The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts, 2015–2016

VISUAL ARTS HISTORY 2252F: EARLY MEDIEVAL ART

Wednesdays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, Rm. 100

Professor Kathryn Brush
Office: John Labatt Visual Arts Centre, Rm. 219
Tel.: 661-2111, ext. 86187 (direct line with voice mail); 661-3440 (Dept. Secretary)
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., or by appointment

Teaching Assistants (TAs), Office: Rm. 240, John Labatt Visual Arts Centre
Jessica Cappuccitti, Ph.D. Candidate (Art History)
E-mail: jcappucc@uwo.ca
Office Hour: Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m., or by appointment
and
Ruth Skinner, Ph.D. Candidate (Art History)
E-mail: rskinne6@uwo.ca
Office Hour: Thursdays, 10-11 a.m., or by appointment

Prerequisite

Visual Arts History 1040, or the former Visual Arts History 040. You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course requirements and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Enrolment in this course without the normal prerequisite may not be used as the basis of an appeal. If you are not eligible for this course, you will be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Course Description

This introductory survey of early medieval art and architecture examines some of the historical events, philosophies, and social and religious movements that helped to shape European and Mediterranean culture from ca. 200 C.E. to the year 1000. Although this era has often been described in restrictive or negative terms (e.g., as "the first Christian millennium" or as "the Dark Ages"), this course aims to demonstrate why this era is more properly regarded as one of the most formative and multicultural periods in the history of Western civilization.

Topics explored include the artistic, spiritual, and political contexts of late antiquity; the development of the Christian cult and its imagery; the "Golden Age" of Byzantium; the artistic and political importance of cities such as Rome and Ravenna; and the emergence of Islam during the seventh and eighth centuries as a major religious, political, and cultural force in the Mediterranean. We will also examine the small-scale, abstract art of the migration era (e.g., objects produced by the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings), and the political, artistic, and religious culture of the Carolingian and Ottonian empires.

Throughout the term we will investigate many varied forms of medieval visual culture, endeavouring to situate them within their complex early medieval contexts. You are strongly

encouraged to visit related collections of medieval objects at the Royal Ontario Museum, the University of Toronto Art Centre (Malcove Collection), and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Please be sure to consult with me about other important collections should you have plans to travel further afield in either North America or Europe.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

Recognize the relationships that exist between early medieval cultural objects and the contexts of their production, presentation, and circulation

Analyze and compare the characteristics of art and cultural production from different geographic areas of Europe and the Mediterranean

Apply appropriate terminology to carry out visual analyses of works of art, architecture, and media, and gain knowledge of key methodological and theoretical frameworks employed in the study and analysis of art history and visual culture

Identify individual works of medieval art and architecture by name, title, date, medium, and era of production

Participate constructively in group discussions and present findings that demonstrate an intermediate level of visual literacy

Enrich their understanding of twenty-first century art and society via engagement with cultural forms and practices of the past.

Evaluation

Fall Test (in class)	October 21	20%
Fall Writing Assignment	November 18	25%
Class Attendance and Participation		10%
Final Examination (2 hours)	December (TBA)	45%
Total:		100%

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Class Participation

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and be prepared for and participate in all lectures, discussions, and/or critiques. Under University regulations, if a student misses 15% of his/her classes without written corroboration for health or bereavement, he/she can be debarred from participation in final tests, evaluations, assignments and/or critiques. If a student is consistently absent from a 3-hour class for one hour, he/she will exceed the 15% cut-off.

Please note that lectures will assume familiarity with the reading assignments (see course schedule below), *and that in-class lectures will differ considerably from the textbooks.*

Class participation entails more than being bodily present in the room: students are expected to demonstrate engagement with the course material (e.g., contributing to discussions and offering responses and opinions). Students who attend all classes, but who do not participate, will receive no more than 7/10 for this component.

UWO Medical Policy

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade *must* apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For the UWO policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, see:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg117.html

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform_15JUN.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Writing Assignment and Academic Honesty

There is one major writing assignment during the fall term; a separate document outlining the assignment will be distributed via OWL (see section "Textbooks and OWL" below). All essays must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins on the left and right and font size no smaller than Times Roman 12 point). When necessary, they will include proper notes (***please be sure to use endnotes, NOT footnotes***), bibliography, and illustrations (i.e., photocopies or printouts from the Internet) in addition to the text. All images should be presented as a group at the end of the text (i.e., not inserted into the text of the paper), complete with full captions, including the source of the image. All references, whether directly quoted or paraphrased, must be acknowledged properly in endnotes (see note on Chicago Style citation below).

