DEPARTMENT OF 
ART HISTORY & ART 
CONSERVATION

Fall Term 2017
ARTH 415 / 3.0
Studies in Medieval Art:
Medievalism

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Matthew M Reeve
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: TBA
OFFICE: Ontario Hall
EMAIL: reevem@queensu.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
A study of the unfolding mythology of the middle ages in Western art, literature and cinema from the Renaissance to the present with a particular focus on North America and Western Europe c. 1700-2000.

Prerequisites: None required. ARTH 120 strongly recommended.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
According to Umberto Eco, we are living through the “New Middle Ages”. Think of the Lord of the Rings films, Game of Thrones, the Harry Potter series, or even the Romanesque Revival architecture of Ontario Hall…. Each employs the “Middle” Ages as a kind of prelude to Modernity, a temporal locus in which modernity explores its rather shadowy second self. But the myth of the Middle Ages is not new but can be considered the foundational myth of Western culture. This course will explore the beginnings of a discourse on medievalism in Western art and will consider houses such as Strawberry Hill, Fonthill Abbey, and Abbotsford and their art collections, novels such as The Castle of Otranto, and Vathek. We will move then into the nineteenth- and twentieth centuries to consider relationships between literature, architecture and painting in the Gothic Revival and the Arts and Crafts movement. As such, the Catholic Revival, socialism, aestheticism, sexology and psychoanalysis will feature centrally. We conclude by exploring the myths of the Middle Ages in modern cinema and art.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. The course will be part lecture and part discussion. Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is expected and will count toward the final grade. Assignments will include tests, a research paper, and a series of oral and written responses to assigned readings.