



FALL 2015 Course Announcement
GEOG 453: POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
T/Th 12:30-1:45
Instructor: Scott Kirsch
<http://kirschgeographies.web.unc.edu/>

Does power have a zip code? Are political processes knowable without understanding how they are spatially distributed in territories, regions, and landscapes? The premise of Political Geography is 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; and that questions of how and *where* political processes take place make a difference to how they work. In this way, 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 to raise questions about how the geography of political processes may shape the possibilities for our future politics.

The course brings a range of Geographical, Social Science, and International Relations perspectives to bear on a survey of key issues in the fields of Political Geography and Geopolitics, including *geographies of war & peace; globalization and the state; nationalism and identity politics; electoral geography and gerrymandering; 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.

