

### Fees and Credits

This program is part of the Bates curriculum. Completion of the fall semester in Nantes provides students with four Bates credits and a General Education Concentration. Students must take all four courses as they are considered co-requisites of one another. All expenses, tuition, room and board, including travel from Boston to and from Nantes and program-related field trips, are included in the regular Bates comprehensive fee. Students need to bring funds only for personal entertainment, gifts, and independent travel.

Applications are available from Georgette Dumais, 200 Hathorn Hall, or the Off-Campus Study Office in Lane Hall. Early applications from enrolled students may be submitted to the Off-Campus Study Office by December 17, 2010, for notification in mid-January. Regular applications are due by February 4, 2011. Students in the class of 2015 should contact one of the organizers as early as possible and submit a completed application by May 12, 2011.



### For More Information and Applications

#### Administrative questions:

Dean Stephen W. Sawyer  
Associate Dean of Students  
110 Lane Hall  
Bates College  
Lewiston, Maine 04240  
Phone: 207-786-6223  
E-mail: [ssawyer@bates.edu](mailto:ssawyer@bates.edu)

#### Curricular questions:

Professor Kirk D. Read  
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
307 Hathorn Hall  
Bates College  
3 Andrews Rd.  
Lewiston ME 04240  
Phone: 207-786-6280  
E-mail: [kread@bates.edu](mailto:kread@bates.edu)

Professor Joseph Hall  
Department of History  
113 Pettengill Hall  
Bates College  
4 Andrews Road  
Lewiston ME 04240  
Phone: 207-786-6462  
E-mail: [jhall2@bates.edu](mailto:jhall2@bates.edu)

Administrative Assistant  
Georgette Dumais  
Phone: 207-786-8293  
E-mail: [gdumais@bates.edu](mailto:gdumais@bates.edu)

Information on safety, security, and crime in France is available on the travel Web site of the U.S. Department of State, [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). Information on health issues and recommended immunizations is available on the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control, [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel). Students and families are urged to review the information on both sites.

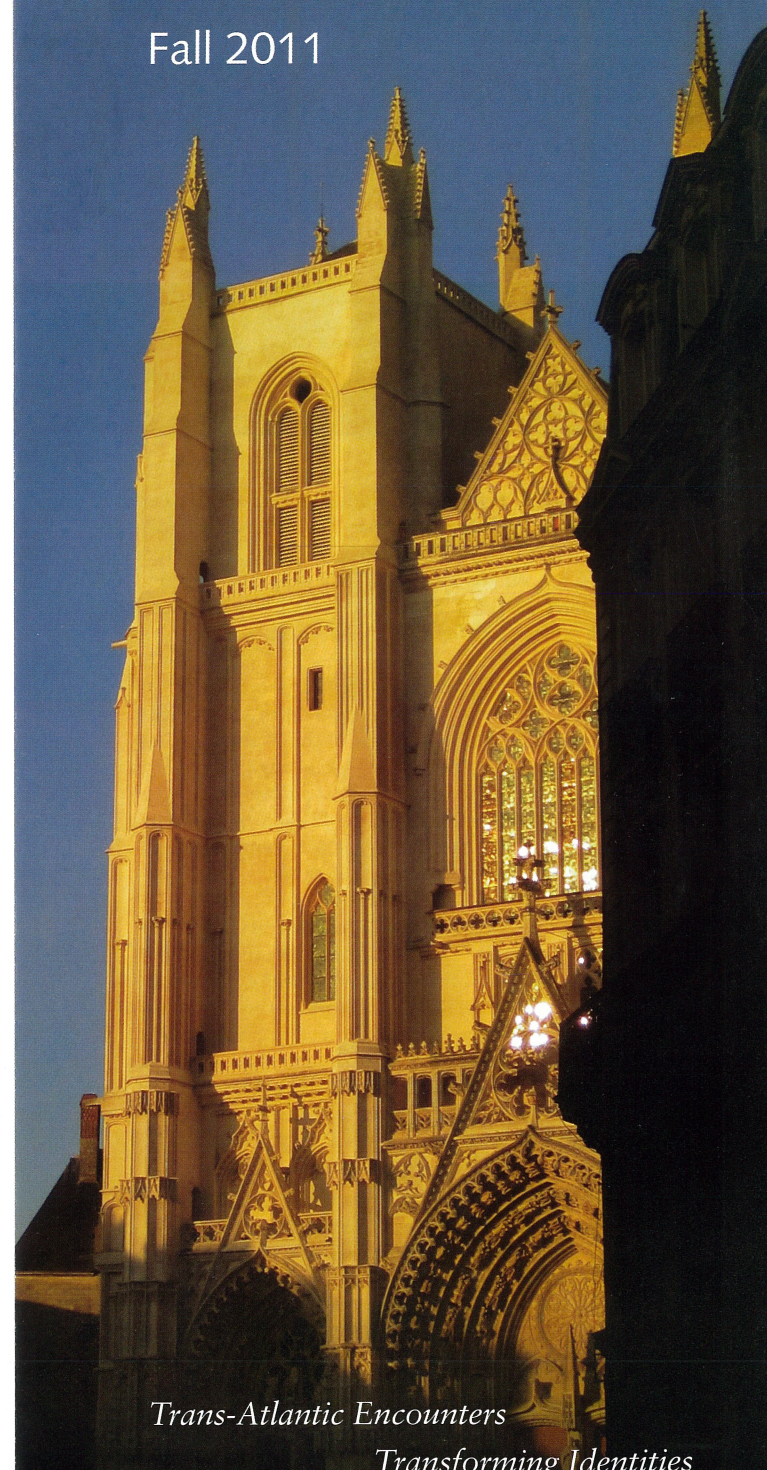
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**Bates**

