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

Class Sessions: Tuesday’s September 2nd to December 9th
6:45 – 8:25 PM
Waverly 667

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 4 parts.

• A foundational review of theories and research about the complex relationships among transportation, land use and urban form.
• An examination of certain key factors that today’s transportation planners deal with as transportation and land use interact in the context of planning and projects.
• A review of some of the most notable transportation and land use plans, projects and problems facing the New York City metropolitan region.
• An examination of recent national and international trends.

Class Sessions

1. 9/8/14 Transportation and Urban Form-Intro (WW)
2. 9/15/14 Transportation and Urban Sprawl (CB)
3. 9/22/14 Home Rule and Eminent Domain (WW)
4. 9/29/14 Transportation Demand and Urban Form (WW)
5. 10/6/14 Case Study: Long Island – Plans for a “first suburb” (WW)
   10/13/14 Midterm break – no class
6. 10/20/14 Environmental Impact Statements (CB)
7. 10/27/14 Transport and the value of land (WW)
8. 10/03/14 Equity in the Context of Transportation and Urban Form (WW)
9. 11/10/14 Case Study: plaNYC and Environmental Sustainability (CB)
10. 11/17/14 Case Study: Congestion Pricing in NYC (CB)
11. 11/24/14 Case Study: NYC Airport Placement, Design and Access (CB)
12. 12/01/14 Case Study: The RPA and a Regional Vision (CB)
13. 12/08/14 National Trends (CB)
14. 12/15/14 International Trends (WW)
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 critical essay on a topic relevant to the course; and
- A place – specific analytic memorandum

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.
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) should be submitted to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by September 29th. If the proposal is acceptable, you will receive approval on October 2nd. Otherwise, you will be asked to revise the proposal and submit an updated version to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by 11:59 PM on October 4th.

The final paper should be submitted to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by 5:00 PM on October 20th.
Analytical Memorandum (40% of grade)

Pick a geographic location with an identifiable conflict between transportation land use. Define the conflict, and propose a long-term and short-term solution to address the conflict. Provide citations from class readings or other resources to support your proposals.

Things to consider:

- Place - what is the scale? Is it a city or town or neighborhood or region? What information resources are available for your research?
- Documentation - clearly define the place's land use and transportation characteristics. Use media stories, analytical reports, scholarly articles or other documentation.
- Analysis – explain what the conflicts between the location's land use, transportation needs, and resources. 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").
- Recommendations – Based on your analysis of the transportation/land use conflicts, how could the location be improved? What short-term improvements could be made to address conditions more quickly? Use arguments made in the class readings and discussion to support your proposals.

Proposal:
A one page proposal for your paper (proposed subject, expected approach and findings and relevance) should be submitted to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by November 17th. If the proposal is acceptable, you will receive approval on November 20th. Otherwise, you will be asked to revise the proposal and submit an updated version by November 22nd.

Due Date:
The final paper should be submitted to your ASSIGNMENTS folder by 5:00 PM on December 18th.