

**SUMMER I 2009**  
MTWRF 10:00-11:50AM  
LA-1001

## **LIBA 497.302 CATHEDRALS**

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Office Hours: MTWRF: 9:00-9:50AM and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course examines the synergistic elements and forces that combined, form the awesome thing called Gothic Cathedral. Like flour and sugar and butter and heat combine to make a cake, economic and social forces, politics and religion, technological innovations, architecture, and art combine to make a cathedral. All cathedrals maintain auras the respective individual elements and forces comprising cathedrals seldom attain by themselves.

Because of architectural innovations achieved from about 1100-1500a.d., because more cathedrals were built in that time span than at any other similar period in history, and because many historians consider Gothic Cathedrals the greatest of the great church and monumental building genres, this course ultimately focuses on Gothic Cathedrals.

**Course Objectives:** To determine the religious, political, economic, and geographic elements that enabled cathedrals to be built; to discover the impact cathedrals made on their respective environments; to identify the many professions whose works combined to design and construct cathedrals; to recognize the standard segments/parts of cathedrals; to appreciate the various arts and architectural forms that adorn cathedrals; to listen to and discuss ethical concerns regarding building and maintaining cathedrals; and to enjoy the tall and inspiring totality of cathedrals.

**Student Outcomes:** \*Discover the traditions and transitions of monotheistic religions' great buildings; \* Identify historical figures and their contributions and effects on specific historical events and specific cathedrals; \* Recognize and define architectural and structural elements of monumental buildings; \* Appreciate and interpret the many purposes cathedral art serves, e.g. didactics, religious symbolism, decoration, and structural integrity; \* Via individual research become knowledgeable of a particular religious icon and successfully present an relevant overview of it to the class.

**Texts:** Scott, Robert A. The Gothic Enterprise, London, 2003.  
Benton, Janetta Rebold. Art of the Middle Ages, London, 2002.

## **Suggested Readings:**

Sarum      The Crusades      Cathedrals and Castles: Building in the Middle Ages  
The Gothic Cathedral      London      Abbot Sugar      In The Wake of the Plague  
Notre Dame of Paris      Pillars of the Earth      Bread, Wine, & Money

**Guest Speakers:** To reinforce and expand the texts and lecture materials of this course, speakers from a variety of professions, including an art professor, a stained glass designer/artist, and a history professor will share their insights and opinions of cathedrals. With the instructor's permission, solicited before a respective speaker appears in class, you may invite a guest to attend class sessions when guest speakers are scheduled.

**Off-Campus Class Sessions:** To make traveling more economical and convenient, please consider offering to car-pool classmates to Mominee's stained glass studio.

## **Exams, Paper and the Grading System**

There will be two exams, each worth 100 points. The respective exams will include lecture topics, information provided by guest speakers and assigned readings from the required texts. Some exam material will be reviewed during the class meeting preceding the exam. Anyone taking an exam later than the published test date and time, unless for reasons both the student and the professor agree are reasonable and unavoidable, will have 20 points deducted from his or her earned/gross test score.

One research paper, 5-7 pages in length, will describe an element important to the concept of cathedrals, e.g. saints and relics, pilgrimages, impact of the crusades, stained glass, architectural innovation(s), and et cetera. In addition, students will present in class an 8-10 minute summation of the most important elements they discovered in researching their respective topics. Telling and appropriate visual aids will improve the quality, impact and value of the presentation to the professor. Research papers will not be accepted late. The net worth of a perfect paper and its presentation is 100 points: 85 points for the paper and 15 points for the presentation of its most significant and relevant content. No presentation lacking meaningful visual aids will earn more than 5 points.

