

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

**VISUAL ARTS HISTORY 4451F, FALL 2017
SEMINAR IN MEDIEVAL ART**

**MEDIEVAL ART IN NORTH AMERICAN CONTEXTS:
COLLECTING, DISPLAY, REPRESENTATION**

reappropriation, and reinterpretation. How, for example, has the public (visual) consumption of medieval art been valued and positioned in relation to objects and ideas from other historical eras and geographies, including those of non-Western cultures and the modern age? How and why have collections of medieval art been employed in the past and present to articulate distinctly American and/or Canadian concerns and identities, whether public, private, individual, or collective? Strategies of arrangement and display, both historical and contemporary, at selected institutions will be given critical consideration. In 2017 the Middle Ages continue to figure prominently in the

Evaluation

Class Participation	20%
Short Presentations (2, with written components)	20%
Seminar Presentation (with annotated bibliography and abstract)	25%
Research Paper	35%

Requirements

1) Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and be prepared for and participate in all meetings, 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 know that attendance at seminar meetings is considered *mandatory*.

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.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html [downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): student.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading].

Please note that the instructor will NOT accept any missed assignments, whether totalling more than 10% or less than 10%, unless the student has arranged accommodation through the Dean's Office.

Health and Mental Wellbeing

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.

2) Class Participation and Course Materials

The quality and success of this seminar—designed as a collaborative undertaking—

putting forward independent observations and hypotheses. Critical reading and looking, as well as the ability to develop and present clearly articulated analyses (written and verbal), are fundamental to advanced work in art history.

Course Materials and Readings:

Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis. This seminar addresses a large and important topic that is just beginning to receive extended critical study; most publications to date are article-length, focusing on individual institutions.

An essay collection from 1996 provides an important point of departure for our exploration (Elizabeth Bradford Smith, ed. *Medieval Art in America: Patterns of Collecting 1800-1940*, College Park, Pennsylvania: The Palmer Museum of Art, 1996), and copies are available for purchase in the UWO Bookstore.

A copy of this book is also on one-day reserve in the D. B. Weldon Library.

Other readings will be assigned from books and articles available on-line via OWL, the D. B. Weldon Library (e.g., articles available via journal databases), or in the form of photocopies available for consultation in the Visual Resources Library (Rm. 241, John Labatt Visual Arts Centre). Please note that your textbooks from VAH 1040 (History of Western Art) and the VAH 1041-VAH 1045 series (Art, Visual Culture, and Power, etc.), and your 2000-level medieval courses, especially Marilyn Stokstad, *Medieval Art: Second Edition* (2004), will provide helpful background information, images, and bibliography.

OWL

Training: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal/site/owldocs>

Owl Course Site: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

All students will have access to the course OWL site; the course outline, the Chicago Manual of Style (pdf.), reading assignments, and class announcements will be posted there.

3) Short Presentations

Each seminar participant will give two short presentations.

The first will focus on a critical review and analysis of an article (or articles) in *Medieval Art in America: Patterns of Collecting 1800-1940* or of a recent publication that relates to the theme of this seminar (short list to be distributed in class). You will prepare a short (2- 000912 0 -25(O)8()8(B)mdaan T(b)-3(3 Tm0 T 6129 Tm0 g0 GeT@.00000912 0 6

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The final paper (for undergraduates: 10-12 pages of text, Times Roman 12 point, double-spaced with one-inch margins, plus notes, bibliography, and illustrations; for graduate students: 12-15 pages+ of text), is to be presented in a professional, clearly organized fashion with a proper scholarly apparatus. The paper should follow the Chicago Manual of Style, which is the style sheet used in the Department of Visual Arts (see the "Chicago.pdf" file posted on the OWL site for this course). Please note, however, that endnotes are preferred, as they conform most closely to scholarly practice in the field of art history. For further information, see also: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>. Photocopies or printouts of images, whether scanned from books or downloaded from the Internet, should be included as plates with figure references in the text of the paper. All plates should be numbered and captioned; alternatively you may provide a list of figures. Further details regarding the research and writing of papers will be discussed in class.

Due Date for Final Paper: December 7 (last day of class)

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

Plagiarism and Citation:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. The Department of Visual Arts uses the Chicago Manual of Style (see the "Chicago.pdf" file posted on

