Norman Ellman (nellman@camden)

This mini-course and study-tour will be an introduction to French literature and French civilization, concentrating on the Loire Valley, one of the most historical and picturesque regions in France, and Paris, the cultural capital of France and the most visited city in the world. We will explore the history and culture of France through several writers, such as Rabelais and Balzac, who were born in the Loire Valley and whose works are monuments of French civilization. We will fully explore other aspects of France and French culture – food, wine, fashion and joie de vivre.

In Camden, there will be 15 hours of classes devoted to the exploration of French literature and civilization. We will study Rabelais, Balzac and other writers and artists. Students will prepare a research paper on an aspect of French civilization. Then, we will apply what we have learned during a study tour of the Loire Valley and Paris. We will stay in the historic town of Tours and visit the famous 16th Century castles of Chambord, Blois, and Chenonceau, among others. Then we will travel to Paris, the center of French civilization and culture, where will explore the world-class museums, historical monuments, and cultural attractions of the French capital. In addition, there will be an excursion to Versailles to visit the famous palace and to Giverny to see the house and gardens of Claude Monet.

The tour will take place in the spring from May 14-May 22, just before graduation, so that graduating seniors will be able to participate.

Open to graduate and undergraduate students. Students may choose to participate solely in the foreign-study portion of the course, for which they will receive 1.5 credits.

The course is taught in English; no knowledge of French is necessary.

Price and payment schedule TBA.