

GEOG 32100/72100: Transportation Geography

Fall 2017

Instructor: Rosalie Ray
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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Course Times: Tuesday 5:35 PM – 8:25 PM
Course Room: North Bldg 1004
Prerequisites: For undergraduates GEOG 22100 or junior/senior standing and permission of the instructor.

Course Description:

This class is small and will be discussion-based. Students are expected to submit two discussion questions on Blackboard before class each week. Additionally, over the course of the semester, students will also develop an in-depth piece of scholarship on an issue related to a particular transportation network or link within a network.

Due to my own experience, readings and data sources are largely U.S. focused. I recognize that students may be interested and knowledgeable about transportation outside the U.S. and I welcome suggestions of particular topics to incorporate into class, particularly if you can provide some readings to accompany the suggestion. In addition, students are encouraged to share their knowledge of other regions in class discussion.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. All readings will be posted on Blackboard at least a week before the class in which they will be discussed.

Course Objectives and Expected Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze issues in transportation both quantitatively and qualitatively.
- Recognize and discuss concepts including access, mobility, congestion, agglomeration, effects of infrastructure, goods movement, and the planning and financing process.
- Utilize key transportation data sources, including the Census Transportation Planning Package and the Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics dataset.
- Conduct interviews and work with qualitative data.
- Write and present persuasive arguments on a policy subject.

Evaluation

Attendance and Discussion Questions:	15%
Paper Proposal:	10%
Draft History and Existing Conditions Paper:	20%
Draft Policy Analysis:	20%
Final paper and Presentation:	35%

Discussion Questions

Each student is expected to post two discussion questions about the readings on Blackboard by midnight on Monday (if class does not meet Tuesday, questions are due by midnight on Wednesday). At least one of the questions should attempt to link multiple readings. Each week is worth a point.

Paper Proposal: DUE September 26

One page single-spaced. Should include the network or link you selected, why you chose it, and what issue you want to explore. Tell me as much as you can about whom you would want to interview and what quantitative data you may need.

History and Existing Conditions Paper: DUE October 24

Roughly 6-8 pages double spaced. The point of this paper is to tell me about the history of your particular network or link and its current state. It is analogous to the existing conditions section of an environmental review document. The paper needs to include all the background a reader would need to understand your policy analysis, but keep the tone objective and expository.

Policy Analysis and Recommendation Paper: DUE November 28

Roughly 8-10 pages double spaced. In this paper, make a persuasive argument about the need to change a particular policy (this can include infrastructure construction, funding, scheduling, fares, etc.) regarding your network or link. Base your argument on evidence from course readings, network data, interviews, and your knowledge from other courses.

Final Paper and Presentation: DUE December 19

Roughly 15-20 pages double spaced. The final paper should be fairly easy, since it consists of combining the two papers already drafted into a complete piece of work while addressing any comments. You will be expected to present your findings during the course exam period on December 19th. Presentations can take whatever form is most comfortable for you and should run between 10 and 15 minutes depending on the number of enrollees.

Course Policies

Policy on Incomplete (IN) and Credit/No-Credit (CR/NC) grades

A final grade of IN (incomplete) will not be given except under the most extraordinary, and documented, circumstances. Only **undergraduate** students who have completed ALL course requirements including all papers except the final will be eligible for a final grade of CR/NC. Graduate students are not eligible for CR/NC. The CR/NC form must be completed and given to your instructor no later than 15 minutes prior to the final presentation. No exceptions.

Web-enhancement

All readings are accessible through BlackBoard, and this is also the place where you upload your assignments. You can also find your grades and feedback on Blackboard.

Late Policy

Assignments are due on Blackboard at 11:59 pm the day the assignment is due. Because the papers build off each other, it is important not to let delays cascade. Delay penalties are as follows:

One day late: 5%

Monday after the due date: 10%

One week late: 20%
1-2 weeks: 40%
Anything later than two weeks: 50%

Exceptions will only be granted for medical reasons (requiring a written note from a medical practitioner stating your inability to complete the work) or other extreme personal crises.

Grading Policy

All grading for this course will follow the CUNY grading policy, which can be found in the latest online undergraduate (or graduate) catalog, available here: <http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/>.

Academic Standards

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations. Be sure and reference all material you use. If you have any questions, please contact me!

