Introduction

This course surveys the theory and practice of urban transportation policy and planning. Students will learn the historical origins of urban transportation planning, how it has evolved to the present, and how current planning practice is bounded by certain economic, environmental, institutional, political, social, and technological constraints. Among the key problems and issues discussed are: the need to promote better access, mobility and safety on roadways; the need for alternative fuels and more fuel-efficient vehicles; and the effects of motor vehicles and transportation systems on land use, urban development and the natural environment. Students will also learn how to develop and evaluate solutions to urban transportation problems, how to improve the capacity of transportation systems, how to manage travel demand, and how to evaluate and implement transportation projects and programs.

Prerequisites

The course has no formal prerequisites. However, students in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning should try to take PLAN 600: Public Policy and Planning Theory, either prior to or concurrently with enrollment in PLAN 648. The instructor will review relevant topics from PLAN 600 as necessary.

Requirements

This course has both lecture and seminar formats. Lectures are based on the assigned readings as listed in the attached Class Schedule.
Grades will be determined based on marks earned on the following course requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written proposal</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral report</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>150</td>
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<td>500</td>
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**Grading Policy**

The following table shows the minimum points needed to earn certain grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>350</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>300</td>
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Because the class size is small, students are expected to participate fully in class discussions and to stay current in the readings. Students who participate regularly in class are more likely to receive a better grade for the course. While attending class is important, simply listening to the instructor and other students in class discussions does not constitute class participation.

The assignments and research paper are discussed briefly below. They will be graded primarily on the extent to which they satisfy requirements of the assignment. Other grading criteria include persuasiveness, accuracy, documentation, grammar, and spelling.
Late assignments will be penalized 20% of the maximum grade for each day that the assignment is late. Incomplete grades will be given only upon request for compelling reasons, such as extended sickness or overseas travel. Insufficient time to complete work is not an adequate reason, because it is a common trait of academic life.

Assignments

Assignments will be distributed about three weeks prior to the submittal dates shown on the attached Class Schedule. The assignments are designed to measure comprehension of lectures and readings.

Research Paper

The purpose of the research paper is to enable students to explore a particular urban transportation policy or planning issue in more depth. Suggested topics appear below. You may select one of these topics or propose an alternative. In either case, confer with the instructor about your topic choice and write a 2-3 page, typewritten memorandum that briefly describes your topic, the purpose and scope of your research, and why the topic is important and relevant to this course. Also provide a preliminary list of at least 5-10 references and/or names of people to be interviewed. The memorandum is due on the date indicated in the Class Schedule.

Each student will have about 15 minutes to give an oral report of his or her research paper during the last day of class. The report should identify the questions that you are trying to answer, the method you used to answer these questions, and your findings. Students may use the classroom projector in making their reports and should be prepared to answer a few questions. Refer to the following article at the beginning of the course reader for ideas on how to improve your public speaking skills:


In general, the length of your research paper should be commensurate with the scope of the topic as you define it. The recommended length of this assignment, which includes cover page, tables, figures, and references, is 20 pages. Indicate the sources of all tables and figures if they are borrowed from published literature. Papers should be typewritten, double spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch plain bond paper with one-inch margins. Footnotes and references should be completely
documented and should follow a consistent and conventional format. Read the following article at the beginning of the course reader, if you need suggestions on how to improve your writing skills:


The paper and oral report are due on the date indicated in the attached Class Schedule.

*Suggested Topics*

Compare Honolulu’s previous plan for rail transit in the early 1990s with its current plans in terms of their alignments, financing, technology, and planning process.

Select a city that has recently expanded or intends to expand its public transit system and determine whether it fits or has adapted successfully to existing land use patterns.

Select a city in a developing nation of Asia or the Pacific Region, describe its urban transportation planning process, and explore ways to improve the process.

Explore the linkage between urban transportation, fuel consumption, and global climate change at a national or regional scale.

Explore the linkage between urban transportation, urban form, and air quality or other indicators of public health for a particular city.

Assess the potential for improving energy efficiency and fuel substitution in the urban transportation sector in Honolulu or elsewhere.

Discuss bicycle planning and/or traffic calming techniques and assess their potential for success in Honolulu or elsewhere.

Assess the potential of market-based strategies to relieve traffic congestion in Honolulu or elsewhere.

Determine which transportation system management (TSM) or travel demand management (TDM) strategies offer the best potential to relieve traffic congestion in Honolulu or elsewhere.

Describe attempts to develop an intelligent transportation system (ITS) in Honolulu or elsewhere and assess whether it has achieved its goals.

Determine whether communities designed according to the principles of “new urbanism” could reduce trip-making and traffic congestion for new residential developments in Honolulu or elsewhere.

Assess the potential for transit-oriented development (TOD) in Honolulu or elsewhere.
Final Examination

The final examination will be held on Thursday, May 14th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. It will include a series of multiple-choice and short-essay questions covering all course material. The instructor will review pertinent topics for the exam during the last class period of the course. During the exam, you may not use lecture notes, textbooks, the course reader, or a computer to help you in answering questions.

Office Hours

My regular office hours are on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and on Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. If these hours are inconvenient, please make an appointment. At the University of Hawaii, I can be reached by telephone (956-8684), facsimile (956-6870), and e-mail (flachsba@hawaii.edu). Please do not submit written assignments as attachments to e-mail messages.

Readings

The readings for this course can be found in the textbook, course reader, and in various reference books listed below.

Textbooks

The following textbook is on sale at the University Bookstore in the Student Campus Center:


Course Reader

The Course Reader provides recommended articles on urban transportation policy and planning topics not found in the textbook. An abridged version of the Course Reader will have all of the assigned readings in the attached Class Schedule. The symbol (CR) appears next to these readings in the Class Schedule. The abridged version of the Course Reader will be on sale from Professional Image, located at 2633 South King Street near University Avenue, by the second week of the semester. Please phone Professional Image at 973-6599 to order a copy. A non-circulating copy of the full Course Reader will be placed on the reserve shelf of the
department library (Saunders 119) by the second week of the semester. Articles in the full Course Reader will appear in alphabetical order by lead author.


Small, Kenneth A. and Kurt van Dender. 2007. “If cars were more efficient, would we use less fuel?” Access 31 (Fall): 8-13.


References

Listed below are useful books, reports and other references for all written assignments including the research paper. Those items not on the reserve shelf of the department library may be in the stacks of Hamilton Library. Some of the reports can be found on-line.


Transportation Research Board, National Research Council. 1995. *Expanding Metropolitan Highways: Implications for Air Quality and*


