URPL-GP.4631
TRANSPORTATION, LAND USE, AND URBAN FORM

Class Sessions: Tuesday’s September 2nd to December 9th
               6:45 – 8:25 PM
               25 W Fourth Street, Room C-17

Instructors: Chris Bastian (cb186@nyu.edu)
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Office Hours: Scheduled by email

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This is an introductory course in urban transportation planning. The course is divided into 3 parts.

- Part One (classes 1 through 3) is a foundational review of theories and research about the complex relationships among transportation, land use and urban form.
- Part Two (classes 4 through 7) examines certain key factors that today’s transportation planners deal with as transportation and land use interact in the context of planning and projects.
- Part Three (classes 8 through 13) involves a review of some of the most notable transportation and land use plans, projects and problems facing the New York City metropolitan region.
- The final class examines useful international trends and comparisons.

Class Sessions

Part One
1. 9/2/14 Transportation and Urban Form 1
2. 9/9/14 Transportation and Urban Form 2
3. 9/16/14 Transportation and Urban Sprawl

Part Two
4. 9/23/14 Home Rule and Eminent Domain
5. 9/30/14 Transport and the Value of Land
6. 10/7/14 Environmental Impact Statements
7. 10/21/14 Equity in the Context of Transportation and Urban Form

Part Three
8. 10/28/14 Case Study: plaNYC and Environmental Sustainability
9. 11/4/14 Case Study: Long Island – Plans for a “First Suburb”
10. 11/11/14 Case Study: Congestion Pricing in NYC
11. 11/18/14 Case Study: NYC Airport Placement, Design and Access
12. 11/25/14 Case Study: The Regional Plan Association and a Regional Vision
13. 12/2/14 Case Study: MTA’s Twenty-Year Planning Horizon
14. 12/9/14 International Trends
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Prerequisites: None

Course Grading
Course grades will be based on the following:

• Analytical Memo 40 percent
• Critical Essay 40 percent
• Attendance/participation 10 percent
• Reading reactions 10 percent

Attendance/participation (10% of grade)
Each class will consist of discussion framed by a short introductory lecture. Part of your grade is based on attending class and participating in the discussion. Attendance and participation in class discussions is essential. Everyone should feel comfortable contributing their thoughts and questions to the discussion.

Reading Reactions (10% of grade)
The lectures will not cover all the material in the readings so it is essential that you keep up with the required reading. All of the readings for each class can be found in the RESOURCES section of the Class website.

Each week, you will be required to respond to an assigned question related to the class reading assignments. The response should range from one half to one page (single sided) in length.

Responses are to be uploaded to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by 11:59 PM on the Sunday before each Tuesday’s class.

Written Assignments
Two written assignments are required:
• a place—specific analytic memorandum; and
• a critical essay on a topic relevant to the course

All written assignments must be submitted to the Class website by the stated date and time. A grade penalty of “1/3 grade per day” will apply to any papers turned in after the due date. The late penalty will only be waived upon submission of a written note from a medical professional.
Analytical Memorandum (40% of grade)

Pick a place and write about how its transportation and land use features work or do not work together. Make an argument about how the place could be improved or (if the place's transport and land use do work together), how this success could be replicated elsewhere. Tie-in points made in your readings to support your argument.

Things to consider:
Place - what is the scale? Is it a city or town or neighborhood or region?

- Documentation of the place's land use and transportation. Use articles, media stories or other documentation.

- Characterization: apply key points from one or more of the class readings such as: "does the place's transportation drive its land use or vice versa? Use points in the readings to defend your analysis (eg. "the absence of higher density housing or commercial land uses drives high auto use in that place").

- Analysis and recommendations: Based on how you have characterized the place, how could it be improved? Or replicated if it is a success? Use arguments made in the articles such as what actions are effective in combating high auto trip-making.

A one page proposal for your paper (proposed subject, expected approach and findings and relevance) is due in class on September 30th. If the proposal is acceptable, you will receive approval on October 3. Otherwise, you will be asked to revise the proposal and submit an updated version to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by 11:59 PM on October 5.

The paper is due in class on October 21.
Critical Essay (40% of grade)

A great deal of research and debate has taken place on the relationships between transportation, land use and urban form. Concepts such as accessibility, sprawl, historic patterns of land use and transport development in metropolitan areas in the US and abroad, employment – housing balance, transit – oriented development. This assignment requires you to jump into the debate on a topic of your choosing.

Select a thinker who has written across articles and books, or a specific book. Create an argument as to why one side of the debate on your topic is flawed or right on. You are welcome to draw on the readings of the course but not exclusively; you must explore other literature as well.

Topics you are welcome – but not required - to explore include:

- What killed transit in most American cities? What will bring transit back?
- Can transport systems shape urban form?
- Can transit-oriented development really attract residents and reduce auto use?
- Is there a spatial mismatch in cities?
- Is urban sprawl inevitable in America?

If you choose a particular thinker, your first step is to distill his/her primary arguments across multiple publications, (more than those covered in this course).

If you choose a book to review, you can select from the reading list in the RESOURCES folder on the class website, or propose a different title. The challenge is to not simply summarize the book but to assess the validity of the book’s arguments.

One clue is to pay attention to the way the course’s readings are written and how they frame their arguments.

Length: Eight double spaced pages should suffice.

Due Dates:

A one page proposal for your paper (the thinker or book; the topic you’ve chosen and why; what you think your argument will be) is due in class on November 18th. If the proposal is acceptable, you will receive approval on October 21. Otherwise, you will be asked to revise the proposal and submit an updated version to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by 11:59 PM on November 21.

The paper is due at the Wager School office by 5:00 PM on December 12.