Urban Transportation Planning

DETAILS

Instructor: Beth Zall, AICP
Email: beth.zall@nyu.edu
Course: Urban Transportation Planning; Spring 2016; Wednesdays 6:45-8:25PM
Location: SILV 410
Office Hours: Wednesday 5:30-6:30, or by appointment (Location: TBD in Silver Building proximity)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will offer an introduction to transportation planning, including both theoretical and practical approaches. This course will provide an understanding of the evolution and role of urban public transportation modes, systems and services. Additional topics will be introduced, depending upon speaker availability. Subjects in general will include characteristics of different modes (rail, bus, and air), scheduling, budgeting, Federal grants, modeling, route design considerations, transit oriented development, public involvement, and project development. While primarily focused upon transportation issues in North America, international transit systems will be used as comparative study cases.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE

Grading system:
- Writing Assignments (response papers): 20%
- Report (mid-term): 20%
- Class Attendance/Engagement/Preparation: 15%
- Final Project Presentation (group effort): 35%
- Final Project Written Submittal (individual): 10%

Exams:
There will be no formal exams in this course. There will be a number of writing assignments given pertaining to applicable course topics during the semester, allowing for each student to explore subtopics of individual interest.
**Academic Integrity:**
In accordance with NYU policy, all students are expected to adhere to the core principles and standards as set out by the University, and violations of the policy will be handled with appropriate personnel: https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

**Attendance and Absences:**
You are expected to attend class promptly and regularly. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a classmate. Please send notification of any known absence via email in advance, where possible. If you arrive late to class, or must leave early, please be considerate with your classmates, and do so as quietly and unobtrusively as possible. If you are unable to submit a written assignment in person, it may be submitted electronically.

**Electronics usage:**
A break will be provided during each class. This is the best opportunity to check your email or use your phone for personal purposes. If a phone call must be taken for emergency use, please do so in as considerate a manner as possible. If you choose to take course notes on a computer during class, the expectation is that you will not use course time for personal email/internet use.

*Note: The above guidelines are subject to modification as deemed appropriate by the instructor.*
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 27

- Orientation
  - How class will work
  - Syllabus review
- History of Transportation Planning


Week 2: February 3

- Transportation Data and Commute Patterns
- Roles of Federal Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Transportation Planning Process:
  - Alternatives Analysis
  - Land Use connection

Week 3: February 10

- NYC Metro Region: Transportation and Aging Infrastructure and Resiliency
- Hoboken, NY Rising

Writing Assignment #1 Due

Week 4: February 17

- Owning a Consulting Firm
- Public Outreach
  - Guest Speaker: Marlene Pissott

Handout: Writing Assignment #2 (Midterm)

Week 5: February 24

- Bus Operations / Intermodal Centers
- Port Authority Bus Terminal Master Plan

Writing Assignment #2 (Midterm): Discussion

Week 6: March 2

- Taxi, Limousine and the Uber-world of transportation
  - Guest Speaker: Rodney Stiles
Week 7: March 9

- Finance Funding and Budgeting Considerations
  - Revenues
  - Delivery Methods
  - Capital Budgets

Submit Writing Assignment #2 (Midterm)

Spring Break: March 16

Week 8: March 23

- Freight Planning
  - Guest Speaker: Laura Shabe

Writing Assignment #3: due March 30. Review MOVENY (traffic management) or VISION ZERO (transportation safety), submit a 3-4 page commentary or critique.

Week 9: March 30

- Rail transit modes
  - Light Rail Transit
  - Commuter Rail
  - Intercity
  - High-Speed Rail

Submit Writing Assignment #3
Discussion of Final Project: Group assignments and handouts

Week 10: April 6:

- Airport Planning
  - Guest speaker: Dr. Seth Young

Week 11: April 13

- Bus Rapid Transit
- Bus Route Planning Basics

Week 12: April 20

- Transit Oriented Development
- Bicycling and Pedestrian Planning: Urban Design in Transportation Planning
Week 13: April 27

- Modeling and Forecast Development
- Group work time – Finals preparation

Week 14: May 4

Final Presentations (3 presentation)

Finals: May 11

Final Presentations (2-3 Presentations)