“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

Mark Twain

“Poverty must not be a bar to learning, and learning must offer an escape from poverty.”

Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th US President

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Office Hours: Wed: 10:00am – 10:45am, 2:00pm – 3:00pm
Fri: 10:00am – 10:45am
and by appointment as needed.
Course Website: All course materials are available on Canvas

Course Description: Spring Break in Morocco and Portugal. Our trip will include site visits with organizations in Morocco and Portugal that are working to understand and end extreme income inequality, poverty, homelessness and related issues.

How Are We Graded??

Calculating the grade:
Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Trip Journal 30%
- Participation 30%
- Topic Paper 40%

Trip Journal – Due Wednesday, March 14, by 3:00pm. Put it in my mailbox or hand it to me. (Lose a letter grade for every day late)
I want you to keep an informal daily journal of our trip, starting with the first day in Casablanca (March 4) and ending with the day we leave. This can be handwritten or typed, but you need to write it as we go along. Don’t wait until we get back to write it. I want to know your thoughts and impressions when you have them, not after the experience is over. Tell me whatever you think is important to tell – what happens in our site visits, experiences you have, things you expected or didn’t expect, things you saw around you that relate to our topics of interest, what you thought about the presentations/tours/food/people/whatever. This is to keep you engaged and thinking about our experience while we are there.

Participation
Obviously, you have to be involved in everything we do just by being there, but I also need you involved by asking questions or making comments during the site visits, making observations about whatever we are doing or talking about. Just keep letting me know you are engaged. (In other words, talk to me, people we engage with and each other). (Missing a class event will cost you a letter grade.)

Topic Paper – Due Wednesday, April 25, by 3:00pm. Put it in my mailbox or hand it to me. (Lose a letter grade for every day late)
The topic of poverty is rich with data and research opportunities. For this paper I want you to develop an interesting (and answerable) research question that relates to our experiences in Portugal and/or Morocco. (If you want to kill two birds with one stone you could develop something that will also work in Research Methods.) You will be gathering data and using Stata to estimate the model you have developed from our experiences. I will give you a great deal of flexibility in narrowing down your research question and units of analysis – you are not restricted to just using data from our two countries – you might get a research idea from discussions in Portugal, for example, but use data from all countries in your estimations. We will brainstorm these ideas together before you settle on a topic, so don’t panic. I will help you come up with workable models. It’ll be fun! Your paper should be formatted and structured like a typical econometric research paper – Intro, short lit review, data and model discussion, results and conclusion.

Academic Integrity:
Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. (This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.) Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course.

Diversity: The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.