# Bates Semester in Nantes, France

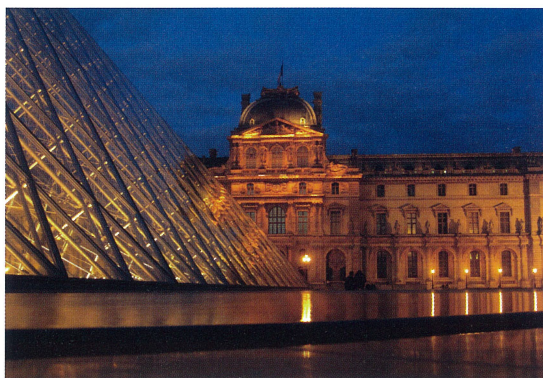
Fall 2011



*Trans-Atlantic Encounters*

*Transforming Identities*





The Louvre, Paris

The Bates Fall Semester in Nantes program promises an intensive immersion experience in French language and culture that develops strong linguistic competency and is intellectually engaging. The program is open to all Bates students, and while some knowledge of French language is helpful, it is not necessary.

A city of nearly 300,000, Nantes has a history both famous and infamous: as a medieval defender against the kingdom of France; as a nexus of the triangular slave trade between Africa and Caribbean sugar plantations; and as the birthplace of adventure author Jules Verne, whose legacy is sustained on the “Island of Machines,” a magnificent museum where visitors can operate giant animal models that fly and stroll about.

Nantes is considered France’s greenest city, and tramways make it easy to visit sites like the newly restored chateau of the Dukes of Brittany. Two hours by train from Paris, the city is close to the Chateaux of the Loire valley, the Normandy beaches, Mont Saint Michel and the rugged Atlantic coast made famous by numerous Impressionist painters.

## The Courses

The program starts in Nantes in late August with a two-week intensive French course suited to each student’s ability. Students continue their language studies during the semester while also taking two courses with Bates faculty taught in English. Excursions within Nantes, Brittany and Paris are integral parts of the course work, as is the family home stay. The program ends in mid-December.

## *French Identity: Migration, Mutation, Exploration*

Professor Kirk D. Read

The face of French identity is ever-changing through history and across various modes of expression: literary, political, artistic, and sociological. Inspired in part by the recent campaign in search of Identité Française by the government of President Nicolas Sarkozy, this course examines the range of identities in multicultural France and the motivations and the consequences of staging such debates in the first place. While reading, viewing and listening to various accounts of French inhabitants, students will attend to the ways in which France, in all its historical and cultural complexity, defines and determines them. Sources as varied as Renaissance lyric poetry to modern day comic book culture will inform our appreciation of what it means to be French in 2011.

## *Atlantic France*

Professor Joseph Hall

The position of Nantes as a port city reminds us that the history of France lies not only on land but also at sea. French colonial endeavors in America, the 18-century African slave trade, 19-century industrialization and even the decline of Nantes as a port all depended in part on French relations with a wider Atlantic world. Such relations shaped great events like the French Revolution and also influenced the kinds of food people ate. The course will look broadly at the history of France, but because Nantes was the capital of the French slave trade and the home of the LU bakeries (makers of one of the most famous brands of European biscuits), the city and its environs will feature prominently.



A group tour in Nantes, France

## Bates Faculty

Kirk D. Read

An associate professor of French and chair of the Division of Humanities, Kirk Read has twice led Bates programs to Nantes. A specialist in sex and gender in early modern French literature, he teaches courses across many historical periods and genres, from seminars on French Renaissance literature and the experience of childhood in North Africa to the comic strip character Tintin and the culture of comics in France.



Stravinsky Fountain, Paris

## Joseph Hall

An associate professor of history and chair of the Department of History, Joseph Hall specializes in early North American history with a focus on the relationships between Native Americans and European empires. In addition to a number of years living and working in Spain, he has travelled extensively in France. Since 2004 he has led Short Term trips to Maine Indian communities as part of his course on Maine’s Wabanaki history.

## Travel

Travel in and around Nantes (the Loire Valley, the Brittany coast, Normandy and Paris) is integral to the program. Brief, course-related excursions and a five-day trip to Paris are required. During a 10-day fall break students may travel on their own or with host families, as desired.

## Housing

Students live with host families that are carefully chosen and cultivated by a family-stay coordinator who has extensive experience with Bates students and American campus culture.