

**PLAN 590.002**  
**Field Skills for Road Safety Professionals (Thursdays, 5-6pm)**  
**Fall 2021**

**Time:** 5-6pm Thursdays

**Location:** Dey Hall 403 and in-town field sites (TBD); some sessions may be virtual to accommodate guest expert needs

**Instructors:** Tabitha Combs

**Co-Instructors:** Wesley Kumfer, Seth LaJeunesse

**Contact:** tab@unc.edu

**Office hours:** by appointment only

Deaths and serious injuries from traffic crashes have been rising steadily on US roadways in recent years. Despite growing investment in safe walking and bicycling facilities, pedestrians and bicyclists bear a disproportionate share of these deaths and injuries. Through a combination of field work, lectures, and facilitated discussions, the Fields Skills for Road Safety Professionals course introduces students to data collection, analysis, and communication techniques that are critical for understanding and advancing road safety for all.

There are no prerequisites for this course. Any student with an interest in roadway safety, transportation, planning, public health, engineering, sustainability, and/or equity is welcome, regardless of school, department, or academic background.

**Course Objectives**

Active participants in this course will become familiar with:

- The language and applications of systems science tools for exploring complex challenges
- Methods for assessing public health, safety, social, economic, and environmental impacts of transportation infrastructure and services
- Interactions among roadway design, transportation services, and land use
- Contradictions and challenges in balancing roadway design objectives (e.g., safety, efficiency, access, multimodality, pollution, aesthetics, vibrancy; local vs. regional impacts)
- Means of discussing and communicating the impacts of roadway design to a range of audiences
- The roles played by different disciplines (including but not limited to planning, engineering, law, journalism, health, psychology, history) and perspectives in shaping our collective understanding of roadway design, use, and culture.

**Materials**

All required materials will be available on Sakai or handed out in class. There are no textbooks for this course.

**Course meeting schedule**

This course meets on Thursday evenings from 5 to 6pm. Sessions will take the form of lectures, discussions, and field activities. Off-site field activities will be accessible via Chapel Hill Transit.

Meetings dates are shown below. Classes will take place in Dey Hall 403 unless otherwise noted. Please be aware that locations and topics may change according to speaker availability, safety, and public health concerns, but will always take place during our assigned Thursday, 5pm course slot.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
8/19/2021	Lecture: Introduction & course overview Speaker: Tabitha Combs/DCRP
8/26/2021	Lecture: Intro to roadway design and safe systems* Speaker: Seth LaJeunesse/UNC Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC)
9/2/2021	Discussion: Using data for good Speaker: Combs/DCRP
9/9/2021	Field activity: Collecting & using ped/bike count data (off-site)* Facilitator: Bergen Watterson/Town of Chapel Hill (ToCH)
9/16/2021	Lecture: Collecting & using crash data* Speaker: Katie Harmon/HSRC
9/23/2021	Field activity: Conducting road safety audits/ADA compliance Facilitator: Watterson/ToCH
9/30/2021	Lecture: Scaling up audit samples to estimate system impacts* Speaker: Kristen Brookshire/HSRC
10/7/2021	Independent data collection
10/14/2021	Field activity: Impacts of noise on road safety and health* Facilitator: Wesley Kumfer/HSRC
10/28/2021	TBA
11/4/2021	Lecture: Effective messaging Speaker: Tom Flood/RoveloCreative
11/11/2021	Lecture: Prioritizing locations for intervention* Speaker: Watterson/ToCH
11/18/2021	Discussion: Course wrap up Facilitator: Kumfer/HSRC

\* denotes reflection due after class; see below for details

### **Deliverables & Assessment**

Students must submit brief reflections (150-250 words) via Sakai by 5pm on the Monday following designated sessions. Reflection prompts will be posted shortly after completion of each session. Reflections are expected to show that you have thought about the topic

presented, and how it relates (or does not relate) to your own experiences and perspectives. Reflections that stray from the topic, dwell on minutia, focus on the speaker rather than the topic, or demonstrate a lack of respect for or serious thought about the topic will be discounted. If you have questions about the expectations for reflections, or concerns you will struggle to meet them, please speak with the instructors.

