

AH 221: MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE
PROF. HEATHER GROSSMAN
TUES & THURSDAY 9:30—10:45AM
HENRY HALL 107



This course is an introduction to the architecture, monumental arts and built environment of the Middle Ages from the third to the fifteenth century. From the fall of Rome to the dawn of the Renaissance, a range of architectural monuments shaped Byzantine and western medieval daily life, religious experience, and royal and civic spectacle. We will learn about the awe-inspiring basilicas of the Early Christian Mediterranean, the domed churches and gilded palaces of Byzantium, the cloistered monasteries and pilgrimage destinations of Romanesque Europe and the Levant, and the great commercial cities with their merchants' houses and Gothic cathedrals that rose across Europe. The course integrates the study of the architecture and related arts (monumental painting, mosaics, furnishings) with the study of medieval culture and society, exploring the roles of royal courts and secular civil authority, religious performance, reform and radicalism, crusading and trade between East and West, and rising urbanism. The course will proceed chronologically, with thematic and topical issues simultaneously addressed.

Prerequisite: 3 hours of art history at the 100 level or consent of the instructor.

The course is mostly lecture-based, with class discussions throughout the semester. Evaluation through short quizzes, one midterm and a final exam; a research paper of 8-9 pages in length or visual/written architectural project due near the end of the semester. One walking tour/AIC visit is scheduled.