course Policies

## Attendance and Tardiness

- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

**Illness:** For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.



**Religious Observance:** Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

**Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.**

## Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

## Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

*At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.*

**Plagiarism:** *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:*

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

*For further information, students are encouraged to check [www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html)*

## Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.