



Syllabus

Course Title: Story and Stone: Medieval Art in London

Program and Date: London Maymester: May 16 – 30, 2027

Instructor Name: Dr. Laura E. Cochrane

Instructor Home Institution and Department: Middle Tennessee State University; Art and Design Department

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Get to Know Your Professor

I am an art historian who specializes in medieval art. My area of expertise is medieval illuminated manuscripts, though I teach all aspects of medieval art and architecture at Middle Tennessee State University. My passion for the Middle Ages began when I studied abroad as an undergraduate at the University of Glasgow. That experience showed me how important it is not only to study art from books, but also to encounter it in the places where it was created and to learn through direct experience. Seeing a painting, sculpture, manuscript, or building in person reveals details that no photograph or video can capture. I also love to delve into the medieval experience by recreating medieval art using historical techniques, which is something I do in my classes for students to learn by doing. I am especially excited to teach in London, where students can examine extraordinary medieval objects firsthand, explore the historic spaces in which they were made and used, and participate in hands-on activities that bring medieval artistic practices to life.

Course Description

London is the perfect place to explore the art and architecture of the Middle Ages through direct observation, on-site research, and hands-on artistic practice. The city's Anglo-Saxon, Norman, and Gothic monuments, together with the Victorian Medieval Revival, provide many opportunities to experience medieval culture firsthand. We will examine Anglo-Saxon treasures, such as the Sutton Hoo grave goods and the Lindisfarne Gospels, at the British Museum and the British Library, and compare the Norman and Gothic architecture of the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey through guided visual analysis. Through sketching, field observations, manuscript painting, pigment making, and other studio activities, students will gain practical insight into medieval artistic techniques while also discovering how the Middle Ages were rediscovered and reimagined in the nineteenth century to shape Britain's modern identity.

Course Level and Credit Hours

Upper Division Undergraduate credit.
Three credit hours.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of all coursework with a passing grade and full participation in course activities, students shall be able to:

- **Conduct on-site analysis:** Produce written and sketched field notes that identify and interpret visual elements of artworks and buildings through careful observation.
- **Identify and contextualize medieval artworks and architecture:** Classify selected works by period (Anglo-Saxon, Norman, Gothic, or Victorian) and explain their historical context, meaning, and function.
- **Compare works across periods and contexts:** Conduct comparative visual analyses supported by historical and visual evidence.
- **Present art historical arguments:** Deliver on-site presentations using appropriate art historical terminology and visual evidence.
- **Synthesize research through making:** Integrate information gathered through direct observation and hands-on artistic activities into research project, presentations, and creative exercises.

Required Readings and Materials

- Selected readings from the Open Education Resources textbook, *Smarthistory*.
- Primary source readings and short essays on the sites, objects, and artistic techniques explored during the course will be distributed while in London.

Assignments and Grades

The final grade will be assessed as follows:

Upper division section:

- Field notes – 20%
- Quiz on styles and periods – 10%
- Mini-presentations – 10%
- Hands-on activities – 15%
- On-site presentation – 15%
- Reflection essay (on experiential learning) – 10%
- Medieval manuscript project – 20% (This will be due a month after return from UK)

Honors section:

- Field notes – 20%
- Quiz on styles and periods – 10%
- Mini-presentations – 10%
- Hands-on activities – 15%

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- On-site presentation – 15%
- Honors research portfolio and paper – 30% (This will be due a month after return from UK)

Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to compute your grade.

90–100% = A
80–89% = B
70–79% = C
60–69% = D
Below 60% = F

Onsite Learning Experiences and Activities

Onsite learning experiences in this class will likely include the following site visits. This is a tentative list which will be replaced with a detailed daily itinerary of class meetings and field trips prior to the departure date.

Sites

- British Museum
- British Library
- Victoria and Albert Museum
- London Museum
- All Hallows-by-the-Tower
- St Bartholomew the Great
- Tower of London
- Temple Church
- Westminster Abbey
- Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, and St Pancras Station
- Excursion to Canterbury

Hands-on Activities

- Preparing medieval pigments and paints
- Illuminated manuscript painting techniques
- Traditional bookbinding techniques
- Medieval embroidery techniques
- On-site field sketching and visual analysis



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Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled activities and class meetings as well as field trip excursions. This includes any virtual meetings before and after the onsite experience. Repeated absences, including for ill health, will require documentation to be excused.

Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty (see your campus student handbook for definitions) will not be tolerated and may result in failing assignment grades or a course grade of F. Violations of academic honesty will be reported to the student's home campus.

Physical Expectations

Program requires walking 3-5 miles per day on uneven pavement in all kinds of weather and long periods of standing. Students must be able to carry their own bags and belongings.

Disability Accommodation

CCSA is committed to providing access to education abroad to the extent possible in a study abroad setting. The earlier CCSA and the faculty know the needs, the more likely we can accommodate them. At a minimum, students seeking accommodations are to contact both the CCSA office and the faculty one month in advance of the program's beginning. Students seeking such accommodation must provide CCSA with a copy of the letter on file with their own Office of Disability Services outlining what services they receive on their home campus.

Title IX Policy

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sexual discrimination violate CCSA policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain support from the Onsite Program Director or the CCSA Executive Director. To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact either of these two officers. Disclosure to faculty instructors or CCSA officers of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on the program or involving a visitor, student or employee is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and other CCSA employees are required to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the CCSA Executive Director.

Statement about Final Syllabus

Please note that all CCSA syllabi are subject to change, but every effort will be made to ensure participants receive notice of such changes in a timely manner.