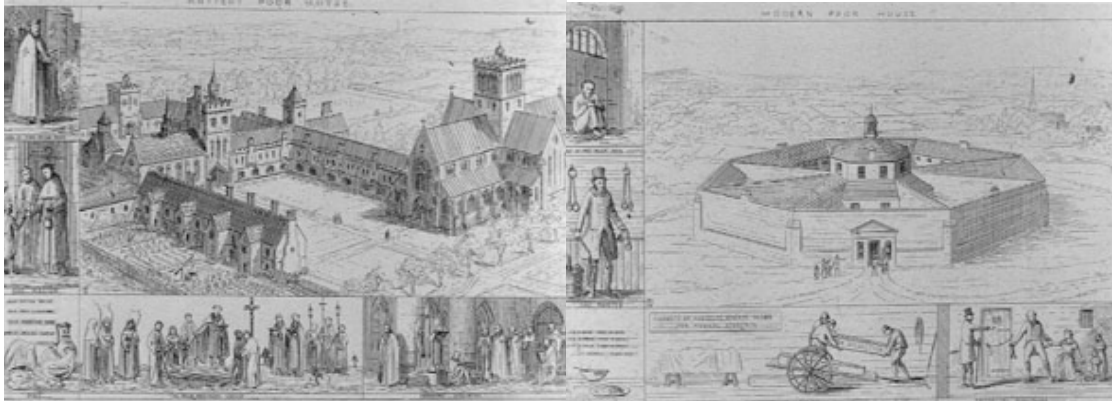


**AH441: TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL ART AND  
ARCHITECTURE**  
**“Responding to Medieval Architecture and its Arts”**  
**Heather Grossman**  
**Spring, 2007, Thursdays, 2-5 pm**



**A.N.W. Pugin, Medieval Poor House, Modern Poor House**

The art and architecture of the medieval world continue to fascinate and inspire current societies and form the objects and sites of pious, aesthetic and touristic interest. Great monuments of the medieval world, such as Notre Dame in Paris, Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, are among the most familiar sites of today, as they were in the middle ages. All built to satisfy particular religious, political and cultural needs and desires, such buildings are also now part of what we call “world culture”. How have people used and responded to such buildings and related art objects through the centuries?

In this course we will first look at the architecture as well as smaller scale objects of the medieval West (with forays into the contemporary cultures of Islam and Byzantium) in order to consider the issues surrounding their creation and use in the middle ages. We will discuss how architecture and material culture functions in public and private, secular and religious, and luxury and everyday spheres. In the last weeks of the course we will turn our attention to more recent nineteenth- and twentieth-century cultural and artistic responses to the architecture and arts of the middle ages, and examine how and why modern societies have used medieval forms and aesthetics. We will look at Medieval Revival buildings in Chicago as well as other responses to the middle ages in the United States and abroad (collecting, modern “guilds”, etc.).

The course is structured as a seminar, with ample student participation required. Students will direct weekly discussions, give a formal presentation and write a substantial research paper. There are no exams. The course is appropriate for graduate students and upper level undergraduates with previous courses in art history or the related fields of art history, architecture, archaeology, Mediterranean studies, history, and religious studies.