Lesson 3  *Culture of the Middle Ages*

I.A. Basilicas of the late Roman Empire were rectangular buildings with flat wooden roofs.

I.B. Romanesque churches featured arched vaulted roofs in the shape of a cross. These vaults were made possible by the use of massive pillars, thick walls, and intersecting barrel vaults. Romanesque churches had few windows.

I.C. Gothic cathedrals featured tall, soaring towers made possible by the use of round ribbed vaults and pointed arches and by the invention of the flying buttress. They had thin walls filled with stained glass windows.

II.A. The first European university was founded in Bologna, Italy followed by the founding of the University of Paris and the University of Oxford. They taught the liberal arts, which included grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy.

II.B. Anselm made one of the first attempts to demonstrate how the truths of faith are compatible with reason. He used reason to argue the existence of God.

II.C. Thomas Aquinas’s *Summa Theologica* used logic and scholarly investigation.

III.A. The most popular vernacular literature of the twelfth century was troubadour poetry, in which nobles and knights told of love for a lady who inspired both courage and poetry.

III.B. The French *Song of Roland* is one of the earliest and best examples of the heroic epic, a form of vernacular literature that described in poetic form the battles of kings and lords.

III.C. Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* features a collection of stories from the point of view of 29 pilgrims representing all levels of English society.

**Summary and Reflection**

A complete answer should include: the early universities in Europe were founded for the study of theology through the philosophical system of scholasticism; the chief task of scholasticism was to such reconciliation was undertaken by Anselm of Canterbury, whose *Proslogion* attempted to use reason to prove the existence of God; Thomas Aquinas’s *Summa Theologica* argued that combining reason with faith could help humans determine what is inherently good and evil; Roger Bacon’s *Opus Majus* advocated a reform of all sciences, including logic, mathematics, physics, experimentation, and philosophy.