



Gazing upon the sculptures of the west façade of Wells Cathedral, the Douce Apocalypse (above), the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral, the castle of Caernarvon, or the Episcopal Palace at St Davids leaves no doubt that wonder and spectacle were central drivers in the making of British Gothic art. Exploring these and other key works, this class offers a contextual reading of British art that integrates art with key ideas and issues: the rise of a cult of saints following the death of Thomas Becket, the colonization and subjugation of Wales and Scotland at the hands of King Edward I (1272-1307), the new culture of chivalry and its religious origins, and so on. We will also “read” British art and aesthetics alongside some of its dominant texts such as Gerald of Wales’ *Journey through Wales*, and the Welsh legend *The Mabinogion*. This class promises to be challenging and exciting, and I can guarantee that you will look very differently at the period when we are done!

Course requirements

A detailed list of readings and requirements will be handed out in our first class. Each class will be organized around seminar discussions and direct engagement with texts and images. Students will be responsible for regularly presenting readings, art works, and their ideas to the class. Classes will be held in person if possible. Attendance is mandatory.

