Geography 4336 - Transportation Sys.

Fall 2010, Course Index Number: 367883

Thursdays 6:30-9:20 pm, ELA 311

Course Description

Geo 4336 is an examination of the evolution of urban transportation systems, policies, institutions, and methods in the United States. Principles, procedures, and techniques of transportation planning in the State of Texas are covered and students are introduced to the literature in transportation geography and methods of transportation analysis.

This semester will emphasize emerging transportation technologies and pedestrian and bicyclist planning.

South Austin Multi-modal, G. Griffin

Learning Outcome Goals

Knowledge of introductory transportation geography and planning concepts with use in professional employment and applied research. Examples include:

- Multi-modal passenger transportation
- Trade and freight distribution
- Energy sustainability

Skills in basic analytical techniques used in transportation geography and planning. Examples include:

- Connectivity Index
- Level of Service
- Traffic Impact Analysis

The Department of Geography's Student Learning Outcomes for all departmental programs may be reviewed at: http://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/department-of-geography/Geography-Learning-Outcomes/Geography%20Learning%20Outcomes.pdf

Greg Griffin, AICP Adjunct Lecturer

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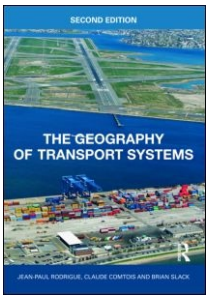
Office Hours: ELA 373, Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm,
or by appointment http://uweb.txstate.edu/~gg34/

Griffin is a senior planner with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and completed an M.A.Geo at Texas State University.

Required Readings

Rodrigue, Comtois, and Slack. 2009. ***The Geography of Transport Systems.*** New York: Routledge. -available at the University Bookstore and others. This text has a companion website:

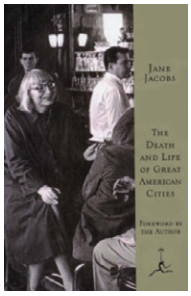
http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/



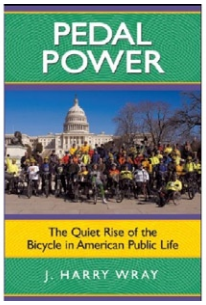
Other required readings are posted on the course website (TRACS), including necessary sections of the recommended texts.

Recommended Texts

Jacobs, Jane. 1961. ***The Death and Life of Great American Cities.*** New York: Random House.



Wray, J. Harry. 2008. ***Pedal Power: The Quiet Rise of the Bicycle in American Public Life.*** Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.



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Course Evaluation

Class participation 20%

- Classroom attendance and active participation (asking questions, helping classmates, etc.). Attendance will be taken during most classes by the instructor visually.

Evaluation: % classes attended, plus subjective evaluation of participation

Proposal / Literature Review and Presentation 10%

- Review at least five (5) primary source works, including the works' intended goal or hypothesis, methods and results, 2-3 pages.
- Propose topic of Transportation Paper, <1 page.
- Double-space text and include in-text citations and a reference list.
- ~5 minute presentation of the proposal / lit. review in class. Slides are not necessary, but may be used.
- Due September 30, but early presentations highly encouraged

Evaluation:
>80 = content, writing, and presentation are clear and offers creative solutions on the topic
70-80 = met basic requirements, but lacks detail, logical connections or attention to writing format
<70 = missing two or more citations, may not have completed presentaion

Mid-Term Exam 20 %

in-class, short answer, multiple-choice, matching, and sketching answers from the first half of the lectures, readings and other information given by the instructor

Evaluation: % of correct questions, weighted by question complexity (sketching or short answer worth more than matching)

Draft Bicycle Route Map, G. Griffin

Transportation Report and Presentation 30%

- Term paper (geography focus) OR Transportation plan (planning focus)
- 10+ pages long, double-spaced, including graphics
- 10 minute presentation and turn in report in April.
- Due November 18, but early presentations highly encouraged

Term papers should cover a transportation geography concept (network analysis, tourism transporation...) in detail, citing at least 5 sources from peer-reviewed journals. Generally, term papers should include the following components: Introduction, Literature Review, Discussion, and Conclusions and Research Recommendations.

OR

Transportation plans can cover any scale (neighborhood - global) or location, but should be narrowed to a particular problem (roadway congestion, pedestrian safety...). Generally, the plans should include the following components: Introduction, Existing Conditions, Recommended Improvements, and Implementation. At least 5 data sources should be used to demonstrate the problem, and maps and graphics used to communicate the solution.

Evaluation:
>80 = content, writing, and presentation are clear and offers creative solutions on the topic; may be ready for presentation at academic or professional conference
70-80 = met basic requirements, but lacks detail, logical connections or attention to writing format
<70 = sections may be missing or incoherent; may not have completed presentaion

Final Exam 20 %

same format as mid-term; non-comprehensive (includes readings and lectures starting Ocober 7)

Evaluation: % of correct questions, weighted by question complexity (sketching or short answer worth more than matching)

Final Grade Calculation

Participation (20%) + Proposal/Lit (10%) + Mid-Term (20%) + Paper (30%) + Final (20%) = 100%

A=90-100%, B=80 – 89.9%, C=70 – 79.9%
D=60 – 69.9%, F= 0 - 59.9%

Course Policies

Classroom

Class policies are in place to facilitate individual and group learning, and students are encouraged to work with each other as much as possible withouth disturbing lecture time. Students are allowed to use laptops or recording devices for lectures. Mobile phones should be silenced during class unless special circumstances are approved by the instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for all course information or announcements whether they were present or not. Both the Mid-Term and Final Exam will include questions from lecture that are not available anywhere else.

