

Age of Cathedrals

R. Howard Bloch

Paris, July 2-August 6, 2016

Humanities S267, French S305, Literature S176

You should do the reading for each week before our Tuesday meeting when the worksheet is due. The first week is an exception, though here too you are encouraged to do the first week's reading before Tuesday.

We will meet for class on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:15-4:15 p.m., Ecole Etoile, 38 Blvd. Raspail, Paris 7e, metro Sèvres-Babylone. We will meet for excursions on Wednesdays in the morning, and several times on Friday. Please be on time for class and for excursions. Do not bring your computer to class unless it is for the purpose of making a presentation. Absolutely no eating in the classroom. If you want to eat between 1:15 and 4:15, please do so during our break, and do not bring food into our sacred learning space, but leave it outside on the table in the hall.

Excursions will take place on Monday and Wednesday, with the exception of Friday, July 10, when we will visit the Cité de L'Architecture.

On-site orientation: July 4, 12:00, at the Ecole Etoile.

* indicates reading available on V2 Class Server.

Week 1 Saint-Denis

Reading: *What was Done under his Administration; The Consecration of the Church of Saint-Denis*. *Pseudo-Dionysius, *Celestial Hierarchies*; *Jacques de Voragine, "Genealogy of Christ."

July 5 Introduction to mechanics of course: reading, worksheets, paper, V2 Class Server. Introduction to Romanesque and Gothic, the Renaissance of the twelfth century, Saint-Denis.

July 6 Visit to Saint-Denis. Gathering point and time to be announced.

July 7 Worksheet #1 due. The relation of Saint-Denis, state building, the monarchy of Louis VII, Suger's doctrine of holiness and light, of materiality, the treasury of Saint-Denis, the Fair of Lendit, financing the cathedral, the senses, and spirituality.

July 8, Visit to the Cité de l'architecture, 1 place du Trocadéro, Paris 1e, metro Trocadéro, 11:00 a.m.

Week 2 Notre-Dame de Paris

Reading: Abelard's *History of my Misfortunes*, the *Personal Letters of Abelard and Heloise*; *Rutebeuf's "Miracle of Theophilus"; *fabliaux; *Marie de France, *Fables*; *Adam d'Arras, "Play of Madness."

Worksheet #2 due before class on Tuesday.

July 12 The construction of Notre-Dame de Paris beginning in the 12th century, destruction at the time of the revolution, restoration in the 19th century; the first flying buttress; the cult of Mary; the sculpture, stained glass, frieze of Theophilus on the northern portal; the cathedral as a visual Bible, the relation of Old and New Testaments.

July 13 Visit to Notre-Dame, meet by entrance to north tower, 9:45 a.m.

July 14 Intellectual life in twelfth-century Paris, the birth of the university, of philosophy alongside of theology, scholastic debate; the place of the cathedral in the city; Abelard, Heloise, and the development of an early modern sense of the self; the fabliaux, anti-clericalism, and the return of a money economy.

July 15 Visit to Beauvais and Amiens, departure 9:00 a.m. l'Ecole Etoile.

Week 3 Chartres

Reading: **Miracles of Notre-Dame of Chartres* by Jean le Marchand; *Marie de France, * "Prologue" to the *Lais* and lai of "Lanval"; **The Song of Roland*; **Pseudo-Turpin*; **Pilgrimage of Charlemagne*.

Worksheet #3 due before class on Tuesday.

July 19 The history, architecture, sculptural and stained glass programs of Chartres; the cult of Mary as intercessor; relics; liturgy and sacred history.

July 20 Visit to Chartres. We have a longish train ride, so we will meet a little earlier than usual at a time and place to be announced.

July 21 The rise of communes, the role of masons and guilds, the industry of cathedral building; the history, architecture, sculpture, and stained glass of Chartres, with special focus on Charlemagne window.

Sainte-Chapelle, program of sacred music, 7:00 p.m., 4 Blvd. du Palais, Paris 1e.

Week 4 Sainte-Chapelle

Reading: Joinville's *Life of Saint-Louis*; *Thibaut de Champagne, Lyrics; Guibert de Nogent, *Monodies*.

Worksheet #4 due before class on Tuesday.

July 26 The Crown of Thorns, the cathedral as reliquary, as a vision of paradise; the rayonnant style, painting and decoration, sculpture and stained glass of Sainte-Chapelle. Worksheet #4 due before class on Tuesday.

July 27 Visit to Sainte-Chapelle, meet 8 Blvd. du Palais, Paris 1e, 9:30 a.m.

July 28 Louis IX, Crusade, sainthood and kingship, expansion of the royal domain.

Week 5 The Cathedral and its Objects

Reading: *Quest of the Holy Grail*; Saint Bernard, *Apologia for Abbot William* (Cistercian World, pp. 42-57), *Three Sermons on the Song of Songs* (pp. 65-83); William of St. Thierry, *Three Meditations* (pp. 107-124).

Worksheet #5 due before class on Tuesday.

August 1 Visit to Reims cathedral.

August 2 Cistercian piety, mysticism, relics, material culture, the ancillary architectural arts--tapestry and textiles, liturgical objects and garments, metalwork, woodwork, jewelry, and the fate of such objects after the Revolution of 1789. Worksheet #5 due before class on Tuesday.

August 3 Visit to the National Museum of the Middle Ages (Cluny).

August 4 Conclusion.

August 5 Papers due electronically in your dropbox on the V2 server by 12:00 noon.

Books and materials:

- "Principles and Elements of Medieval Religious Architecture"* (Editions Fragile), to be distributed in Paris.
- Abbot Suger, *What was Done under his Administration, The Consecration of the Church of Saint-Denis*, ed. Erwin Panofsky (Princeton University Press).
- Abelard, *History of my Misfortunes*, Abelard and Heloise, *Personal Letters*, ed. Betty Radice (Penguin Classics).
- Adam d'Arras, "Play of Madness," on line.
- Guibert de Nogent, *Monodies and On the Relics of Saints*, ed. Joseph McAlhany and Jay Rubenstein (Penguin Classic).
- Jacques de Voragine, "Genealogy of Christ," on line.
- Marie de France, *Fables*, on line; "Prologue" to the *Lais* and lai of "Lanval," on line.
- Pseudo-Dionysius, *Celestial Hierarchies*. on line.
- Pseudo-Turpin. on line.
- Pilgrimage of Charlemagne to Jerusalem. on line.
- Rutebeuf, "Miracle of Théophile" in Richard Axton and John E. Stevens, *Medieval French Drama* (Oxford), pp. 167-92, on line.
- Jean le Marchand, "Miracles of Notre-Dame de Chartres," on line.
- Joinville, *Life of Saint-Louis in Chronicles of the Crusades*, ed. Caroline Smith (Penguin Classic).

- Thibaut de Champagne, selected lyrics, on line.
- Selected fabliaux, on line.
- Cistercian writings in Pauline Matarasso's *The Cistercian World. Monastic Writings of the Twelfth Century* (Penguin Classics).
- Queste for the Holy Grail*, tr. Pauline Matarasso (Penguin Classic).

Work: Weekly worksheets and final paper, 10 pages.