> *The University of Western Ontario places a very high value on academic honesty. Plagiarism of any kind (e.g., unacknowledged borrowings from published sources, the Internet or other student papers; close paraphrasing, etc.) is regarded as a major scholarly offence, and appropriate action will be taken. It is imperative that you write your essays in your own words. Consult the section on "Scholastic Offences" in the UWO Academic Calendar*:
> http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html
>
> Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, consult the website above and:
> http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

**Essays will accepted only in hard copy (i.e., they may not be faxed or forwarded electronically via e-mail). Please note that I gladly accept EARLY, but not late assignments. Please consider the option of handing in your writing assignment prior to the deadline.

***Note on Chicago Style citation*. When composing endnotes or listing bibliographic references in your writing assignments, please use the conventions in the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
A useful style guide with examples is available on the UWO Libraries website:
http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/Chicago.pdf

Tests

There will be one midterm test and a final examination, each consisting of some combination of the following: multiple choice questions; slide identifications; explanations of terms and/or significant issues; slide comparisons; short essays.

***N.B.** Students are responsible for being aware of, and fulfilling on time, all assignments. Please note that I gladly accept early, but not late papers. Late assignments will be accepted only in the event of a family or medical emergency, or bereavement, and official documentation will be required in the Academic Counselling office of your home Faculty, as per the UWO Policy; the same holds true in the case of tests and examinations. Any missed or late assignments, except in the case of the above, must be given the grade of "F" [=0].*

TEXTBOOKS and OWL

Textbooks:

Lawrence Nees, *Early Medieval Art*, Oxford, 2002 (recommended).

Marilyn Stokstad, *Medieval Art*, second edition, Boulder, CO, and Oxford, 2004 (required).

Copies of these textbooks are available for purchase in the University Bookstore and are on one-day reserve in the D. B. Weldon Library.

OWL:

All students will have access to the course OWL site. This syllabus and separate documents outlining the fall writing assignment will be made available there. In addition, a digital review of selected images will be made available on the site prior to tests. Please note that your primary responsibility is to attend class and to engage with the material discussed.

***It is to your advantage to review your lecture notes and textbook readings every week.*

Other Important Course Policies:

1. Disabled Student Policy: For Western's Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities see: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg118.html.
   In its efforts to accommodate disabilities appropriately, the approach adopted by the University is collaborative, involving the student requesting the accommodation, the instructor, department (or school or program where applicable), and/or Faculty which provides the accommodation, and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in the Student Development Centre which coordinates the request for and provision of accommodation."
2. Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: For purposes of this policy "the University has approved a list of dates which are recognized religious holidays which require members of those religions to be absent from the University; this list is updated annually and is available at departmental, Deans' and Faculty advising Offices." For Western's Policy on Religious Holidays see: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg119.html.
3. Electronic Devices: You may use a computer in class to take notes. All other activities (e.g. checking e-mail or social media sites, watching movies, etc.) are prohibited. Students must turn off all cell phones, PDAs, cameras, or similar electronic devices while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during

times of examination. Should you need to receive an urgent phone call during class time, I ask that you first notify me at the beginning of class and that you keep your phone on vibrate and step out of the classroom to receive the call.

4. Culture of Respect and Code of Student Conduct: All students will conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and treat all members of the Western community with respect. See: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg116.html, with link to the full Code of Student Conduct,
5. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to participate in class and to take tests and exams. Make-up tests and exams will not be given except under extreme circumstances (and only with official documentation approved by the Dean's office).

COURSE OUTLINE

**Supplementary readings may also be assigned. Please note that some minor modifications to the outline may occur.

Class of September 16
Introduction: Late Antiquity

Topics: Historical circumstances in the late Roman empire.
Overview of Roman art and architecture, first through third centuries C.E.; transformations of the classical tradition.
Reading: Stokstad, 1–9; Nees, 17–29 (recommended)

Class of September 23
Christian Art before Constantine

Topics: Diverse religions and cults within the Roman Empire, including Judaism and the nascent Christian community.
The earliest Christian art in the West and in the East.
Reading: Stokstad, 13–21; Nees, 31–45 (recommended)

Class of September 30
Early Christian Art through the Fourth Century

Topics: Emperor Constantine and the Edict of Milan, 313 C.E.
The founding of Constantinople.
Christian dogma and iconography: sources, stimuli and current debates.
Early Christian architecture, sculpture, and small-scale arts in the fourth century.
Reading: Stokstad, 9–12 and 21–32; Nees, 47–61 (recommended)

Class of October 7
The Fifth Century in the Western and Eastern Roman Empire

Topics: Architecture, mosaics, small-scale arts (metalwork and ivory-carving), and manuscript illumination in Rome and Constantinople.
Reading: Stokstad, 32–44; Nees, 63–79 (recommended)

Class of October 14

The Golden Age of Byzantium, Fifth to Seventh Centuries

Topics: The age of Emperor Justinian: historical and cultural circumstances.
Byzantine art and architecture in Constantinople and Ravenna.
Mosaics, the sumptuary arts, and manuscript illumination.

