

Geography 425: Geography of Transportation

Office Phone: 301-687-4724

Administrative Assistant: 301-687-4369

Office Location: Gunter 234

Office Hours: 8:00-8:50 a.m. MW, 1:00-2:00 pm M, 8:00-8.50 am TR or by appointment.

Lecture Hours: TR: 2:00 – 3.15 pm

Email: jsaku@frostburg.edu

Course Description

The linkages and flows of goods, services, and people from area to area. The influence of various transportation modes in the historical development of regions; the role of transportation planning in shaping future metropolitan and regional settlements.

Institutional Learning Goals

1. Liberal knowledge and skills of inquiry, critical thinking, and synthesis: Students will be required to use different methods in gathering and evaluating theories and methods in transportation geography.
2. Core Skills: Class assignments will provide students the opportunity to comprehend and interpret information in written and oral form. Written communication skills of students will be enhanced by conducting and presenting independent research paper.
3. Acquisition and application of specialized knowledge: Several concepts and theories covered in the class will allow students to comprehend issues on transportation planning. The role of transportation in economic development is explored.
4. Values and Social Responsibilities: Students will demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of urban transportation problems, transportation planning and the impact of transportation on the environment. Transportation and societal issues are also examined.
5. Appreciation of cultural identities: Students will demonstrate an understanding of differences in transportation needs between urban and rural areas.

Learning objectives

By the end of the class students should be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the major theories of transportation geography.
2. Distinguish between the nature, problems and prospects of transportation.
3. Analyze the framework of transportation planning.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of travel patterns and behavior.
5. Analyze the social and environmental impacts of transportation.

6. Demonstrate an understanding of transportation policy including deregulation.
7. Explain the relationship between transportation and economic development.
8. Write a research paper on transportation geography.

Required Text

Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Claude Comtois, and Brian Slack. 2013. *The Geography of Transport Systems*. New York. Routledge.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined to include any form of cheating and/or plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Stealing or altering testing instruments;
- Falsifying the identity of persons for any academic purpose;
- Offering, giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on an examination, quiz or other written or oral material in a course;
- Falsifying information on any type of academic record

Plagiarism is:

- The presentation of written or oral material in a manner which conceals the true source of documentary material; or
- The presentation of materials which uses hypotheses, conclusions, evidence, data, or the like, in a way that the student appears to have done work which s/he did not, in fact, do.

In cases involving academic dishonesty, a failing grade or a grade of zero (0) for an assignment and/or a course may be administered. “Students expelled or suspended for reasons of academic dishonesty... shall not be admissible to any other University of Maryland System institution if expelled, or during any period of suspension” (*Bylaws, Policies & Procedures of the University System of Maryland*, Section III).

Disruptive Behavior

The University will not tolerate disorderly conduct which substantially threatens, harms, or interferes with university personnel or orderly university processes and functions. All students are expected to be reasonable and respectful to fellow students, guest speakers, and me. See *The Pathfinder* at <http://www.frostburg.edu/clife/ses/pathfinder.pdf> for a description of disruptive student behavior and its consequences.

Note: Your instructor has the right to require a student to leave the classroom when his/her behavior disrupts the learning environment of the class. A student found responsible for disruptive behavior in the classroom may be administratively withdrawn from the course.

Students with Learning or Physical Disabilities

If you have a documented disability, please contact the Director of Disability Support Services in 150 Pullen Hall to set an appointment. We want to be sure you receive appropriate accommodations as soon as possible.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

Please be aware that, according to Maryland law, educators are required to report current and past child abuse and neglect even when the former victim is now an adult and even when the former alleged abuser is deceased. If you disclose current or past abuse/neglect in class, in papers, or to me personally, I am required by law to report it. Please see me if you are interested in more information about this law.

Canvas

To facilitate effective communication between the instructor and students, the course is available on Canvas. You are encouraged to visit the site regularly to check on announcements and deadlines. Course syllabus and assignments are also posted on the site. You can also check your grades including unofficial class average from the grade book.

Policy

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate actively during class discussions. To participate actively in class, students are required to read assigned materials prior to class. It is your responsibility to follow the syllabus carefully and read required materials before class.

Attendance will be recorded and failure to attend classes will result in loss of points. Your attendance grade will be based on the total number of days present over the expected number of days multiplied by 25. For example, if you were required to be in class for 24 days in the semester, and you were present for 24 days, your attendance grade will be $(24/24) \times 25 = 25$ points. Students are responsible for informing the instructor of their presence if they arrive after attendance has been taken.

Class assignments and term essays are to be submitted promptly on the due day. Late submission of term essays and assignments carry a penalty of 20 points per day for a maximum of 5 days. No essays and assignments will be accepted after the 5th day without a reasonable cause. A reasonable cause is defined as serious illness (doctor's report required) or tragedy within the family (a note from family member required).

Cell phones and pagers

Cell phones and pagers should be turned off when you come to class. Answering cell phones or checking text messages in class is disrespectful to me and your fellow students. Exception is given to a certified EMT or fire responder. Please inform me ahead of time if you need to have your beeper active all the time because of your profession or special circumstances. There is a **zero** tolerance in using a cell phone in class. Your cell phone will be confiscated for two days if you are caught using cell phone in class. You will be sent out of class on a second offense.

Grading

All tests including the final examination will consist of short questions and essays. Prior approval is required for missing an examination. No make-up examination will be granted if you fail to seek prior approval.

If you need help with assignments and reading, ask early in the semester. Students will not have an opportunity for extra credit.

