Spain & Morocco: Exploring the Intersection of Ethics and Culture

EDUC 199 (May 2021)
AOIs Approved: Ethics and Global & Cultural Understanding
Estimated cost: TBD
Trip Dates: May 18 to June 2
On-campus orientation workshop: May 16-17
Cities we will visit: In Morocco, Asilah and Tangier; in Spain, Seville, Malaga, and Marbella

For questions please contact Dr. Cris Wildermuth at cris.wildermuth@drake.edu
The main goals of this interdisciplinary course are to expose students to the complexity of culture, with a special focus on the challenges and opportunities inherent to intercultural and value differences. Students will articulate their own ethical framework, contrast their personal framework with those of their peers, connect ethics and cultural values, and apply cultural and ethical concepts learned to a current global challenge.

In the 2021 version of the course, we will focus on immigration. Students will contrast American perceptions of immigration with those of Spanish and Moroccan citizens. Ultimately, we expect students to gain awareness of their own stage of intercultural competence, identify threats to rational thinking in ethics, and develop a plan for continuing development. This course involves three phases.

**Pre-departure Preparation:** During the pre-departure preparation, we will introduce students to the challenges inherent to intercultural relations and to intersections between ethics and culture. Topics in this portion of the program include the importance of personal codes of ethics, ethnocentrism, threats to ethical reasoning, and Bennett's model of intercultural development. We will further discuss the meaning of culture, cultural dimensions, and the impact of personality on intercultural relations.

**Travel Seminar:** Next, we will travel to Spain and Morocco. During our trip, we will meet with representatives from organizations working with immigrant groups, interact with both immigrants and native-born citizens of the countries visited, exchange cultural information (i.e., students will both hear about the two countries we are visiting as well as present information about American cultures), visit historical and cultural sites, and engage in in-depth facilitated discussions with the professors.

**Integration:** Once we are back in the United States, you will integrate your lessons learned and discoveries in a final presentation.