Unit 07: Early Medieval and Romanesque Art and Architecture

Content Area: **Fine Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **7-9 sessions**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Art History Part 1 will provide students with an introduction to college coursework in art history. In this course, students will examine major forms of artistic expression from Ancient to Medieval times as well as those of Non-European cultures. Their explorations will enable them to develop an understanding and knowledge of architecture, sculpture, painting, and other art forms within diverse historical and cultural contexts. It will also provide an opportunity for Cranford High School students to explore an area that is only cursorily explored through other curricula in more depth. They will learn to look at works of art critically, with intelligence and sensitivity, and to analyze what they see. Students may continue with the coursework by electing to take Art History Part 2.

No prior experience in art history or fine art is required. Students who are successful and enjoy other courses in the humanities, such as history and literature, or in any of the arts, are strongly encouraged to enroll. While the course does not assume prior training or seek primarily to identify students who will major in art history in college, it does require a high degree of commitment to academic work and to the purposes of a program designed to meet college standards.

In this unit, students will explore Early Medieval and Romanesque art and architecture. They will understand the history and contributions to the development of art and architecture that came out of these eras. They will also understand how the spread Christianity changed the societal structures of the era, and how the narrative art and pilgrimage architecture of the time reflected, promoted, and supported those changes.

Revision Date: July 2024 - Samantha Berk.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

In what ways did the fall of Rome and the spread of Christianity impact social structures of “barbarian” Europe and how was this reflected in art and architecture of cultures in the medieval era?

Why do we no longer refer to the Medieval and Romanesque eras as the “Dark Ages”?

In what ways did art and architecture serve to spread Christianity throughout Europe?

During the medieval era, Europe developed from many disparate tribal groups into a series of states and somewhat unified entities, creating a fusion of images, motifs and perceptions synthesizing the heritage of Christian, Greco-Roman, and barbarian cultures.

The Medieval and Romanesque eras have historically been referred to as the dark ages, although modern scholars have long ago ceased to see the era as devoid of cultural significance.

Illuminated manuscripts were only created for clerics and the ruling class as only they had the ability to read.

Narrative art and pilgrimage architecture served to spread the doctrine of Christianity to the illiterate general populace.

Students Will Know

- • Basic vocabulary of Medieval and Romanesque art and architecture (codex, illuminated manuscript, psalter, cloisonné, transverse arches, transept, tympanum, voussoirs, trumeau, archivolts, mandorla, reliquary, pilgrimage church, etc.)
- • Major art materials and mediums used by the culture and/or during the time period.
- • The basic history of the time period being explored.
- • The characteristics unique to each structure.
- • The geographical sites being explored.
- • The identification information of selected works of art from the culture/time period.

Evidence/Performance Tasks

- • Answer the essential questions.
- • Completion of homework and in class assignments derived from classroom activities (such as but not limited to: Readings, study guide activities and worksheets on Medieval and Romanesque Art and Architecture. Written Assignment: Select a medieval church to describe. How has the structure been incor-porated into ornamental design and what is the correspondence among structure, sculpture or relief, and religious ritual? 10 minute AP essay writing.)
- • Ongoing notes, sketches, handouts, and reflections compiled in notebooks.
- • Participation in classroom activities such as: class discussion, Q and A sessions, cooperative group projects, role-playing, critique sessions, etc.
- • Quiz: Medieval and Romanesque Art and Architecture
- • Self and teacher assessment using teacher generated rubric.

Learning Plan

- Homework debriefing and presentation “From Romanesque to Gothic architecture: French innovation and risk.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion.
- Homework debriefing and presentation “Hiberno-Saxon, Carolingian, Ottonian manuscripts.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- Homework debriefing and presentation “Ornament: architectural sculpture in Toulouse, Autun, and Vezelay.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- Homework debriefing and presentation “Romanesque architecture in France, England, and Italy.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion and activity o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- Homework debriefing and presentation “The Bayeux Tapestry and the Norman invasion of 1066.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
- Homework debriefing and presentation “The Illuminators and their work, the building of a cathedral: how liturgy and the architecture function together.” o Handouts related to topic of discussion. o Discussion and Activity o Homework reading and study guide activity related to next class period topic.
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- Preview the essential questions and connect to learning throughout the unit.
- Unit Quiz
- Written Assignment: Select a medieval church to describe. How has the structure been incorporated into ornamental design and what is the correspondence among structure, sculpture or relief, and religious ritual?

Materials

Google Slide Deck, Google classroom, textbooks, handouts, Edpuzzles, quizlet, kahoot, videos, art reproductions, Flash Cards, Notebooks, Vocabulary Sheets, Khan Academy, Smarthistory

Suggested Strategies for Modifications

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1whirPHhSur-WY5EGTzfLHayWczAu0O9Svu-0ggxyXFY/edit#gid=1426178898