This seminar examines the architecture and related arts of interaction in the Mediterranean region from c1000-1500CE. The first weeks of the course investigate theoretical and methodological readings from multiple disciplines (art and architectural history, anthropology, cultural studies, etc.) broadly applicable to studies of artistic and group/community interaction, as well as ways of defining “the Mediterranean” in the Middle Ages. Following, we will consider several key loci of intense interaction between medieval northwestern Europe, Byzantium and the Islamic world in the medieval period, including Spain, Venice, Sicily, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Palestine. Artistic exchange and its relation to trade, diplomacy, and warfare/conquest and colonialism (such as the Crusades) will be considered through the architecture and material culture of multiple ethnic, political and religious groups.

4 (grad) hrs. Seminar with emphasis on student participation and analysis of monuments/objects and texts. Evaluation is by short presentations/writing assignments, group discussions, project presentation and seminar paper on a topic chosen by the student. Introductory materials will be suggested for those students with less background in the medieval period, though no prior knowledge of the medieval architecture is required.

Graduate students from Architecture, Art History, History, CSAMES, Medieval Studies, Anthropology, and other related disciplines are welcomed. Well-prepared, upper-level undergraduates interested in the course may also contact Prof. Grossman about the possibility of taking the class.