

COURSE SYLLABUS

URP 535

Transportation Policy and Planning, 3 units

Spring Semester, 2025

Tuesdays 5:30pm to 8:20pm

Carver Complex 211

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm to 3:30pm

(or by appointment)

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Course Description

This course provides a general overview of transportation planning practice and policy in the United States. The course reviews the economic and political history of public versus private oversight of transportation and the implications this has on how transportation policy and planning are motivated. Contemporary issues in transportation, methods to regulate them, and their equity and efficiency impacts are broadly reviewed. Practice components of the course include travel demand measurement and management strategies, including how these vary with the guiding role of a transportation planning or engineer practitioner.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

1. Summarize the coevolution of transportation technology, travel behavior, transportation planning, and transportation policy.
2. Differentiate between transportation planning and transportation policy.
3. Critique and evaluate the outcomes of transportation planning and policy initiatives relative to their objectives.
4. Represent competing perspectives of transportation equity.
5. Distinguish competing viewpoints about the role of transportation planners and engineers.

Textbook and Readings

The textbook for this course is the fourth (2017) edition of *The Geography of Urban Transportation*, edited by Genevieve Giuliano and Susan Hanson (ISBN 9781462529674). Chapters required for each class meeting are defined in the schedule below and cited as "G&H." Any further readings will be available via Blackboard. All readings are to be completed before the respective class meeting.

Assignments and Grading

Assignment	Description	% of Grade
In-Class Participation	Your contribution to class discussion, group work, and in-class assignments will be accounted for in your grade. Generally, only students who show a clear lack of engagement or perpetual absences or tardiness will experience a reduced grade in this category.	10%
Readings Quizzes (5 total)	Starting Week 3, a total of five (5) reading quizzes are subject to be given at the start of class that cover the readings of that day. The dates that these will be proctored will be randomly determined. One-third of the value of each quiz will be for taking the quiz. Reading quizzes will be in short-answer format and each quiz is weighted equally. Your lowest one scored quiz will be dropped from your grading.	10%
Reflection Papers and Discussant	Each student will be expected to choose unique dates to serve as the discussant for readings of that week. This responsibility entails providing an executive summary of the readings and posing questions for classmates to engage deeper in the material. The discussant shall also submit a two- to three-page summary by 5pm on the respective date. The number of occasions this will be expected will depend on final course size but shall not exceed two (2) times.	10%
External Course Assignments	A total of three assignments external to class will be given — a week-long personal travel diary, an assessment of disaggregate travel data, and a traffic count or parking utilization project. Further instructions will be provided in class or via Blackboard.	20%
Midterm	A closed book/note in-class midterm exam and final exam will be proctored. Each exam will mostly entail short-to-long answer questions. The exams will emphasize content covered in course lectures; readings are only pertinent to the extent that they are expressly incorporated into course lecture. The midterm exam will cover material up to the midterm; the final, all material but with a skew towards content since the midterm	25%
Final		25%

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Module	Topic	Readings*
1	January 14	Introduction	Introductions; Course Overview	—
2	January 21		Defining Transportation Planning and Policy; Evolution of Transportation Planning and Policy	Ch. 1 in G&H; Altshuler and Luberoff (2005)
3	January 28	Foundational Concepts	Transportation Equity; Transportation Justice; Efficiency; Externalities	Ch. 13 in G&H; Karner et al. (2020) Optional: Mallett (2024); Pereira et al. (2017); Taylor and Norton (2009)
4	February 4		Transportation Finance; Transportation Governance and Policy	Ch. 6 and 10 in G&H; Lederman et al. (2018) Optional: Lederman et al. (2020); Sciara (2017); Schweitzer and Taylor (2008); Taylor and Norton (2009)
5	February 11		Travel Behavior and Modeling; Transportation-Land Use Connection	Ch. 5 and 7 in G&H; Aston et al. (2021) Optional: Ch. 9 in G&H; Cervero and Landis (1995); Giuliano (1995); Ewing and Cervero (2010)
6	February 18 <i>Travel diary due</i>	Practice	Planning-Engineering Interaction: Role(s) of Planner; Transportation Economics; Flow Theory; Elasticity; Induced and Latent Demand	Button (2005); Ralph and White (2024) Optional: Downs (1962); Duranton and Turner (2011); Ch. 3.3 in Small et al. (2024)
7	February 25		Equity and Effectiveness Measures: Equity Analysis in Practice; Policy Impact Analysis; Cost-Benefit Analysis	Cossette-Lefebvre (2020) Optional: Ch. 5.2 in Small et al. (2024)
8	March 4	Midterm	Midterm Examination	—
9	March 11	SPRING BREAK		
10	March 18	Applied Issues and Topics in Transportation	Travel Demand Management: Ridesharing; Employer Incentives; Pricing Policy	Neoh et al. (2017); Zettel and Carll (1964) Optional: Ecola and Light (2010); Emmerink et al. (1995); Giuliano (1992a); Giuliano (1992b); Schweitzer and Taylor (2008); Small (1992)
11	March 25		Travel Behavior Research Presentations	—

