

The Gothic Spirit

HRS / LIBA 234

Fall Semester 2008

W 5-8:50 pm, TAH 1002

Candace Gregory-Abbott

Office: TAH 3059

Email: cgregory@csus.edu

Office Hrs: TR 2-3 PM,

Webpage: <http://www.csus.edu/indiv/g/gregoryc/>

W 11-12, and by appt.

Required Texts:

D. E. Luscombe, *Medieval Thought* (not available from the bookstore; copy on reserve)

Umberto Eco, *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*

Otto Georg von Simson, *Gothic Cathedral*

Dante / trans. Mark Musa, *Vita Nuova*

Dante / trans. Robert Hollander, *Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradiso*

Course Description and Goals:

The Gothic Spirit. Arts and ideas of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in Western Europe, structured according to the principle of the "reconciliation of opposites." The Gothic period sees such opposites as faith and reason, vertical and horizontal (in architecture), counterpoint brought into harmony (in music). The period culminates in Dante's masterpiece the Divine Comedy, which exhibits the reconciliation of opposites in such sets as female/male, faith/reason, human/divine, beauty/horror, and chaos/harmony. Cross-listed as LIBA 234; only one may be counted for credit. 3 units.

Requirements:

This is a discussion seminar. As graduate students you are expected to come to each class having read the assigned material and prepared to discuss it. Readings are assigned daily and are to be done BEFORE you come to class. All work is due on the assigned date; NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

There will be two oral reports. The first is scheduled for the first month of class on a philosopher assigned to you by me (a presentation of 10 minutes in which you give a very brief biography of the philosopher, a summary of his major ideas, and turn in a bibliographic list of major works by that philosopher (you may also include, in a separate section, works about him). The second oral report will be a 10-15 minute presentation on an article (assigned by me) about some aspect of the *Commedia*; this will be due throughout the Dante readings. Most of your grade is based on a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of your choosing, due at the end of the semester. Mid-semester each student will present (5 mins.) on their topic and turn in a working bibliography.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and will be checked daily.

Tardy:

Tardiness will not be tolerated. You are allowed to be tardy three (which is defined as arriving after the class roll has been called); after three, you will lose five points from your final exam grade for each subsequent tardy. More than five tardies will result in an F for the course. If you are late to class, or must leave class early, please be as quiet and unobtrusive as possible.

Final Grade Components:

50%	Research Paper (15-20 pps, double spaced, typed), including bibliography
15%	Oral Report on Philosopher
15%	Oral Report on Dante
20%	Overall Class Participation

Grading Scale:

A 93-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F 59-0
A- 90-92	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Cell Phones:

Please turn off all cell phones before class begins. If your cell phone rings in class, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that day's class.

Integrity and Scholarship:

DO NOT CHEAT! If you are caught cheating on a writing assignment, test, the final exam, or a daily quiz, or any other assigned work, you will receive an F for the course. You are held accountable for all university guidelines in regard to plagiarism and cheating.

Plagiarism:

University policy on plagiarism states, "Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At CSUS plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution. Regardless of the means of appropriation, incorporation of another's work into one's own requires adequate identification and acknowledgement. Plagiarism is doubly unethical because it deprives the author of rightful credit and gives credit to someone who has not earned it. Acknowledgement is not necessary when the material used is common knowledge. Plagiarism at CSUS includes but is not limited to:

1. The act of incorporating into one's own work the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work without giving appropriate credit thereby representing the product as entirely one's own. Examples include not only word-for-word copying, but also the "mosaic" (i.e., interspersing a few of one's own words while, in essence, copying another's work), the paraphrase (i.e., rewriting another's work while still using the other's fundamental idea or theory); fabrication (i.e., inventing or counterfeiting sources), ghost-writing (i.e., submitting another's work as one's own) and failure to include quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged; and

2. Representing as one's own another's artistic or scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures, or similar works. For more information on plagiarism, and how to avoid it, go to: read the University Policy Manual, at <http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual/Uma00150.htm>

This syllabus can and may be changed at any time.

- Week 1: 3 September** **Introduction to the class,**
- Week 2: 10 September** **What is the Gothic?**
Read Erwin Panofsky, *Gothic: Architecture and Scholasticism*
On Reserve
- Week 3: 17 September** **Philosophical Background:**
Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Boethius
Read Luscombe, Chaps. 1 and 2
- Week 4: 24 September** **Eleventh Century Philosophic Revival to Aquinas**
Read Luscombe, Chaps. 3-5
- Week 5: 1 October** **Class Canceled**
- Week 6: 8 October** **The Gothic Aesthetic**
Read Eco
Paper Topics Due
- Week 7: 15 October** **Gothic Architecture**
Read: von Simson, Chapters 1-4 and 7
- Week 8: 22 October** **Music in the Medieval World**
Read: Albert Seay, *Music in the Medieval World*,
excerpts on Reserve
- Week 9: 29 October** **And so it Begins: Dante: *Inferno*, Cantos I -XVI**
- Week 10: 5 November** **Dante: *Inferno*, Cantos XVII-XXXIV**
Presentation of topics / Working Bibliography due
- Week 11: 12 November** **Dante: *Purgatorio*, Cantos I -XVII**
- Week 12: 19 November** **Dante: *Purgatorio*, Cantos XVIII-XXXIV**
- Week 13: 26 November** **Dante: *La Vita Nuova***
- Week 14: 3 December** **Dante: *Paradiso*, Cantos I-XVII**
- Week 15: 10 December** **Dante: Read *Paradiso*, Cantos XVIII-XXXIII**
Papers Due