



**ART HISTORY 318**  
**History of Medieval Art**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014**

**Instructor:** Professor Holly Stevens  
**Meeting Times and Location:** Friday, 1 to 3:40 pm, ART 111  
**Office Location and Hours:** By appointment  
**University Email Address:** [Holly.Stevens@tamuc.edu](mailto:Holly.Stevens@tamuc.edu)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**TEXT:**

Title: Medieval Art, Second Edition  
Author: Marilyn Stokstad  
ISBN: 0813341140  
Required: Yes  
See it here: [http://www.amazon.com/Medieval-Art-Marilyn-Stokstad/dp/0813341140/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1383689846&sr=8-1&keywords=medieval+art+stokstad](http://www.amazon.com/Medieval-Art-Marilyn-Stokstad/dp/0813341140/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1383689846&sr=8-1&keywords=medieval+art+stokstad)

**Course Description:**

History of the visual arts in Europe and Byzantium in the Middle Ages. The course begins with the origins of Christian art in the Roman Empire and concludes with the art of the Gothic Age.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Students will learn to recognize and relate various styles and their evolution over time – roughly 300 CE to 1300 CE.
2. Students will learn to differentiate and distinguish between various mediums used during the Medieval time period. This class focuses mainly on frescoes, architecture, mosaics, sculptures and illuminated manuscripts.
3. By the end of the semester, students should be able to evaluate the covered time period (300 CE to 1300 CE) as a whole using the innovations, artists, artwork, movements, and locations combined.

Students' ability to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes will be evaluated through quizzes, discussion, and two written assignments.

**Please note:** This syllabus is your contract with me, the professor, for the semester. By enrolling in this class you agree to the policies and requirements set out below and understand all the requirements must be fulfilled to pass this class. These terms are non-negotiable and will remain in effect for the duration of the semester. If you have any questions about anything in this syllabus, please ask.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

#### Attendance and Participation:

I cannot make you come to class. However, the class has been structured in such a way that frequent quizzes are given, nearly every class meeting. Only the two lowest scores on these quizzes are dropped; missed quizzes cannot be made up. Arriving late to class means that you have missed the quiz.

I enjoy teaching and I love the material we are covering. As such, class meetings are fairly informal discussions of fascinating works of art/artists/time periods. I respect and welcome input from everyone in the class as it adds to the quality of class and usually results in a tangent or bit of information I may not have normally made time to present.

I come to class fully prepared; I show up early; I respect thoughtful input. In return, I expect you to show up fully prepared, on time, and respectful of me and your fellow students.

A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent

B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent

C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent

D = Often unprepared, several absences

F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

The professor reserves the right to give unannounced pop quizzes or homework assignments. These cannot be made up and will count as part of the participation grade.

#### **Assignments:**

*Quizzes:* A five to ten point short quiz will be given at least weekly, at the start of class. The quiz will cover assigned readings and the previous lecture. The lowest two quiz scores over the course of the semester will be dropped in the calculation of your final grade.

*Short Writing Assignments:* Two short written assignments will be given during the semester. These written assignments will be worth 50 points respectively. I do grade for spelling, grammar, and proper citations.

#### **Grading**

*Grades will be determined according to the following breakdown:*

Quizzes: approx. 100 points

Short Written Assignments: 100 points

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

200 - 180 = A

179 - 160 = B

159 - 140 = C

139 - 120 = D

119 or less = F

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION**

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

### *Word Processing:*

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare your short written assignments.

### *eCollege:*

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or

[helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu). To get started with the course, go to:

<https://leo.tamuccommerce.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Interaction with the Instructor:**

Students are encouraged to contact me for any and all reasons whatsoever. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through email.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Classroom Behavior**

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off **all** electronic devices for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for us, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged.

### **Academic Honesty**

It is the policy of the University and me personally that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling or buying of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]).

