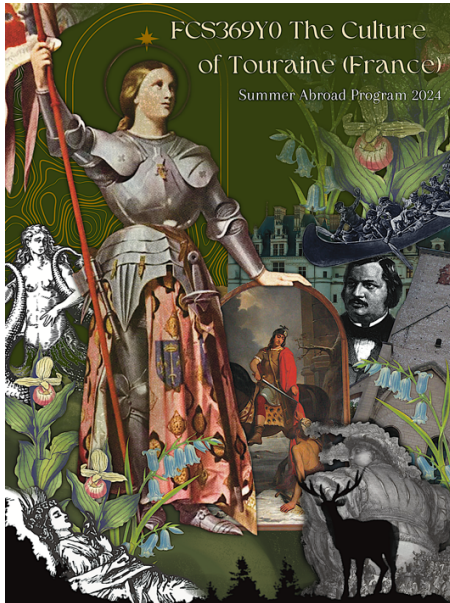


Summer Abroad 2024 in Tours
July 1-July 26, 2024 (4 weeks)



FCS369Y0 The Culture of Touraine

***Fables, Myths, and Legends
of the Loire***

Prof. Rosa Hong

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Course site

<https://q.utoronto.ca>

Description

The Loire Valley is celebrated as the “cradle of the French language”, and as the “garden of France”, recognized by UNESCO as an “outstanding cultural landscape”. The unique history of the Touraine cultivated extraordinary legends, myths, folk tales, and many well-known fairy tales. Artists through time and space draw their inspiration from these fabulous and extraordinary stories. This course aims to introduce long and rich cultural history of the Touraine with some of its famous, and sometimes infamous, historical or fictional figures. We will explore stories of literary giants such as Ronsard and Balzac, as well as historical superhumans such as Da Vinci and Jacques Coeur. We will learn about saints whose life stories influence various art forms in French patrimonial history. How about the story of Aurore, that you might know as Sleeping Beauty, not only its Disney variation in 1959 animated film, but also her somber and more intriguing origins? Where does the French-Canadian legend of flying canoe find its akin version? From saints to giants, from witches to princesses, from fantastic creatures to haunted animals, the course delves into stories that continue to stimulate artistic and literary imagination in our modern narratives. We will also adopt a comparative approach and active learning strategies to help students examine similar narratives and symbolism in tales from their own culture.

Field trips will allow us to imagine the stories that we study in their original settings, for instance, Musée Balzac in Saché, le château Ussé that inspired Charles Perrault to write “the Sleeping beauty”, Chinon to find Jeanne d’Arc’s traces, le château Chambord with its forest where kings used to hunt deer, among others.

Classes are Monday-Thursday 9am-12 noon.

Field trips are carefully selected and integrated throughout the course, allowing students to experience first-hand a variety of important sites in the Loire region.

Prerequisite

Completion of 4.0 course credits in any subject.

Breadth Requirements Creative and Cultural Representations (1)

Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

No placement test is required.

Program

This is a Humanities course.

FCS369Y is taught in English with readings and written assignments in English (no knowledge of French is required). However, students can count this course towards a program in a French Major or Specialist with prior approval if they submit all written works in French. These students must, **before the first week of class**, inform the instructor of their intent to do so.

**Students who choose to complete assignments in French may consult with the French department about having the course fulfill program requirements.*

Office hours

By appointment – send me an email to make an appointment. Usually, we will meet immediately after class.

Field Trip Sites*

This course includes visits to the region's famous castles, beautiful gardens, historical sites, churches, and museums. *The selection below is subject to change due to the local conditions. The sites include:

1. July 2 – Walking Tour in Tours: Prieuré Saint-Cosm de Tours, Basilique St. Martin de Tours (with la crypte), Cathédrale Saint Gatien and Cloître de la Psalette



2. July 8 - On the steps of legendary giants: Azay-le-Rideau, Musée Balzac



3. July 11 – On the steps of legendary women: Chenonceau



4. July 16 – Enchanted and enchanting castles: Langeais, Ussé, Villedard



5. July 23 – Looking for mystical figures: Blois, Chambord





Assessment

- ◇ Pre-course activity (10%) — in June (date to be determined)
- ◇ In-class presentation (20%) — July 22
- ◇ Portfolio (annotated photo journal) and exhibition notes (15%) – July 25
- ◇ Assignments (25% (10%+15%)) – July 8 and July 15
- ◇ Final Reflection Paper (20%) — before July 26
- ◇ Ongoing contribution to activities & discussions (10%)

Program

Week	Topic	Assignment
June	Pre-course discussion	Pre-course activity (10%)
Week 1	<i>Founding Saints</i>	
July 1	Course presentation and introduction activity Literary genres - fable, fairy tales, myths, and legends, why study them and how they relate to the present era	
2	Field Trip Walking Tour in Tours – Cathédrale Saint Gatien and Cloître de la Psalette, Basilique St. Martin de Tours (with la crypte), Prieuré Saint-Cosm de Tours	
3	Founding Saints (1) Stories of Saint Gatien, Saint Martin, Jeanne d’Arc	
4	Founding Saints (2) Stories of Saint Gatien, Saint Martin, Jeanne d’Arc	
Week 2	<i>Legendary Giants</i>	
8	Field Trip – Azay-le-Rideau, Musée Balzac	Assignment 1(10%) on week 1
9	Legendary Giants (1) – Writers as legends Rablais, Ronsard, and Balzac	
10	Legendary Giants (2) – Historical giants and legendary women of the region	
11	Field Trip – Chenonceau	

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Week 3	<i>Fabulous Figures</i>	
15	Witches and fairies (1) Fabulous Stories of Aurore, the original Sleeping Beauty	Assignment 2 (15%) on week 2
16	Field Trip – Langeais, Ussé, Villandry	
17	Aurore's journey – evolution and transformation	
18	Monsters, animals, and hunted creatures - then and now, there and here (1)	
Week 4	<i>Mystical Wonders</i>	
22	In-class presentations	Presentation (20%)
23	Field Trip – Chambord, Blois	
24	Hunted creatures (2) Conclusion and revision Discussion on the final reflection work	Final paper due before July 26 (20%)
25	End of the class celebration Portfolio (annotated photo journal) & exhibition of photographic artifacts of your learning	Portfolio & Exposé (in-class) (15%)