Introduction

This course surveys the theory and practice of urban transportation policy and planning in both developed and developing countries. 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. The principal topics are: access, capacity, and safety issues in planning roadways and transit systems; impacts of motor vehicles on land use, urban development and the environment; strategies for more energy-efficient transportation; plans and policies for different modes of transportation; the land use/transportation connection; and transit-oriented development.

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.

Course Requirements

This course uses a lecture and class discussion format. Lectures are based on the assigned readings listed in the attached Class Schedule. Course requirements include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written proposal</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral report</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100</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>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>463</td>
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<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>
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<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 are shown on the next page. 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 three 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. If your topic concerns an urban transportation issue in the United States, explain how the topic relates to one of the critical issues discussed in the following report:


The instructor will distribute a digital copy of this report to all students during the first week of classes. Also provide a preliminary list of 5-10 references and/or names of people to be interviewed about your topic. These people should have expertise on your proposed topic. The memorandum is due on the date indicated in the Class Schedule.
Each student will have about 20 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 presenting their oral reports and should be prepared to answer questions from the audience. Refer to the following article in 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 in 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 Tuesday, May 11th 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 on the exam during the last class period. During the exam,
you may not use lecture notes, textbooks, the course reader, a computer or cell phone to help you in answering questions.

Office Hours

My office is located in Saunders 107A. Regular office hours are from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. 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.

Lecture Notes

Periodically, I will place a copy of my lecture notes in a notebook binder on the reserve shelf in Sinclair Library. The notes may contain topics that will not be presented or discussed in class. Please pick up handouts distributed in classes that you miss.

Readings

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

Textbook

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


The instructor will distribute the following three documents as attachments to an e-mail to students during the first week of the course:


Course Reader

The Course Reader provides copies of journal articles on various transportation topics. It has many of the assigned readings in the attached Class Schedule and some of the readings for the two homework assignments. In the Class Schedule, the symbol (CR) appears next to assigned readings from the Course Reader. 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.


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 the two homework assignments and 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.


The Urban Land Institute. 2009. Transportation for a New Era: Growing More Sustainable Communities. The Urban Land Institute, Washington, D.C.