### **Grade Scale: Two Exams (2 X 100) and one research paper (1 X 100) = 300 points**

300 - 270 points = A    269 - 255 = B+    254 - 240 = B  
239 - 225 = C+    224 - 210 = C    209 - 195 = D+    194 - 180 = D  
Less than 180 points = F

**Attendance Statement:** Attendance literally should be an every day thing. Students missing three class sessions in the three weeks of class during the Summer I section of LIBA497 Cathedrals will fail the class. In order to qualify as an attendee, students should arrive on time and attend the whole class period. Student wishing to depart a class session early should secure the professor's permission to leave early or s/he will be considered absent from the class session from which the student arrived late or departed in appropriately early.

# Day By Day Class Schedule -- Summer I 2009

Tuesday May 12 Course introduction; text overviews; great churches and cathedrals  
**Assigned: The Gothic Enterprise**

Wednesday May 13 History of Christianity and competing monotheistic religions;  
Tradition of great churches

Thursday May 14 The Middle Ages, the Crusades, and borrowed architecture  
Movie: Heaven on Earth (Crusades)

Friday May 15 Discuss: The Gothic Enterprise & foreign travel, culture and currency  
Layout and design and cathedral terminology – architectural forces  
Video: A White Garment of Churches  
**Assigned: Art of the Middle Ages**

Monday May 18 Review and discuss: Art of the Middle Ages

Tuesday May 19 **Exam #1 -- All materials covered to date**

Wednesday May 20 Visit a stone carver's studio

Thursday May 21 Videos: West Minster Abbey & St. Paul's Cathedral  
Discuss: Art of the Middle Ages  
Great Gothic Cathedrals Of France

Friday May 22 Going Through "The Change": Renaissance

**MONDAY MAY 25 NO SCHOOL MEMORIAL DAY**

Tuesday May 26 **Submit papers and make presentations**

Wednesday May 27 Review for Final Exam

**Thursday May 28 Final Exam -- Comprehensive**

Friday May 29 Grades posted online

**Saturday May 30 Depart from Louisville for London**

**This syllabus may be adjusted to accommodate guest speakers or to fulfill changing class travel plans. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard as far in advance as possible of scheduled activities.**

**Cell phones, Blackberry devices and pagers should be turned off throughout all portions of class. Soft drinks and bottled water are permitted in the classroom...as long as you don't mind promptly cleaning up your spillage. No dining in, please.**

**Research Paper for LIBA497.302 Cathedrals:  
Assignment Value 100 points: 85 paper/15 presentation**

1. The topic should be clearly relative to Gothic Cathedrals—construction, social and political impacts, religious and/or economic impacts, relics, stained glass, art and sculpture, pilgrimages, The Crusades, American Gothic, et cetera. The thesis should be clearly stated.
2. The focus should be interdisciplinary—economic, political, artistic, religious, sociological, psychological, spiritual, et cetera.
3. Draw on and connect what you have learned in this and other courses to describe impacts, connections and functions.
4. Grammar and the mechanics of writing are important. Employ a standard writing style such as MLA. Poor writing will result in a poorer grade than content alone can achieve.
5. Note citations within the paper, also submit a bibliography. The title page and the bibliography do not count toward the required page-count of the paper.
6. Use enough sources to substantiate what you say, but don't overuse sources. Your experiences, insights and opinions are important too. Use sources other than your texts, but be warned that a Googled cut-and-paste job will not earn the points you're probably hoping for.
7. Length: five (5) to seven (7) pages. If you have only five pages, the fifth page must conclude at the bottom of the fifth page of the 8½" X 11" sheet of paper—see the prescribed margins immediately below. **Graduate students: 10+ pages, limit 15 pages**
8. Research paper specifications:
  - 1 inch margins left and right
  - 1½ inch margin bottom of pages
  - 12 point type
  - double spaced
  - no extended quotations (more than four lines)
9. An oral presentation of the most interesting elements of your paper will be delivered in class on the date of submission. Presentations without visual aids will earn no more than 5 of the 15 available points for the presentation.
10. The research paper should be submitted in class for evaluation in both hard-copy and electronic (disc) forms Tuesday May 27.