Students will also conduct independent data collection at an assigned location in Chapel Hill during the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>; details and instructions will be provided.

Course grades are determined based on post-session reflections (40%), data collection (20%), and in-class participation (40%).

### **Readings/preparations for class**

Recommending readings, when available, will be posted on Sakai at least one week before each session.

### **Policies and Expectations**

The instructors reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus during the course of the semester. These changes, should they be required, will be announced via Sakai as early as possible.

#### **Honor code**

"The Honor Code represents UNC-Chapel Hill students' commitment to maintaining an environment in which students respect one another and are able to attain their educational goals. As a student at Carolina, you are entering a community in which integrity matters-- integrity in the work you submit, and integrity in the manner in which you treat your fellow Carolina community members."

#### **Cellphones and laptops**

Please turn off or silence your cellphones before entering class. The use of laptops and tablets is permitted for note-taking and course-related work only. Other uses of electronic devices in class are not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reflected in your course grade.

#### **Late assignments**

The expected workload for this course is appropriate for a one-credit course. The only assignments are brief reflections (150 to 250 words) and data collection. Late assignments are subject to a penalty equal to 10% of the points available for the assignment for every day (or portion thereof) beyond the submission deadline. Extensions may be granted under exceptional circumstances. If you are experiencing a hardship and cannot submit an assignment on time and would like to negotiate an extension, you must contact the instructor via email \*before 2pm\* on the day the assignment is due.

### Attendance, participation, & facilitation

This course is built around in-class discussion and debate. A high level of meaningful in-class participation is mandatory. Every student is expected to come to class prepared to engage with each other and the lecturer in a thoughtful, relevant, and respectful manner. Attendance and meaningful contributions to in-class discussions and workshops are critical to your experience and your performance in this course. Behavior that is disruptive, disrespectful, or otherwise hinders the ability of other students to participate and learn will not be tolerated.

No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:

- Authorized University activities
- Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by [Accessibility Resources and Service](#) and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC)
- Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#), [Gender Violence Service Coordinators](#), and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC).

Please communicate with us early about potential absences. Please be aware that you are bound by the Honor Code when making a request for a University approved absence.

### Guest Instructors

Guest instructors are essential to this course. You are expected to afford our guest instructors at least the same courtesy and attention you would to any other professor. In many cases, these experts are volunteering their time to enhance your experience in this course. Disrespect toward guest instructors, including but not limited to lack of participation, texting, checking email, surfing the web, or engaging in disruptive or distracting behavior, will not be tolerated; penalties will be applied to your overall course grade.

### Accessibility Resources

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.

All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office. See the ARS Website for contact information: <https://ars.unc.edu> or email [ars@unc.edu](mailto:ars@unc.edu).

### Public Health Community Standards

This fall semester, while we are in the midst of a pandemic, all enrolled students are required to wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times during class. This includes when we are in our classroom and when we are together in the field. You may remove your mask while conducting field work outdoors only if you are able to maintain at least 6' distance from your classmates and instructors while your mask is off. This requirement is to protect our entire

community and our loved ones as we learn together. If you choose not to wear a mask, or wear it improperly, I will ask you to leave immediately, and I will submit a report to the [Office of Student Conduct](#). At that point you will be disenrolled from this course for the protection of our educational community. Students who have an authorized accommodation from Accessibility Resources and Service have an exception.

For additional information, see <https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/community-standards/>

### **Grading Schedule**

A	93 – 100	H	95 - 100
A-	90 – 92.99	P	75 – 94.99
B+	87 – 89.99	L	65 – 74.99
B	83 – 86.99	F	< 65
B-	80 – 82.99		
C+	77 – 79.99		
C	73 – 76.99		
C-	70 – 72.99		
D+	65 – 69.99		
D	60 – 64.99		
F	< 60		