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

- a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline ([646-610-7272](tel:646-610-7272)) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office ([212-772-4444](tel:212-772-4444))
- b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or [212-650-3262](tel:212-650-3262)) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or [212-772-4534](tel:212-772-4534)) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: <http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

Syllabus Changes

This is a discussion-based course that I aim to design in part around your interests, so changes to the syllabus are likely, particularly the readings. I will announce any changes in class and keep the readings on Blackboard current. If there are substantial revisions, I will update the syllabus on Blackboard as well.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Aug 29 th	Introductions, Course Overview	None
2	Sep 5 th	Cities as Nodes, Terminals, and Necessary Transshipment Points	Access for All Ch. 1-2 Economy of Cities, Ch. 1
3	Sep 12 th	Transportation History (pre-car)	Access for All Ch. 3, 5 David Jones 2008. "Transit's Conversion to Public Ownership." In Mass Motorization and Mass Transit An American History and Policy Analysis Pp. 137-171
	Sep 19	Classes follow a Thursday schedule	
4	Sep 26 th	Transportation History (post-car) PROPOSAL DUE 9/26	Peter Norton. 2008. "What are Streets For?" in Fighting Traffic Cambridge: MIT Press: 1-18. Access for All Ch. 4, 6
5	Oct 3 rd	Overview of Modes and U.S. Government Data	American Public Transportation Association (2017) <i>2016 Public Transportation Fact Book</i> http://www.apta.com/resources/statistics/Documents/FactBook/2016-APTA-Fact-Book.pdf
6	Oct 10 th	Evaluating Transportation's Environmental and Social Impacts	Luther, Linda (2005) The National Environmental Policy Act: Background and Implementation Congressional Research Service Report RL33152 New York State DOT <i>Bruckner/Sheridan Interchange and Commercial Access to Hunts Point Peninsula Final Briefing Document</i> https://www.dot.ny.gov/regional-offices/region11/projects/project-repository/bese/scoping/scopingdocument.html Freilla, Omar "Burying Robert Moses's Legacy in New York City" Ch. 4 in Highway Robbery: Transportation Racism and New Routes to Equity ed. By Robert D. Bullard, Glenn Johnson, and Angel Torres pp. 75-98
	Oct 17 th	NO CLASS – Instructor Away	
7	Oct 24 th	The Planning Process EXISTING CONDITIONS PAPER DUE 10/24	Wachs, Martin. 2004. "Reflections on the Planning Process," in The Geography of Urban Transportation, Third Edition, Susan Hanson and Genevieve Giuliano, Editors. New York: The Guilford Press. Pages 141-162. Handy, Susan. 2008. "Regional Transportation Planning in the U.S.: An Examination of Changes in Technical Aspects of the Planning Process in Response to Changing Goals," Transport Policy, 15: 113-126.

8	Oct 31 st	Travel Behavior Models	Ch. 5, “Theories and Models in Transportation Planning”, Miller, Geography of Urban Transportation
9	Nov 7 th	Access v. Mobility	Lynch, Kevin. 1981. "Access," in A Theory of Good City Form. Cambridge: The MIT Press. Pages 187-204. Ch. 14, “Social and Environmental Justice in Urban Transportation”, Blumenberg, Geography of Urban Transportation Walker, Jarrett, Ch. 10 “Ridership or Coverage: The Challenge of Service Allocation” Human Transit
10	Nov 14 th	Transportation and Land Use	Access for All Ch. 7-10 Savitch-Lew, Abigail (2017) “South Bronx Advocates Say State’s Sheridan Expressway Plan Must Go Farther” http://citylimits.org/2017/07/26/governors-plan-for-sheridan-expressway-must-go-farther-advocates-say/
	Nov 21	Classes follow a Friday Schedule	
11	Nov 28 th	Congestion DRAFT POLICY RECOMMENDATION DUE 11/28	Taylor, Brian. 2002. “Rethinking Traffic Congestion,” Access, 21: 8-16. Downs, Anthony. 2004. “Why Traffic Congestion is Here to Stay... and Will Get Worse,” Access, 25: 19-25.
12	Dec 5 th	Transportation and Agglomeration	Li, Zhigang and Hangtian Xu (2016) High-Speed Railroad and Economic Geography: Evidence from Japan. Asian Development Bank Economics Working Paper Series https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/184626/ewp-485.pdf High Speed 2 (HS2) Limited: HS2 Regional Economic Impacts: http://assets.hs2.org.uk/sites/default/files/inserts/HS2%20Regional%20Economic%20Impacts.pdf
13	Dec 12 th	Transportation Finance and Governance	Taylor, Brian Ch. 11, “The Geography of Transportation Finance”, Geography of Urban Transportation ENO Foundation and TransitCenter (2014). Getting to the Route of It: The Role of Governance in Regional Transit http://transitcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Transit-Governance-Final-PDF-10_7_14.pdf
	Dec 19th	Final Presentations FINAL PAPER DUE	5:35 to 8:25 PM