Exam policies, including Make-Up

Exams will include some basic arithmetic; simple calculators will be allowed, but not required. Smartphones, PDA's, laptops or similar will not be allowed during exams.

Make-up exams will generally not be offered, unless the student's need is substantiated with a doctor's or other signatory note with personal contact information.

Digital Work Submission, Grading and Return

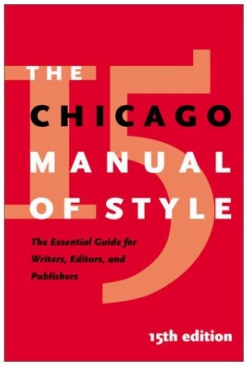
In order to save paper, and provide easy archiving for students and the instructor, work does not need to be printed on paper.

- Submit the Proposal / Literature Review and Transportation Report on the course's TRACS website, using the "Assignments" tool. Adobe PDF is the preferred format, but Microsoft Word or the TRACS Inline editor are also acceptable.
- Exams will be taken on paper in class, but graded and returned digitally.
- Graded work will be returned using the TRACS "Assignments" tool as well, usually within one week.

Writing Format

Follow the Chicago Manual of Style in writing with the author-date style reference list for the Literature Review and Transportation Report. This style is used by the Association of American Geographers journals, and has a Quick Guide available at

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html



Other Writing Recommendations

- Avoid referencing tertiary Internet sources, such as Wikipedia or discussion forums. However, they can be great resources to locate primary, original research sources.
- Draft ideas when they hit you; do not wait until the idea is perfectly clear.
- Use an on-line word processor such as TRACS Assignments or Google Docs to compose, and/or save backups of your work available over the Internet.

Texas State University Honor Code

Learning and teaching take place best in an atmosphere of intellectual fair-minded openness. All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting freedom and openness through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Specific sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined in Texas State Student Handbook.

ADA Statement

Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) that will require compensatory arrangements must contact the instructor no later than the fourth class period to discuss specific arrangements and logistics. Students who have not already done so will be required to contact the Office of Student Disability Services located at LBJ 5-5.1 (512.245.3451). Texas State University San Marcos is dedicated to providing these students with necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.

Course Schedule

Note: This schedule is tentative, and is subject to change by the instructor.

1 - August 26, 2010
Lecture: 5 Transportation Trends, Connectivity Index

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 1, Transportation & Geography
Weitz, Jerry. 2009. 'Big Picture' Content Checklist and Resources for Transportation Planners. Practicing Planner 7:3

2 - September 2
Lecture: Transportation Geography and Planning, Transportation Graphing, film: "The BQE" by Sufjan Stevens

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 2, Transportation & the Spatial Structure
Jacobs, Ch.1, Introduction. In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities.*

3 - September 9
Lecture: American Planning, Personal Experiences

Reading: TxDOT. 2010. 2011-2015 Strategic Plan.

4 - September 16
Lecture: Texas Planning, Transportation Finance

Reading: USDOT. 2007. The Transportation Planning Process Key Issues.

5 - September 23
Lecture: Metropolitan Planning and Public Involvement, Developing a Public Involvement Survey

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 6, International Trade and Freight Distribution

6 - September 30 - Proposal/Literature Review Due
Lecture: Freight and Spatial Interactions

Reading: Jacobs, Ch.2, The uses of sidewalks: safety. In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities.*
APA, Sidewalks, Street Heirarchy and Connectivity. In *Planning and Urban Design Standards.* pp 219-232.

7 - October 7 - Mid-Term Exam
Walking: the Fundamental Mode, PBS video: Dangerous Crossing, Walkability and Bikability Checklists

Reading: Brown, et al. Planning for Cars in Cities. in Journal of the American Planning Association. 75(2). Spring 2009.

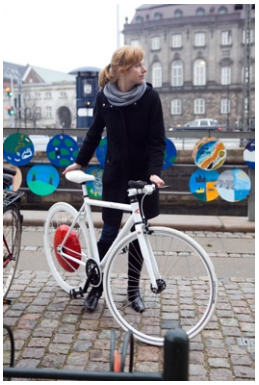
8 - October 14
Lecture: Roadways: Mobility for Goods and People, Traffic Impact Analysis

Reading: APA, Transit Planning Process... In *Planning and Urban Design Standards.* pp 265-286.

9 - October 21
Lecture: Public Transit in Texas and America, Transit Level of Service

Reading: Wray, Ch. 1, Contrasting Visions. In *Pedal Power: The Quiet Rise of the Bicycle in American Public Life.*
APA, On-street Bikeways, Multi-User Trails. In *Planning and Urban Design Standards.* pp 259-264.

10 - October 28
Lecture: Planning to Bike, Streetfilm video: Boulder Goes Bike Platinum, Bicycle Compatibility Index



Copenhagen wheel photo by Max Tomasinelli

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 7, Urban Transportation

11 - November 4
Lecture: Land Use and Transportation

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 8, Transportation, energy and environ.

12 - November 11
Project Presentations
Lecture: Towards Sustainable Transportation, Transportation Project Management

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 9, Transportation Planning & Policy
Wray, Ch. 7, Politicians Who Matter. In *Pedal Power: The Quiet Rise of the Bicycle in American Public Life.*

13 - November 18 - Reports Due
Project Presentations
Lecture: Transportation Policy,
Streetfilm video: 'Transportation Ethics"

November 25
Thanksgiving Break

Reading: Rodrigue, Ch. 10, Conclusion
APA Salary Survey Summary , docs

14 - December 2
Reviewing Transportation Systems, Grad School and Employment

15 - December 9, 8-10:30 PM - Final Exam