Reading: Stokstad, 45–74; Nees, 99–104, 122–123 (recommended)

Class of October 21

*****MIDTERM TEST (first class hour)**

The Golden Age of Byzantium, Fifth to Seventh Centuries (continued); Image-Making and Image-"Breaking": Icons and the Iconoclastic Controversy

Reading: Stokstad, 45–74; Nees, 137–151 (recommended)

Class of October 28

Arts of Islam

Topics: Mohammed and the formation of a new religion, ca. 610–632 C.E.
The mosque and decorative arts after the seventh century.
Islam, the West, and cultural interactions.

Reading: Stokstad, 143–153

Class of November 4

Art of the Migration Era

Topics: Wandering peoples and portable arts.
The Sutton Hoo ship burial.
Missions and monasticism in the British Isles.
Anglo-Saxon art.
Hiberno-Saxon manuscript illumination.

Reading: Stokstad, 78-100; Nees, 153–171 (recommended)

Class of November 11

Carolingian Art and Architecture: *Renovatio Imperii Romani*

Topics: Charlemagne and the imperial tradition.
Carolingian architecture, painting and sculpture.
Manuscript illumination, ivory carving and metalwork.

Reading: Stokstad, 101–26; Nees, 173–193 (recommended)

Class of November 18

FALL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE

Carolingian Art and Architecture (continued)

Reading: See readings for class of November 11

Class of November 25
Art outside the Carolingian Empire

Topics: Later Anglo-Saxon art; Christian and Mozarabic art and architecture in Spain
The visual culture of the Vikings/Norsemen; the Vikings in Canada.
Reading: Stokstad, 86–89, 155-161, 168–173; Nees, 198-199, 206-209 (recommended)

Class of December 2
Byzantium; Ottonian Art and Architecture

Topics: Imperial traditions in East and West.
Architecture, manuscript illumination, metalwork and ivory carving.
Monumental cult figures.
Reading: Stokstad, 173–90; Nees, 213–235 (recommended)

Class of December 9
Ottonian Art and Architecture (continued); Course Wrap-Up

Reading: See reading for class of December 2

*****FINAL EXAMINATION: DECEMBER 11-22, EXACT DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

VAH 2252F --- Early Medieval Art --- Bibliography and Electronic Resources

Bibliography:

Your textbooks contain extensive bibliographic references to recent scholarship on early medieval visual culture. Further (and detailed) bibliography on specific subjects can be obtained from the BHA (*Bibliography of the History of Art*), which is online at UWO. Go to "Databases by Subject" on the UWO Libraries homepage (then click on "Arts and Humanities" and then on "Visual Arts"). You will also find much useful information under "Visual Arts" after you click on the "Program Guides" heading of the UWO Libraries homepage. You can also consult me for more specific titles and especially for scholarship in languages other than English.

Electronic Resources:

There are countless websites dedicated to the study of art history (see the resources listed under "Visual Arts" in the aforementioned "Program Guides" heading of the UWO Libraries homepage) and to medieval visual culture specifically. For links to some of the sites focusing on medieval art and culture you may wish to consult:

www.medievalart.org [International Center of Medieval Art, The Cloisters, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City]
http://labyrinth.georgetown.edu [Georgetown University Medieval Studies Program]
www.pims.ca [Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, University of Toronto]
www.medievalacademy.org [Medieval Academy of America]
http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/maa ["Resources for Medieval Art and Architecture" as compiled for researchers and students at Harvard University]
http://ica.princeton.edu [Index of Christian Art, Princeton University: click under "Additional

Resources" for images]
http://www.tcnj.edu/~chazelle/emf.html ["Early Medieval Forum"]
http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/sbook.asp ["Internet Medieval Sourcebook," Fordham University; a wealth of primary sources (in English) relating to the early Middle Ages and Byzantium]

Other Matters Relevant to VAH 2252F

You are encouraged to inform other class members about lectures, events, websites, newspaper notices, exhibitions, etc. of interest for the course. The study of medieval art and visual culture is a lively and exciting area of inquiry that has significant implications for your understanding of the cultural production of other eras, including modern and contemporary art. There is a dynamic culture of the Middle Ages at the University of Western Ontario, in Canada, and in the international arena, and news about events of interest will be announced in class and/or posted on OWL.