Week	Date	Module	Topic	Readings*
12	April 1	Applied Issues and Topics in Transportation (cont.)	Street Design and Parking: Complete Streets; Safe Routes to School (SR2S); Parking Policy	Gregg and Hess (2019); Inci (2015); McDonald and Aalborg (2009) Optional: Boarnet et al. (2005); Manville and Shoup (2005); Shoup (2024); Shoup (1999); Vandegrift and Zanoni (2018)
13	April 8		Corridor Analysis Presentations	—
14	April 15		Transportation, Energy, and the Environment: Vehicle Technology Regulation; Electric Vehicle Evolution	Ch. 11 in G&H; Chen et al. (2020); McNutt and Rodgers (2004) Optional: Ch. 12 in G&H
15	April 22		Transit and Taxis: Public Transit; Transit Subsidy Policy; Taxi-Ridehail Evolution	Ch. 8 in G&H; Serebrisky et al. (2009); Tirachini (2020) Optional: Brown (2019); Brown and LaValle (2021); Dubal (2023); Mallett and Boarnet (2021); Pucher (1983)
16	April 29	Closing Lecture	Course Conclusion; Closing Dialogue	Ch. 14 in G&H
17	May 6	Final	Final Examination	—

* Readings are complimentary to lectures. Contents of readings do not define all content that will be covered on the given topic.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percent Range
A	[90%, 100%)
B	[80%, 90%)
C	[70%, 80%)
D	[60%, 70%)
F	[0%, 60%)

Academic Honesty

Membership in the AAMU learning community imposes upon the student a variety of commitments, obligations, and responsibilities. It is the policy of AAMU to impose sanctions on students who misrepresent their academic work. These sanctions will be selected by appropriate classroom instructors or other designated persons consistent with the seriousness of the violation and related considerations.

Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

1. **Plagiarism, taking someone else's intellectual work and presenting it as one's own (which covers published and unpublished sources).**
Using another's term paper as one's own; handing in a paper purchased from an individual or agency; submitting papers from living group, club or organization files; or using another's computer program or document are all examples of plagiarism. Standards of attribution and acknowledgment of literary indebtedness are set by each discipline. Faculty are encouraged to include disciplinary or class-specific definitions in course syllabi. Students should consult with their department or with recognized handbooks in their field if in doubt.
2. **Cheating is unacceptable in any form.**
Examples include consultation of books, library materials or notes during tests without the instructor's permission; use of crib sheets or hidden notes; intentional observation of another student's test; receipt of a copy of an exam or questions or answers from an exam to be given or in progress; substitution of another person for the student on an exam or another graded activity; deliberate falsification of lab results; submission of falsified data; alteration of exams or other academic exercises; and collaboration on projects where collaboration is forbidden.
3. **Falsification, forgery or alteration of any documents pertaining to assignments and examinations.**
4. **Students who (cooperate or in other ways promote) participate in promoting cheating or plagiarism by others (or who take credit for the work of others) will also be in violation of this policy.**

Students participating in any violation of this policy must accept the consequences of their actions. Classroom instructors and/or university review/appeals committees and administrators will assess the sanctions for violation of this policy. The seriousness of the violation will dictate the severity of the sanction imposed.

Academic sanctions may include but not be limited to any of the following:

- verbal or written warning
- lowering of grade for assignment/activity
- lowering of term grade
- failure of class assignment

Administrative sanctions may include but not be limited to either of the following:

- suspension from the University
- dismissal from the University

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Alabama A&M University is committed to providing equal access to all educational programs and ensuring compliance with applicable laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the applicable titles of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 for qualified students with disabilities.

If you require or may benefit from disability accommodation, please contact Disability Services within the first week of classes by visiting their office at the Health and Counseling Center or emailing them at disabilityservices@aamu.edu.

Bibliography

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