

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

Fall Term 2020
ARTH 837 / 3.0
Gothic Wonder: British Art and
Aesthetics c. 1200-1350

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Matthew M Reeve
TIME: TBA
LOCATION: TBA
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OFFICE HOURS: TBA
OFFICE: Ontario Hall



CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course explores British art in all media from c. 1200-1350 in its social, political, and literary contexts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

By many accounts, the distinct mode of art produced in Britain (the so-called “Decorated Style”) would be one of the most influential modes of art making in Medieval Europe from c. 1300. But such views—correct though they surely are—beg the question not only of why but how this was so. This course takes the “long-view” of British art and locates its major expressions within profound changes in the nature and status of the artist, the shifting nature of patronage, and the political contexts of colonial encounter (particularly in Wales which was formally subsumed under English rule in the 1280s). We will explore key works of art such as the De Lisle Psalter, St Davids Cathedral, the sculptural program of the west façade of Wells Cathedral, the Holkham Picture Book, etc. We will also explore the literary contexts of art making, including texts such as the *Roman de Reynard*, *The Metrical Life of St Hugh*, and *The Mabinogion*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reading knowledge of French will be very useful.