**\*\*Plagiarism, in any form, but particularly cutting and pasting from internet sources will result in a grade of zero on any course project.\*\***

### **Writing Center**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

### **Weekly Outline**

Week 1: Introduction, Fall of the Roman Empire

Week 2: Early Christianity, Catacombs

Week 3: Constantine, The Basilica Form, Illuminated Manuscripts

Week 4: Byzantine Art, Justinian and Theodora

Week 5: Irish and Scottish Art, Viking Invasions

Week 6: Carolingian Art, Charlemagne

Week 7: Islamic Art, Influence of Spain

Week 8: The 900's, Church of Sta. Prassede, Women in the Church

Week 9: Romanesque Art and Architecture

Week 10: Early Gothic, Abbott Suger

Week 11: Gothic Style in France and England

Week 12: Gothic Style in Italy

Week 13: Giotto, Black Plague, Changes in Europe

Week 14: The beginnings of the Renaissance

First Written Assignment, Due March 7 (which is the day before Spring Break begins; please make sure to turn in your assignment well in advance of leaving the state/country on vacation)

## Your Carolingian Life

You are going to write about your life in the years between 795 and 850. You can be an abbot, a monk, a nun or an abbess for the religious vocations, or you can choose to be a lay person (non-religious) and choose your own vocation. Or, you can be a Viking! And really, who doesn't want to be a Viking?

Based on your job/culture/religion:

What kind of education do you have?

Do you remember Charlemagne's rule or are you too young?

What type of house do you live in?

What do you eat?

What type of art surrounds you (ie, do you make it, steal it, worship with it)?

What does the local architecture around you look like?

What does your local church look like?

You can choose where you live, but make sure that it is in Charlemagne's kingdom and that you describe the local church (make sure it was built by the time you are living!). If you choose to be a Viking, choose one specific town or city that you do all of your pillaging or trading in so that we get a feel for what you are seeing.

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Your life story will need some research into what you would be wearing, eating, reading, seeing, living, etc, but the story is up to you as long as it was possible at the time. **DON'T FORGET TO CITE YOUR SOURCES.**

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The more details, information and realism that you can work in to your fictitious life, the higher your score will be. You do not have to be alive (so to speak) for the entire time period of 795 to 850 (the average life span was roughly 40 years). You could die of religious ecstasy at the crowning of Charlemagne on Christmas, 800 AD if you really wanted to. You could be born in 795 and die in 815, never knowing anything other than the fabulous rule of Charlemagne. You could be an old man in 795 and know what it was like before his rule - heck, you might have been friends with his dad. However, you do want to be old enough during this time period to be able to tell us what your life is like, how you earn money (or an education), what works of art and architecture you could visit in your part of the world, etc. You do not have to live in Aachen, but you do have to live in a part of Europe in which Charlemagne is your king (or your sworn enemy as the case may be).

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If you are female in real life, you do not have to be female in your fictitious life - gentlemen, the same rule applies. But, I do not want you to write about someone that actually lived at the time. You are writing historical fiction, letting your imagination and investigations take you to things you are interested in. Here is your chance to be a ruthless Viking, Charlemagne's girlfriend, a corrupt abbot, the most sought after manuscript illuminator, the guy who carts away rotting corpses during a plague, the cheating wife who stole and buried the Staffordshire hoard or a pious, highly educated nun. Go for it. Make sure to cite your sources - keep track of the websites you are investigating.

**Any type of plagiarism (which includes cutting and pasting) will result in a grade of 0 for the project.**

Second Written Assignment, Due April 25

### **Churches in Detail**

As much as I like the book, it does not seem to cover any one church in great detail with the possible exception of St. Denis. So, we are going to fill in the gaps. You may choose any church from Chapters 8, 9 or 10 *except* St. Denis. Any church mentioned in the book or photographed in the book is fair game.

You must answer the following questions:

What is the name and location of your chosen church?

When did construction begin on the church?

When was construction completed?

Is the architect known?

Is the patron of the church known (ie, who paid for this or began the construction)?

What is the main building material?

Is it still used as a church?

How big (population) is the town that the church is located in (then and now if the numbers are known)?

What are the highlights of the art program in the church (What stories do the stained glass windows tell? Are there mosaics and/or sculptures and/or paintings?)?

How was the church paid for?

What relics does/did this church possess for pilgrims to see?

How tall is the building or how many square feet is the floor plan?

It is then up to you to tell us about three pieces of trivia you discovered about 'your' church – anything not covered in the above investigations. This could be famous burials, hauntings, fires, or unique aspects in the history of the church.

You may pick any church mentioned, photographed or listed in the above chapters except St. Denis. Don't forget to cite your sources in the proper formatting. Again, any type of plagiarism will result in a grade of 0. Please make sure you are writing in full sentences and paragraphs when answering the above questions. Fully explain each answer.