The final grade will consist of the following

Class assignment (2/7)	= 50 points
Four current events on transportation issues (2/14, 3/7, 4/18, 5/2)	= 40 points
Annotated bibliography (Thursday 3/14)	= 50 points
Research paper (Thursday 5/2)	= 100 points
Test 1 (2/28)	= 100 points
Test 2 (4/11)	= 100 points
Final examination (Tuesday 5/20, 11:15 am-1:45 pm)	= 100 points

Spring Break – March 18-22

Association of American Geographers Meeting April 3-5

Your final grade will be determined based on the total points accumulated over 540. The scale is as follows:

A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F < 60%

You are strongly encouraged to use office hours or set up an appointment to discuss your grades with me during the semester.

Class Assignment

Each student is required to review and provide critical comments on the following readings. Personal comments about the articles are strongly recommended. The award of marks for the review is determined by the quality of the review.

**1. Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang, James C. Saku and Justin M. Haasch 2007
Transportation Development in Ghana Revisited. African Geographical Review 25,
85-106.**

Annotated Bibliography

Annotated bibliography

All students are required to use the following resources from FSU Library to search for five journal articles or peer reviewed articles on transportation issues. Peer reviewed articles are usually long and are published in a professional journal. Consult with me if you are in doubt of whether your article is peer reviewed or not. The title of your articles should be different from those for Assignment 1. While it is recommended that your articles cover a variety of topics, you can also limit the five articles to a potential topic of your term paper, i.e., all the articles may be limited to “Third World Transportation Problems”. Details of this assignment will be given out in class and posted on canvas.

FSU Library Resources

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?profile=eds&custid=frostburg&groupid=main&authtype=ip,guest>

A-Z Databases List: <http://libguides.frostburg.edu/az.php>

Journal Search (to browse journals): <http://sfx.umd.edu/fs/journalsearch>

Note: You cannot repeat the articles you used for Assignment 1.

Write an annotated bibliography on each of the articles and present hard copies of the articles and your work to me. This means that you have to print the articles and present them to me. An annotated bibliography represents the highlights of the article, that is, a summary of the article. Usually, an annotated bibliography is about two to three paragraphs long. If you are in doubt of how to write an annotated bibliography, consult the handout given in class. You have to follow the format of writing an annotated bibliography as provided in class. This usually includes but not limited to:

Title in bold:

Author:

Publisher or organization:

Date of publication:

Key words:

The purpose of this assignment is to help you start thinking of your research paper for the class. Also, the assignment is designed to expose you to different transportation literature.

Current Events on Transportation:

To promote class participation and discussion, students are required to participate in four current event assignments. You are required to report on a current event that was reported

by a news media within the past two weeks on transportation related issue. Non participation in this assignment will lead to loss of points. The assignment will be graded so you need to check your spellings. The following issues should be addressed. You are required to follow the format suggested below. **You will lose 5 points if you did not attend class to present your current event orally. Your work has to be typed.**

1. Title of the current event
2. When and where did the event occur?
3. Which news media reported the event?
4. Write 2-3 paragraphs summary of the event.
5. Why do you consider this event important?
6. What are your personal reflections on the event, that is, what impact is this event on you and the society?
7. Suggest possible recommendations in dealing with this event in the future.

Course outline and weekly reading (subject to change)

A. Background, Concepts and Transport Evolution

1. Transportation and geography (**Reading: Chapter 1 of text**)

What is transport geography? Transportation and space, transportation and commercial geography, the geography of transportation networks: case study.

2. Transportation and spatial structure (**Reading: Chapter 2 of text book**)

Historical geography of transportation: the emergence of mechanized systems, historical geography of transportation: the setting of global systems.

3. Transport and spatial organization, transport and location, future transportation (**Reading: Chapter 2 of text book**)

4. The evolution of the United States transportation systems (**Reading: Chapters 3 and 4 Taaffe, Gauthier and O'Kelly 1996, Transportation Geography and Spatial Organization, On reserve**)

transportation and economic development, politics and U.S. transportation development, the four eras of U.S. transportation development.

B. Economic and Urban Transportation Issues

5. Transportation modes (**chapter 3 of textbook**)

Diversity of modes, intermodal transportation, passengers or freight

6. Transport terminals (**chapter 4 of textbook**)

Functions of transport terminals, terminals and location, transport terminal governance

7. International trade and freight distribution (**chapter 5 of textbook**)

Transportation, globalization and international trade, commodity chains and freight transportation, logistics and freight distribution

8. Transportation and the economy (**chapter 7 of textbook**)

Transportation and economic development, transport costs, transport supply and demand

9. Urban transportation (**chapter 6 of textbook**)

Transportation and the urban form, urban land-use and transportation, urban mobility, urban transport problem

10. Urban transportation planning (**Reading: Chapter 9, Concept 3 and "The urban transportation planning process" In: Hanson S. and Giuliano G. eds. The geography of urban transportation. 2004. New York: Guilford Press - On reserve**)

Overview of transportation planning in the United States, the planning process, pre-analysis phase, technical analysis phase, modeling phase, post-analysis phase

C. Transportation Impacts and Policy

11. Transport, energy, and environment (**Reading: Chapter 8 of textbook and Chang-Hee Christine Bae 2004. "Transportation and the environment". In: Hanson S. and Giuliano G. eds. The geography of urban transportation. New York: Guilford Press. On Reserve**).

Impacts on humans, impact on vegetation, impact on animals, impact on soils, impact on water, impact on climate and the atmosphere. Relationship between transportation and pollution: types of pollution - noise, noise models, air, air quality models (effects of major pollutants on humans)

12. Transport policy (**Reading: Chapter 9 of textbook: Concepts 1 and 2**)

Defining policy, why transport policy, policy instruments, policy process

13. Conclusion: issues and challenges in transport geography