Fall Term 2017
ARTH 837 / 3.0
Eye-witness Accounts of the High Middle Ages

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Matthew M Reeve
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: TBA
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
A study of a handful of significant medieval “eye-witness” accounts from medieval France and England c. 1200-1300 including the stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral, the sketchbook of Vuillard de Honnecourt, the Chronica Majora of Matthew Paris and his saint’s lives, and the Hereford Mappa Mundi.

Prerequisites:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Something special happened during the Gothic period with respect to the temporality of medieval art. Broadly analogous to developments around 2000 in the proliferation, speed, and accuracy (?) of eye-witness reporting, the thirteenth century saw a handful of new accounts that claimed to re-present the medieval world, its cults, politics, others, and of course its art. This course focusses sharply on a handful of major image cycles from “the long thirteenth century” that provide eye-witness accounts of medieval life, many of which were not religious in nature. It asks how images could claim to present “reality”, what constituted “reality” for medieval viewers, and how the image mediated between the viewer and his or her world in a period of rapid religious and technological change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Reading knowledge of French will be very useful