Topics in Modern European History: Nationalism in France and Germany, 1789-Present: The question of immigration has become central to contemporary European politics. Following World War II, both France and Germany had to wrestle with how to manage a wave of people entering their countries to live and work. These two nations, however, define citizenship and nationality in very different ways. While the French pride themselves on their sense of civic belonging, membership in the German nation has traditionally been defined by blood. These competing understandings of what it means to belong to a nation have defined the ways in which France and Germany incorporate their new populations, how new arrivals see their membership in their communities, and how French people and Germans view their new neighbors. This course traces the history of these contrasting visions of the nation from the birth of modern nationalism in the eighteenth century to the current refugee crisis in order to comprehend the contemporary politics of immigration that students will witness first-hand while living in France. Readings will be drawn from both literature and history and the course will proceed chronologically through the major events of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as we ask how nationalism shaped French and German history and how events reshaped national identity in turn. Topics covered will include the French Revolution and Napoleon’s Empire, the Revolutions of 1848, German Unification, the World Wars and the Holocaust, and European unification. Visits to local museums, monuments, and other sights will emphasize the significant role Alsace itself has played in the nationalist imagination of both France and Germany.