

## Sacred Architecture

ID 235; Fall 2023

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|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|--|
| <b>Instructor</b>                   | Abi Hunt  | <b>Phone</b>  | N/A  |
| <b>Office</b>                       | British Faculty Suite   | <b>E-mail</b> | <a href="mailto:Abigail.hunt@nottingham.ac.uk">Abigail.hunt@nottingham.ac.uk</a> |
| <b>Course Meeting Days and Time</b> | Course: Mondays and Wednesdays 3.30pm – 4.45pm SHR  |               |  |
| <b>Office Hours</b>                 | The instructor will be available in-person, by e-mail or phone. Emails will be answered within 12-working hours. Phone and Teams Meetings may be scheduled. Office hours TBA. |               |  |

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### Catalog Description:

*Sacred Architecture* takes students on a journey into the range of forms, art, and architecture that people have used as places of ritual and worship across Britain. Student will consider sacred place and space dating from prehistory to identify spiritual grounds and burial sites, and move chronologically through time to understand the changing forms that spiritual places have taken. Critical to this course is not only the understanding and identification of a range of forms of architecture, but a central understanding of why such architectures were selected and the effect they would have had on surrounding communities. From the holy art of the Anglo-Saxons and burial mounds of the Pagan Danes to the splendor of cathedrals and sleek lines of mosques, students will complete this module with a sound understanding of Britain's sacred architectural past and the communities who have interacted with these holy spaces.

### Credit Hour Policy Statement:

"This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 3 hours of supervised study per week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 hours for each credit. For this 3 credit course students are expected to devote a minimum of 135 hours."

### General Education Requirements:

n/a

### Course Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the key features of a range of holy architectural styles to include prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, Norman, Catholic, Anglican, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim.
- Explain why these features were apparent in that specific religion or domination's expression style.
- Examine and summarize the sacred burial sites associated with each type of architectural style.
- Distinguish between sacred art forms on display in different sacred spaces.
- Assess to what extent communities were created and impacted by the presence of a given architectural form.

### Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Students are expected to participate in all weekly lessons. Attendance is required for all class sessions and affects participation points. Students are responsible for letting the instructor know in advance if they are unable to attend class. Make up assignments may be given for excused absences. Students who miss more than one week of instruction will be required to withdraw from the course.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. This will be determined by the

course member and included in their syllabus (e.g. a full-letter grade (A to B), or a third-letter grade (A- to B+).  
 Covid-19 Policy: Students should not attend class if they are feeling unwell. They should seek to notify their instructors of their absence and, if possible, participate in their classes online.

**Grading Criteria:**

| CRITERIA                   | TYPE  | POINTS | TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF GRADE |
|----------------------------|---|--------|---------------------------|
| ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO     | Quarterly assignment                        | 100    | 50%                       |
| MIDTERM                    | Exam  | 30     | 15%                       |
| PRESENTATION (FINAL)       | 1500-word presentation (verbal) with slides | 50     | 25%                       |
| ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION | In-class                                    | 20     | 10%                       |

**Assessment Details**

**Assessment Schedule:**

| ASSESSMENT                 | TYPE                              | SUBMISSION DATE  | SUBMISSION METHOD                                    |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| MIDTERM EXAM               | Summative<br>Online exam          | Oct 14 2024      | Blackboard   |
| PRESENTATION (FINAL)       | Summative<br>Verbal presentation  | Dec 2 and 4 2024 | In class and a copy of the presentation via Turnitin |
| ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO     | Formative<br>Entries 1 and 2      | Oct 14 2024      | formative submission slot via Turnitin               |
|                            | Summative<br>Entries 1,2,3, and 4 | Dec 2 2024       | Summative submission slot via Turnitin               |
| ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION | Summative                         | N/A              | N/A  |

**Assessment Specification:**

**Please note each assessment has a detailed specification and rubric that will be uploaded to Blackboard and that we will cover in class.**

**Architecture Portfolio (100 points or 50% of grade / 25-points per entry)**

The purpose of this short portfolio is to build a deeper knowledge and understanding of sacred architecture, space or place. Students will write four portfolio entries of 800 - 1000 words each. Entries are to be related to a weekly inquiry theme that has already been covered.

Two of these entries are due mid term for formative feedback, and should resubmit these with the final two are due on the last day of class. Each entry should focus on a different theme (for example, you should not write two portfolio entries on Norman churches), though you may choose to reuse these places in your end of

semester presentation. Students should choose a place that demonstrates the architectural form that was discussed in class. While students are encouraged to collaborate on their research, each entry should be their own. The entry should be both descriptive of the site and reflective, with key considerations to include:

- The visual impact made by the form of architecture on a viewer
- The sacred place's location within the landscape (urban or rural)
- A clearly defined description of the architecture with key architectural features noted
- If there is a burial place associated with it
- Which period the architecture stems from
- Why that specific type of architecture (and internal art, if applicable) was appropriate to the culture, religion or denomination that created it
- Images or maps

Students may choose to maintain their portfolio in paper-based or electronic format, including:

- A series of PDFs created in Adobe CS or on Canva.com
- A blog-style webpage (e.g., Weebly, Tumblr, or a public and purpose-set social media account)
- Printed copies in a binder
- Other portfolio building-platforms

#### **Midterm exam (15% or 30 points)**

Students will take an online exam that covers the basic principles of sacred architecture. It will be comprised of multiple choice, T/F and short-answer essay questions. Key areas of inquiry will involve:

- Transcendence and the question of 'the divine'
- Sacred space place and architecture of prehistory
- Pagan – Christian transition architecture and representations of sacred space

#### **Presentation (25% or 50 points)**

Students should prepare an 8-10-minute final presentation for class delivery at the end of term. It should include a well-constructed slideshow (this may be PowerPoint or Prezi), with each slide containing no more than 30-words per slide. It is anticipated that the presentation will include (verbally) from 1500 - 2000-words. Students do not need to submit a speech or transcript of their presentation but must submit their final presentation slideshow.

