Key characteristics of and differences between Carolingian, Romanesque and Gothic styles and regional variations

**Carolingian**
– trying to revive Roman pattern by:
  - large scale
  - geometric order
  - fragments of classical detail used decoratively

**Romanesque**
Three formal elements of Romanesque shared by all regions
  - blind arcading
  - transverse arches
  - vaulting in nave

Distinguishing between regions:
  - French – plain and severe stone
  - English (Norman) – combines French framework with Celtic decorative patterns
  - Italian – has freestanding campanile
    - Northern – material is brick
    - Tuscan – Lombard screen facades, polychromy

**Gothic**

French Phases:
  - Early – first development of flying buttress, pointed arch, stained glass “walls”
  - High – large lancet windows with tracery
  - Rayonnant (Flamboyant) – tracery patterns like rays or flickering flames

English Phases:
  - Early – solid/void ratio in walls more solid than French, wall buttresses, dominant central spire at crossing, not on west facade
  - Decorated – development of elaborate tierceron vaulting and carved ornament
  - Perpendicular – return to more sober ornament, emphasis on verticality, fan vaults

German: very like French until 14th c., when develops unique curvilinear vaulting patterns

Italian: there isn’t any real Gothic architecture in Italy worth talking about