DEPARTMENT OF ART:  
ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

FALL 2018  
ARTH 307/3.0  
Romanesque: Art and Historicism  
In Europe c. 1000-1200  
Instructor: Prof. M. M. Reeve  
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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:  
This course considers the retrospective tendencies in art of the so-called ‘Romanesque period’ leading up to the ‘Gothic’. Considering monuments across all media, we discuss concepts of artistic development in cathedral, monastic and secular settings. We will also consider modes of ‘reading’ and interpretation of medieval art in terms of contemporary modes of perception.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:  
The Romanesque is undoubtedly one of the pivotal periods of European art history. Based in part on a revival of the arts of antiquity, it has been considered by some of its twentieth-century proponents to be a modernist movement, or, variously, as Europe’s first ‘International Style’. The Romanesque, it seems, has much to answer for. Its material legacy comprises some of the most extraordinary, beautiful, and bizarre art created in Europe, from the Bayeux Tapestry to the Bury Bible, the sculpture of Moissac and Souillac, and the monsters, hybrids and demons that so troubled Bernard of Clairvaux in his famous critique of twelfth century monastic art. Taking the period on its own terms, this course explores both canonical and non-canonical works in context. We will consider bejewelled reliquary statues such as that of Ste Foy at Conques and the related miracle stories created to advertise it; pilgrimage sites such as Rocamadour (a site set in the rock cliffs of South-Central France) with its Black Madonna (Vierge Noir); the sculpture of Moissac and Souillac and their monastic audiences, and the new representations of women and “others” in the twelfth century, including lepers, heretics, and homosexuals. A dominant theme of this class will be the relationship of visual culture to travel, whether within Europe (i.e. the pilgrimage roads through France and Santiago de Compostela) or to the Holy Land during the crusades. As such, we will consider these routes, the creation of art along them, and some of the texts that help us understand it, such as the Englishman Master Gregory’s Guide to Rome.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:  Level 3 or above.

TEXTBOOK: TBA