The presentation should be a critical comparison of two places of sacred architecture. Students may choose to juxtapose a prehistoric site with a Hindu Temple, or opt for two similar types of place, e.g., comparing Rievaulx with Lindisfarne. If in doubt, students are encouraged to ask the instructor for further guidance. Key focal points of the presentation should focus on the architecture and any visible artwork, rather than a critical comparison of the sites' histories.

#### **Participation – (10% or 20 points)**

Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. Participation grades are based on preparing assigned readings for the course and full participation in the class discussions and activities. This class will offer a host of interactive and simulation / debate activities and students should be fully prepared to engage. Through the discussion/debate and simulation activities, students will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of both the topic and another person's perspective.

#### **Course Grade:**

A percentage grade will be calculated out of the total 200 points. The following scale will be used to assign grades:

|    |         |    |               |
|----|---------|----|---------------|
| A  | 94-100% | C  | 73-76%        |
| A- | 90-94%  | C- | 70-72%        |
| B+ | 87-89%  | D+ | 67-69%        |
| B  | 83-86%  | D  | 62-66         |
| B- | 80-82%  | F  | 61% and below |
| C+ | 77-79%  |    |               |

**Disability Policy:**

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact the Office of Counselling and Health Education at 488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from the Office of Counselling and Health Education is required for academic accommodations.

**Honor Code:**

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honour code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.* All UE students pledge to obey the University's honour code in all situations. Students understand that any work submitted for course credit implies adherence with the Academic Honor Code. Students will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid and will not tolerate an environment which condones the use of unauthorized aid. All students are subject to the University's Student Handbook in terms of academic integrity. Students in violation of university policies will receive a failing course grade and appropriate administrative action will be taken for the student's record.

**Required reading list:**

**Books**

Bermudez, 2015, Transcending Architecture: Contemporary Views on Sacred Space

**You will be provided with a range of source material to support each session and to help you with your assessments. We will explore these sources in class, but you are not required to read these in advance of the class. I would encourage you to follow each class by reading the sources mentioned. I will also post new relevant articles, news items, and case studies on Black Board if they are published during the course.**

## Course Schedule

Each session will include an overview to religion and religious buildings during the period being explored and students will conduct a case study to aid them with their portfolio and presentation assessments.

| W/C                           | Session one   | Session two  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| September 2 2024              | Course welcome and orientation  | <b>Your learning journey part 1:<br/>What do you know now?</b>   |
| September 9 2024              | Prehistory: A case study of Stonehenge World Heritage Site Landscape from the Neolithic onwards   | Prehistory: A Case study of Bronze Age Flag Fen  |
| September 16 2024             | Prehistory: A Case study Iron Age Danebury Hillfort and evidence of religious and ritual activity   | <b>Creating your first portfolio entry and guidance for the assessment</b>   |
| September 23 2024             | Roman: A Case study of the Romano British Temple at Caistor by Norwich<br><b>This session will be online and prerecorded with exercises</b> | Early Medieval (Anglo Saxon): A Case study of Sutton Hoo   |
| September 30 2024             | Early Medieval (Anglo Saxon): A Case study of Lincolnshire's Anglo Saxon Churches   | Early Medieval (Vikings):  |
| October 7 2024                | Early Medieval/Medieval: Monasteries: A case study of the North East and Yorkshire  | <b>Creating your second portfolio entry and guidance for the mid term exam</b>   |
| October 14 2024               | <b>Mid term exam: in class, online on Blackboard</b>  | <b>Your learning journey part 2:<br/>What do you know now?</b><br><br><b>Submit your first two portfolio entries for formative feedback – these are not graded and you can use the feedback to improve them and to guide you on your final two entries</b> |
| October 21 <sup>st</sup> 2024 | <b>Mid Term Break</b>   |  |

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| October 28 2024  | Early Medieval/Medieval: Minsters and Cathedrals and a case study of York Minster   | Early Medieval/Medieval: Minsters and Cathedrals and a case study of Lincoln Cathedral  |
| November 4 2024  | Early Modern: The Dissolution of the Monasteries and Protestant reformation and a case study of Peterborough Cathedral    | Georgian and Victorian: Non-conformist Chapels and a case study of Primitive Methodist Chapels in Lincolnshire                      |
| November 11 2024 | Creating your third portfolio entry and guidance for the presentations  | Victorian and modern: church and CoE Cathedral building, restoration, and Catholic cathedrals with a case study of Liverpool        |
| November 18 2024 | Modern: Multi-Cultural Britain and an introduction to Muslim, Hindu, and Jewish sacred architecture                       | Modern: Mosques in Britain and a case study of the London Central Mosque and a comparison to another sacred building                |
| November 25 2024 | Modern: Hindu Temples and a case study of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and comparison to another sacred building     | Modern: Synagogues in Britain and a case study of the London New Synagogue and a comparison to another sacred building              |
| December 2 2024  | Presentations including submission of a copy of the presentation on Turnitin  | Reminder: Creating your fourth portfolio entry.<br><br>Presentations including submission of a copy of the presentation on Turnitin |
| December 9 2024  | Course Summary<br><br>Your learning journey part 3: What do you know now?<br><br>Submission of all four portfolio entries |   |