DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY - UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
GGR 424 - TRANSPORTATION GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING
WINTER 2014
TUESDAY 11AM-1PM, ROOM AH 206

Instructors:

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Course Description

This course covers a number of important issues and methods in transportation geography theory and transportation planning policy at both the intra-urban and inter-urban scales of study however, applications will focus on urban transportation systems. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the determinants of movement, impacts of transportation infrastructure, technologies, and policies on the changing spatial distribution of human activities and time. In the political realm, transportation is consistently an issue – why? Consider the Greater Toronto Area. As residents we are faced with determining how to pay for one of the largest Canadian infrastructure projects of our lifetime through a coordinated transportation agency covering a number of distinct municipalities. Are any of the financing solutions new? If not then why have they not been implemented before? Reflect upon recent information concerning the Gardiner Expressway – is it safe? Should it stay or should it go? How much will it cost either way?

We all engage in movement, we are: pedestrians, transit riders, auto drivers, cyclists, roller bladders etc. but does that make all of us experts in transportation? While all of us are equal – why does it appear that some consider themselves more equal than others? In the last 3 years we have had a “War on Cars”, “War on Bikes” a “pedestrian safety blitz” but no matter the mode we use; why is it always considered a “battle” to get to work or class? We will explore the role that transportation plays in determining our social opportunities and our quality of life.

Since geography as a discipline requires the act of doing the format of the course will be a mixture of lecture, seminar and workshop methods.

The applied nature of the course will emphasize the development of skills in the themes of identification, explanation, and analysis. The objective of the course is to help the participant develop and understand the tools required for critical application and reflection of issues in the
field of Transportation Geography and Planning. Each class will involve establishing a foundation of basic tools, group discussion and analysis, followed by application. While the field of transportation can be quite technical, the emphasis of this course does not require advanced knowledge of mathematics, statistics or computer programming.

A Few Ground Rules:

1. Please use e-mail judiciously; do not ask questions over e-mail that cannot be answered with one or two sentences. Longer questions are best answered during office hours.

2. Late Penalty: Five (5) percentage points (of assignment grade) will be deducted for each day (Saturday and Sunday count as one day each) on all late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date. Assignments by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. All late assignments must be submitted to the assignment drop box located outside the Department of Geography main office, room SSH 5047. Please note that the drop box is only available until 5PM on weekdays.

3. Blackboard: This course has a Blackboard site where PowerPoint Slides from class lectures, all required readings for the course, and any announcements will be posted. Please make use of Blackboard as a useful reference point for this course.

4. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Any cases of plagiarism or cheating on assignments will be handled in accordance with the University of Toronto’s policies.

Evaluation

1. In-Class Presentation and written article response; 20% (February 11/February 25)
2. Travel Diary Assignment; 30% (February 4)
3. Major Term Assignment; 40% (April 1)
4. Class Participation; 10% (Entire course)

Readings

A compilation of journal articles serve as the required reading for this course. They have been selected to inform the topics discussed in class. In order to save paper, the readings are all available to you in electronic format on the Blackboard site for this course. If you are having trouble accessing Blackboard, particularly at the beginning of the term, the readings may also be retrieved through the University of Toronto library website.

Course Lecture Outline

FOUNDATIONS: CONCEPTS AND METHODS

Week 1: Introduction: Characteristics of Urban Travel
Week 2: Urban Transportation Trends and Predicting & Analyzing Travel Patterns


www2.geog.okstate.edu/users/HongboYu/NSF.../Yu_Shaw_2005.pdf

Week 3: Urban Transportation Methods


Familiarize yourself with the Data Management Group at UofT: www.dmg.utoronto.ca

Week 4: Transportation, Social Equity and Health


Week 5: Transportation Mega Projects - Great Planning Disasters?


Travel Diary Assignment Due – At beginning of class

**Week 6: IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**CURRENT ISSUES IN TRANSPORTATION GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING**

Week 7: Congestion: causes and cures


**Written responses due – in class**

Week 8: Transit and non-motorized transportation
Service integration; governance, walking, cycling, mass transport in developing countries


**Week 9: Paying for Transportation Infrastructure**


Week 10: Transportation Demand Management


Week 11: End of suburbia?
Office parks; suburbanization, auto dependence, transit oriented development

In Class Film: End of Suburbia


Week 12: Freight Transportation


**Major Term Assignment Due – At beginning of class**