

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

## **General Syllabus**

### **AHIS 3663 Castles and Cathedrals of the Middle Ages**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory: 0

Prerequisite(s): HUMN 2563 Humanities through the Arts, or AHIS 2863 Art History Survey I, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

## **I. Course Information**

### **A. Catalog Description**

Explores the art of the European Middle Ages through the castle and the cathedral. Covers technology and architectural styles within the context of historical and cultural influences. Monumental pictorial arts (mural painting, stained-glass windows, tapestries) and sumptuous arts (works in precious metals, stones, enamels, and ivory) that enriched and activated these spaces are also a fundamental aspect of the course. Course is equivalent to HIST 3663, may only take one course for credit.

### **B. Additional Information**

In addition to fulfilling the requirement for an upper-level course for Studio Art and Graphic Design majors, this course can fulfill upper level elective requirements for History majors/minors. It will also fulfill an upper-level requirement for the Art History Minor. It can also fulfill the upper-level requirement for the Studio Art minor.

## **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explore the architectural development of the medieval castle and cathedral
2. Investigate the impact of technological, historical, performative (warfare; liturgy), and cultural factors on the development of these structures
3. Acquire a facility with technical vocabulary allowing them to successfully and accurately discuss these structures and the respective art forms they housed.
4. Identify the integral relationship between form and function in the Middle Ages, as well as the critical role played by material culture
5. Investigate and analyze a work of art in depth; write a paper about it.

6. Develop analytical and critical thinking skills

**B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will to identify and evaluate works of art, and use this information in tandem with historical, religious, economic, sociological, anthropological, political, and geographical factors in order to interpret and analyze the artwork's meaning and value to its makers/patrons/audiences.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will effectively convey their analysis and interpretation of works of art through a variety of written forms. Students will acquire and use appropriate art historical vocabulary and will be able to successfully articulate their ideas and pertinent information through class discussion and oral presentations.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical-decision making processes. Students will explore ethical issues in art history, including art acquisition, sale, theft, restoration/conservation and installation, as well as art repatriation.

**III. Major Course Topics**

- A. The development of the medieval cult of relics and the Early Christian basilica
- B. Byzantine, Carolingian and Ottonian, Romanesque, Gothic architecture and their respective pictorial/sumptuous arts
- C. The development of medieval fortifications from the motte-and-bailey to the square keep to the concentric castle
- D. The relationship of castles to urban planning and strategic placement; fortification responses to defensive and offensive warfare