

**Florida Atlantic University**  
**ARH 4200-001, Medieval Art and Architecture**  
**Boca Raton campus, AL 242**  
**Monday/Wednesday, 4:00 – 5:50pm, 4 credits**

Instructor: Brian E. McConnell, Ph.D., RPA

Office: AL(9)-136, Hours: Monday through Thursday, 2:00 – 4:00pm and by appointment or chance.

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## **Syllabus**

### Course Description

The art of the so-called 'Middle Ages' is perhaps the most challenging of any in the History of Art. It presents a deceptive simplicity, which nevertheless represents an extreme degree of metaphysical complexity and an air of confidence that rightly aspired to match and surpass the achievements of Roman antiquity. At an advanced stage, medieval architecture was referred to explicitly as being 'modern', and the first appearance, or re-appearance, of artistic personalities began to emerge from a world of visual expression that was rooted in the workshop and the efforts of anonymous craftsmen. The appeal of medieval art and architecture today is matched by the increasing popularity of medieval literature and music, which this course will explore, as well. Stories of knights in shining armor and the strains of troubadour love-poetry are only a part of an era that lasted a full thousand years and that has left visible trace in the cities, towns, and the countryside of Europe and the Mediterranean. While this survey will focus primarily on the Middle Ages that contributed to what art historians commonly refer to as the 'Western Tradition', equally important developments elsewhere in the world, including India and China, will be considered. Pre-requisites: ARH 2050 and ARH 2051 or permission of the department.

### Required Texts

Marilyn Stokstad, *Medieval Art*, Second Edition, Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, 2004, ISBN 0-8133-4114-0, referred to here as Stokstad.

### Requirements

- 20% - Two slide quizzes (10% each),
- 20% - Mid-term examination with slide and essay questions,
- 20% - Final examination with slide and essay questions,
- 20% - Research essay on a topic of one's choosing,
- 20% - Participation (attendance and overall engagement).

### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend every class for the full duration of instruction, and attendance will be taken randomly and counted toward the participation portion of the final grade. Missing even a single class can compromise one's ability to perform well. Excused absences for acceptable personal reasons, religious observances, or for representing FAU formally at organized events on or off campus must be communicated to the instructor in advance (with the exception of emergencies) with appropriate documentation. It is expected that students keep up with the readings and turn in all in-class and take-home assignments on time (failure to do so will be calculated in the participation portion of the final grade).

### Honor Code

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty.

[http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\\_Code\\_of\\_Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

### Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton – SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie – MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter – SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast campus – CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all OSD procedures.

### Lecture Topics, Readings, and Class Assignments

#### Week I - Introduction – the Middle Ages in the Context of the History of Art.

Monday/Wednesday, January 10/12 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 1.

#### Week II – Early Christian Art.

Monday, January 17 – no class: Martin Luther King Holiday

Wednesday, January 19 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 2.

#### Week III – Early Byzantine Art.

Monday/Wednesday, January 24/26 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 3.

#### Week IV – Early Medieval Art in Western Europe.

Monday/Wednesday, January 31/February 2 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 4.

#### Week V – Carolingian Art.

Monday/Wednesday, February 7/9 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 5.

#### Week VI – Later Byzantine and Islamic Art.

Monday/Wednesday, February 14/16 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 6.

#### Week VII – Mid-term week.

Tuesday, February 21 – review.

**Thursday, February 23 – mid-term examination.**

#### Week VIII – Art at the Turn of the Second Millennium.

Monday/Wednesday, February 28/March 2 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 7.

Monday/Wednesday, March 7/9. No class – Spring Break.

Week IX – The 'Romanesque' Age.

Monday/Wednesday, March 14/16 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 8.

Week XI – Early 'Modern' Architecture and Art.

Monday/Wednesday, March 21/23 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 9.

Week XII – 'High' Gothic Art and Architecture.

Monday/Wednesday, March 28/30 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 10.

Week XIII – The Medieval Age Outside of Europe and the Mediterranean.

Monday, April 4 – India – reading: tba.

Wednesday, April 6 – China – reading: tba.

Week XIV – *Rayonnant* Gothic and the 'International' Style.

Monday/Wednesday, April 11/13 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 11; **research essays due in class on Monday, April 11th.**

Week XV – Fertile Ground for the Renaissance.

Monday/Wednesday, April 18/20 – reading: Stokstad, Chapter 12.

Week XVI – Review.

Monday/Wednesday, April 25/28 – review for the final examination.

**Final Examination – Monday, May 2, 2011, 4:00 – 6:30pm.**