War and Peace – Sacred Military Architecture of Medieval Britain

(Castles and Cathedrals)

ALGY400 5 credit module (equivalent to 2.5 ECTS)

1. Module Leader - Dr John Hill

Biography. Dr Hill is an active archaeologist and historian. He has also been a tutor with the University of Liverpool's Continuing Education since 2007; as well as a tutor with the International Summer School since 2008. His research interests include British Prehistory; the Roman Period and subsequent Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Periods.

2. Module Description

In conjunction with this year's Summer School visits to Conwy Castle and York Minster as well as your stay in the City of Liverpool this module looks at the history and architecture of, no doubt, the best of British castles and cathedrals that we can offer to you!

3. Module Aims

This module aims to:

- Develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas.
- Develop skills in research, collaborative learning and in preparing and delivering a group presentation.
- Develop critical observational skills covering physical aspects of architecture and construction techniques employed within the respective Castle and Cathedral building techniques

4. Content

The following topics will be considered on the module:

- What is a Castle?
- Castle Architecture
- What is a Cathedral?
- Cathedral Architecture
- Histories & Politics of both Castles and Cathedrals
- Castles and Cathedrals today

5. Module structure

The module will be delivered over a three-week period in six two hour sessions (four hours per week, total 12 hours contact time). The final block will be an assessment session.
Each session will take the form of an interactive seminar or workshop. Models (paper) of castles and cathedrals will be constructed and each respective session will end with a short quiz to assess student understanding. Students will be expected to participate fully and actively throughout the sessions.

In addition, it is expected that students will spend 12 study hours outside of the classroom contact hours on activities including assigned reading, optional reading of areas of personal interest, homework tasks, web research and preparation for assessment. Students will also be encouraged to visit, by themselves, the City of Liverpool’s two Cathedrals.

6. **Teaching methods**

The teaching approach will include the following:

- Taught sessions
- Small group working
- Group discussions
- Presentations
- Online learning
- Field Trips
- Workshops

7. **Assessment:**

Assessment will be by:

- Group presentation (worth 50% of the overall mark)
- Models of Castles and Cathedrals (paper format) which will include written explanations where applicable (worth 50% of the overall mark)

Standard University policies apply with regard to late submission of assessments. There is no re-assessment opportunity.

8. **Course structure:**

The course will be practical in nature, with the sessions highly focused on giving the students as much practical experience as possible, and encouraging them to put theory into practice throughout. There will also be two visits to the local City of Liverpool’s Cathedrals.

The Indicative schedule is as follows:

**Session One:**

Introduction to the Module & what is a castle?
The course will begin with some general information about the module, including the aims and assessment. Then it moves on to consider elements of history and architecture associated with castles, followed by practical classroom work.

**Session Two:**

Edward I – the conquest of Medieval Wales and his campaign of building castles

King Edward I was one of England’s most ruthless Kings who built a string of castles across Wales in order to subdue the Welsh Celtic Tribes. This session looks “deeper” into the history and architecture of castles using Conwy Castle as a case study – indeed, the only castle where King Edward once found himself stranded!

**Session Three:**

What is a Cathedral?

A cathedral is not just a large church. The word 'cathedral' comes from the Latin word cathedra meaning 'seat' or 'chair', and refers to the presence of the bishop's or archbishop's chair or throne. It is the most important church in the diocese.

Students will learn about cathedral architecture using the York Minster as a case study in advance of the ISS visit to the City of York (which also includes a visit to the Minister).

**Session Four:**

Local Field trip (1)

A one hour teaching session will be performed in the classroom followed by a visit to one of the City of Liverpool’s two cathedrals. Students will have the chance to practise their observational skills and respond to questions (by the tutor) about architecture.

**Session Five:**

Local Field trip (2)

A one hour teaching session will be performed in the classroom followed by a visit to one of the City of Liverpool’s two cathedrals. Students will have the chance to practise their observational skills and respond to questions (by the tutor) about architecture.

**Session Six:**

**Group Presentation**

In this final session the students will give a short presentation about an historical building from their own country. Depending upon the origins of students, presentations may be performed in isolation or a group. Presentations are expected to last at least (on average) for 15mins per presentation.

**9. Learning outcomes**

On completion of this module, students will be able to:
• Develop confidence in understanding and communicating complex ideas in written and spoken language
• Research a topic and work collaboratively to produce a written essay/reflection and a group presentation
• Group presentation - Demonstrate a basic awareness of the skills and knowledge required to plan, deliver and reflect on a presentation in order to deliver to a multi-international audience

10. Skills

Key skills that will be developed:

• Observational skills required to look “deeply” at castle and Cathedral architecture
• Research skills in anticipation of group presentations
• Public speaking techniques required for delivering talks to an international audience

11. Books, ebooks and websites:

The University Website at www.liv.ac.uk/library provides access to many relevant books and electronic books, as well as academic journals and databases.

Recommended Pre-Course Reading


McNeill, T. English Heritage0Book of Castles. London, B T Batsford Ltd


Useful Websites

http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/

http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/

https://yorkminster.org/home.html