

Fall 2020 @ UNC Geography

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY (GEOG 453/PWAD 453)

T/Th 11:00-12:15



What is power? What are politics? How are they geographical? From the boundaries of our electoral districts, school boards, and sewage authorities to the role of international borders and regional trade agreements, the premise of the sub-discipline of Political Geography is that how, where, and at what geographical scale political events and processes take place often make a difference to how they work. When it comes to relations of power and politics, geography matters—and this is a class about it. Through a survey of key topics in Political Geography and Geopolitics, the purpose of the course is for students to better understand how societies both shape – and are shaped by – political geographic processes occurring at global, regional, national, and local scales. As part of its synthetic, geographical approach, Geog 453 (cross-listed PWAD 453) draws on social science, historical, and international relations perspectives, to offer a range of concepts, frameworks, and perspectives for interpreting our political worlds, including:

- state sovereignty and territoriality
- world-systems theories
- historical, contemporary, & postmodern geopolitics
- geographies of war & peace;
- nationalism and identity politics;
- geographies of democracy

Students will also take part in original research projects in digital media which emphasize the development of collaborative research and writing skills and the application of political geographic concepts to contemporary research problems of the group's design.

