CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the changes in European art later known as ‘Gothic’. With a focus on England, France, Spain, Italy, and Germany, this class will consider major monuments across the media, from manuscript painting, to architecture, stained glass, sculpture, and ars sacra. Throughout, monuments will be placed in their appropriate social, historical, and patronal contexts.

Prerequisites: Level 3 or above.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Art and architecture of the Gothic period (ca. 1150-ca.1400) encompassed extremes from light-filled, transcendental verticality to tortured, earthly dramas as patrons and artisans worked together to create multi-layered experiences of power, both terrestrial and divine. In this course, we will explore the changes to and complexity of art of the later Middle Ages in a variety of media by examining major monuments in relation to their appropriate social, historical, and patronal contexts. Students can expect to deepen their understanding of and ability to contextualize Gothic art as we move beyond a basic, chronological survey to examine monuments thematically. We will look at key pieces of art and architecture in relation to such topics as the increased desire for private devotions, the symbiotic relationship between the living and the dead, the rising prominence of Mary, and the greater emphasis on Christ’s humanity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
A detailed list of readings and requirements will be available at the first class. The course will be primarily lecture with ample opportunity for discussion, especially of assigned readings. Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is expected and will count toward the final grade. Assignments will include a series of written projects, including a research paper.