

AHS 156 — CRN 23136

**MEMORY
OF EMPIRE:
THE ART OF
EARLY MEDIEVAL
EUROPE**



With the barbarian invasions of the fourth and fifth centuries, and the downfall of the Roman Empire in the fifth, Western culture entered into a period of destruction and chaos from which it took centuries to emerge. This course is the story of how the West, having just barely managed to pull itself back from the brink of total annihilation, consciously (and, sometimes, unconsciously) determined to rebuild high culture—not so much in imitation of the glorious past of the Roman Empire, but on the basis of the new reality of the hybrid cultures that Europe had become, a synthesis of the Roman and barbarian peoples.

In taking up the cultural, religious, liturgical, social, and political factors that determined medieval art, this course moves from the often astonishing metalworking tradition of the newly emergent barbarian peoples to the, at times, mystical manuscript illumination of Hiberno-Saxon culture; to the re-establishment of high culture of the Carolingian period, with its art dictated both from above and from below; and, finally, to the monumental architecture, painting, and sculpture of Ottonian Germany and Early Romanesque France, struggling to rise up from the ashes of yet a new wave of barbarian invasions, while tenuously holding on to the gains of the past.

Professor Conrad Rudolph

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 12:10–1:00pm, ARTS 335

For more information on the Department of the History of Art, visit: <http://arthistory.ucr.edu>

Above: Book of Durrow, Symbol of Matthew, probably from Iona, Scotland (or Lindisfarne, England), c.660-680 (Dublin, Trinity 57-A.4.5:fol.21v)