

FALL 2014 @ [UNC Geography](#)
GEOG 453: **POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**

M W F 11:00-11:50 Saunders 220

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What is power? Are power and political processes knowable without understanding how they are spatially distributed in territories, regions, and landscapes? Our premise is that the answer to these questions is “No,” and that politics — whether practiced formally by nation-states, international agencies, or local governments, or pragmatically by corporations, police, labor unions, and school boards —have important geographical dimensions. In other words, the questions of how and where political processes *take place* make a difference to how politics work. The purpose of GEOG 453 Political Geography is to explore how we shape the world through political processes occurring at local, national, regional, and global scales and, in turn, to question how the geography of political processes may shape the possibilities for our future politics.

The course brings geographical, social science, and international relations perspectives to bear on a survey of key issues in the fields of political geography and geopolitics, including the geographies of war and peace; globalization and the state; nationalism and identity politics; electoral geographies; and urban governance. The course also explores the history of political geographical ideas and geopolitics in relation to changing world historical contexts. One of the primary requirements of the course will be to participate with small groups in an original research project. These projects, which emphasize the development of collaborative research and writing skills, involve the application of political geographical concepts to contemporary research problems of the group’s design.

