



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

Geography 429: Urban Political Geography Durham: An Experiential Education Class Fall 2021

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Class Time: M 3:35-6:35 pm
Class Location: CH 204

This is an *Experiential Learning Course*. You will complete **30 hours of service** to an organization in Durham that addresses an urban issue. In addition, we will conduct several site visits to Durham

If you are looking for unique learning opportunity that brings together the “real world” with in-depth academic and policy analysis, then join us to learn about cities and their geographic and political issues by studying Durham, North Carolina.

The course will give students an interdisciplinary understanding and analysis of urban social problems, by bridging the literatures on urban politics with that on urban geography. The complexity of urban issues calls for diverse perspectives in order to imagine creative responses.

The class will take advantage of our proximity to Durham, NC by incorporating a service-learning component. Durham provides a fascinating case study of urban decline and a nascent resurgence. Recently named the most “creative” city in the United States by urban consulting guru, Richard Florida, Durham has entered the spotlight of urban studies circles. But Durham is also the fifth most unequal city in the United States. *How do we make sense of a city increasingly divided between the “have’s” and “have not’s” and the geographic implications of this inequality?*

We will consider the following topics: housing and gentrification, policing, transportation, education, economic development, arts and culture, race and governance, as well as the history of the city.

