JPG 1554 Transportation and Urban Form
Department of Geography and Program in Planning

Professor Steven Farber
&
Visiting Professor Ahmed El-Geneidy (McGill University)

Winter Term 2015
SSH 5017A
Wednesdays 1-3pm

Office hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm SSH 5022 or by appointment.
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Course Website: Blackboard

Course Description

The need to reduce automobile dependence and congestion has been argued widely for many years, and urban form has been identified as a major aspect influencing choice of travel mode. The combined imperatives of sustainability, healthier cities, and worsening congestion has prompted an increasingly rich body of research on the relationships between urban form, transport infrastructure, and human activity patterns, and an array of new methodological approaches to research them. This course examines this research and the planning strategies that seek to influence travel through coordinated transport investment and land use policies. Both regional and neighbourhood scale issues and strategies will be addressed. The geographic focus of the course will largely be metropolitan regions in Canada and the United States, but interested students may study other national contexts in their individual research papers.

In general, the course takes a planning perspective and will be targeted primarily at students in the Programme in Planning. It may also be of interest to students in urban design, urban and economic geography and in transportation related fields such as civil engineering. The course does not attempt to cover land use and transport forecasting and modelling, but is intended to complement existing courses that cover these topics. After the course, students should be well-prepared to commence or further their own transportation and land use research projects.
Evaluation

Participation: The participation grade is based on a variety of sources including mandatory class attendance, contributing to each week’s discussion, and showing evidence of thoughtful contemplation of the assigned readings. In advance of each class, students are required to post a brief response (at least a few sentences) to each week’s readings on the course webpage, be prepared to discuss their responses in class, and pose one or two questions for class discussion. Attendance is mandatory and any absences must be discussed with the instructor in advance of the class meeting.

Leading a Seminar: Each student will take a turn to lead the weekly class meeting (independently or in groups depending on enrollments). Seminar leads are responsible for preparing and delivering a professional presentation that summarizes and critiques the week’s reading assignments, and provides additional background knowledge and case study examples for the week’s topic. They are also responsible for getting the class discussion started by preparing discussion questions or debating exercises.

Lightning Talks: Each student will be responsible for two five-minute lightning talks on a transportation and land use issue, technology, research method or planning strategy. A list of potential topics will be circulated on the first day of classes and a schedule for presentations will be made. Lightning talks can be free format but at the very least should introduce the class to the topic, explain why it matters, raise a few questions, and provide examples of use or implementation around the world.

Term Paper: The final project is the largest grade component of the course. Deliverables include a project proposal (2-3 pages, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins) due February 4th and the final paper (15-20 pages, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins) due April 10th. Students are encouraged to select their own research topic in conjunction with the instructor. More details will be provided in class.
Schedule
Topics denoted with ** indicate classes attended by Dr. El-Geneidy.

Week 1: Introduction – January 7
Course description
Schedule
Expectations
Assignments and grading
Seminar and lightning talk scheduling

Week 2: Class cancelled for TRB Meeting – January 14

Week 3: Transportation and Land Use Interactions – January 21

Week 4: **Accessibility – January 28 (Full lecture provided by Professor El-Geneidy)
Week 5: Impacts of Transportation Infrastructure on Land Use – February 4


Week 6: ** Local Scale Land Use Impacts on Travel Behavior – February 11


Week 7: Reading Week – February 16-20

Week 8: ** Residential Location and Self Selection – February 25


Week 9: Social Equity and Social Exclusion – March 4


**Week 10: **Regional Scale Land Use Impacts on Travel Behavior – March 11


**Week 11: **The Toronto Region – March 18


Metrolinx. (2008). *The Big Move: Transforming Transportation in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton*. (Chapters 1-4)


**Week 12: **T.O.D.’s and Current Planning Debates – March 25


Ewing, R. (2012). "Research you can use: Brouhaha over JAPA article: Is flawed peer review to blame?" *Planning October Issue.*


**Week 13: Students’ Choice - April 1**

**Lateness and Submissions Policy:** Except in the case of personal or medical emergencies, work must be submitted on time. Extensions may be permitted on a case-by-case basis through consultation with the instructor. There will not be a possibility to make-up missed presentations or lightning talks. Late proposals or term papers will be docked 10% per day, including weekends. Proposals are to be submitted in class, while term papers can be delivered to the main office before the deadline.

**Accessibility Needs:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility)

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation (and quotations marks when using an author’s words). Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please consult the “Rules and Regulations” section of the Arts and Science Calendar ([http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules__Regulations.html](http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules__Regulations.html)) for further information and check the ‘How not to plagiarize’ website at: [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).