Should you plan to go on to advanced work in art history, please be aware that reading knowledge of at least one language other than English is essential: consider taking a language course now, if your timetable permits. The University of Western Ontario participates in a wide array of international exchange programs that may enable you to travel and study in Europe and elsewhere. Information sessions will be advertised in the *Western News* this fall, and applications are usually due by the end of the first term. The development of an internationalization strategy during your undergraduate years is highly recommended. Such a strategy has the potential to provide you with advantages and opportunities that can help to shape your personal and professional future.

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****N.B.: DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS POLICIES**

Student Conduct:
All students will conduct themselves in a manner that will be consistent with the maturity and academic integrity expected of university students. Student conduct shall be consistent with the general laws of the community and with University regulations. Students will show regard and respect for the rights, safety, and property of all members of the University community and are expected to act in a responsible manner within the University and the community at large.

Attendance:
A student who misses more than 15% of the course hours, without written corroboration for health or bereavement, can be debarred from writing final exams, or participation in final studio evaluations. Note that if a student consistently is absent from a 3-hour class for 1 hour, he/she will exceed the 15% cutoff and can be debarred.

Prerequisites:
You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal.

If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism, which may be defined as "The act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own," will not be tolerated. (Citation excerpted from Black's Law Dictionary, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). Plagiarism is a major academic offence. See the statement on "Scholastic Offences" in the UWO Academic Calendar: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2015/pg113.html.

Medical Policy:
Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. See course outline for specific arrangements regarding less than 10% of assignments.

Mental Health Policy:
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Building Access:
The John Labatt Visual Arts Centre will be closed at 10:30 pm each night. There will be no after-hour access for undergraduate students. The Centre is open weekends 12:00 noon-5:00 pm. Students should be prepared to vacate the building promptly at 10:30 pm and 5:00 pm. You must also sign-in with the building monitors when working in the workshop areas outside of regular office hours.

Please remember:
One of the most important resources for course counselling, special permissions, course changes, grade appeals, etc., is the Undergraduate Chair of Visual Arts, Prof. David Merritt (tel. 519-661-3440; vaugc@uwo.ca). Please note, however, that should you encounter any serious difficulties due to illness, family emergency, etc., you should consult the Academic Counsellor for your Faculty (Mr. Ben Hakala, Carrie Connelly, and Amanda Green are the academic counsellors for the Faculty of Arts and Humanities).

The Student Development Centre (WSS room 4111; tel: 519-661-3031; www.sdc.uwo.ca) offers a wide range of useful services to students including workshops on learning skills, career and employment services, and an effective writing program, among many more.

The D.B. Weldon Library offers orientation tours from the first week of classes until Thanksgiving, where you will get acquainted with the numerous research resources available. In addition, the University libraries have an extremely useful website where you can search the library system, the databases, view your circulation record, renew materials, access your UWO e-mail account, and much more. See: www.lib.uwo.ca.

Financial Aid Services is the main source of information about OSAP, bursaries, loans, scholarships, and the work-study program which offers part-time positions on campus for Western students. Check out the website at www.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/index.cfm.

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Visual Arts

Undergraduate Grading Guidelines - Art History

These guidelines are benchmarks that are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. For example, grades in first-year courses are generally lower than in fourth year.

90-100 (Outstanding, A+)
The writing shows significant originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the background research is exemplary. Regarding research, all major secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

80-89 (Excellent, A)
The writing shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical engagement. Writing is probing through the use of comments and/or questions, and is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing immediately engages the reader. Mastery of complex materials and ideas is demonstrated. The writing is of appropriate length, and demonstrates mastery of techniques so that results are meaningful and not simplistic. Regarding research, a majority of the secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted and proper citation has been used.

75-79 (Very Good, B+)
The writing shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Written claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The work is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. Written analysis is organized around focal points and the development of the argument is easily followed. The writer demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material. Regarding research, a representative selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

70-74 (Good, B)
The writing shows a satisfactory attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Written claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The work is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. Written analysis is organized around

focal points. The text is generally well written and well argued. Regarding research, a somewhat limited selection of secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted and proper citation has been used.

60-69 (Competent, C)
The writing demonstrates adequate engagement with the topic. The writing is on topic and is a reasonable response to material covered in the course, but goes no further. Written facts are stated accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the text. Regarding research, an insufficient number secondary sources pertaining to the topic has been consulted but proper citation has been used.

50-59 (Marginal, D)
The writing shows less than adequate engagement with the topic and with the material covered by the course. The writing is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Written facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader's comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the text. Regarding research, few secondary sources pertaining to the topic have been consulted; proper citation may or may not have been used.

Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)
The writing demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. Written material is disorganized and unintelligible. The work clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment. Regarding research, secondary sources pertaining to the topic have not been consulted and proper citation has not been used.