What is place? What is space? Why do these concepts matter in understanding social relations?

In this Summer Session I course, we will explore why space and place are crucial notions for understanding a variety of phenomena. We will study social difference through a critical geographical approach, focusing specific attention on race, citizenship, gender, class, disability, religion and their interactive effects. We will draw from local— from campus and other parts of North Carolina – as well as from global examples to understand spatial inequalities.

Through lectures, discussions, cartographic exercises, historical case-studies, and a final research paper or creative project, we will:

- Gain perspective on key concepts and theories in human geography related to space and place, and uneven social relations as articulated by scholars and social movements
- Develop an understanding of how difference manifests in space –from the body to the geopolitical
- Discuss how cartographic representations reify or challenge understandings of space

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