**TRANSPORT POLICY**

**Course Syllabus**
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
PLAN 738 Spring 2022
Tues/Thurs: 12:30-1:45pm
Location: Gardner Room 7

Instructor
Allie Thomas, Ph.D.
Office: 206 New East
Email: alainna@email.unc.edu
Office hours: by appointment

**Course Description**
This a core course in transportation planning and policy at UNC Chapel Hill. This course engages a number of topics within the policy realm. Transportation equity and its multiple definitions are discussed throughout the course. While many of the topics discussed may have been broached in other transportation planning courses, this course aims to take a deeper look at the policy debates surrounding these topics. Because we will focus on a diverse number of issues, the class will have guest speakers. **Prerequisite:** PLAN 636 or permission from the instructor.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>Op-Ed</th>
<th>20%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TDM Report + Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>GROUP ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>MPO Report + Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>Participation - Lead discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Weekly blurbs and bi-weekly reading reflections</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feedback on Report</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Objectives**
The overarching objective of this course is to expose students to contemporary transportation policy debates and methods. We will cover the following themes:

- Transportation History and Politics
- Accessibility & Equity
- Disruptive Mobilities and their externalities
- Transportation Methods and Analysis
- Transportation Governance, Finance, and Law
- Transportation and Climate Change

**Format & Course Logic**
*This course requires active student participation and is writing intensive.* This is a seminar style course with student-led discussions along with traditional style lectures. Because we meet once a week, the classes are information heavy and you are strongly encouraged to attend and come prepared with both your writing and readings completed.

*The assignments for this class are aimed to strengthen your communication skills.* Alumni have told us that communication is one of the weakest traits of recent graduates from the DCRP program. Therefore, assignments focus on and presentation skills. These assignments include both individual and group work, mimicking how planners work in the real world.
You will be given a style guide that will apply for all written assignments, except weekly responses. Read it closely and make sure your assignments follow this guide. I will return assignments ungraded if they deviate from this style guide. Why a style guide? In any professional setting, you will be required to write in a defined style and follow the guidelines of your organization.

Guest lecturers will provide real life experiences on how national/regional/local policies affect the way they work. Guest lecturers from the transportation field will include: Jamal Alavi, NC DOT; Clay Barnes, UNC alum, Senior Transportation Analyst at Cambridge Systematics, Inc.; Ian Carlton, Urban Development Advisor and Researcher, Project Director, ECONorthwest (Dates are still to be confirmed.)

Communication
I usually email within 24-48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 48 hours, please email me again. I am not ignoring you; I just get a lot of email. When I reply to the email, I may forget to include a greeting. I am not being condescending or angry, just replying as quickly as possible. To make communications more efficient:

- Please put PLAN 738 in the subject heading. Keep your email short and to the point.
- Please address me as Allie or Dr. Thomas, whichever you prefer.
- Please refrain from addressing me as Hi, Good Morning, etc., or Miss.
- I refrain from replying to emails asking for information found in the syllabus.
- If you want to meet with me, just email me to set up a meeting, using PLAN 738 Appointment Request in your subject heading. We can meet via Zoom.
- Please reply to my emails within 48 hours.

Required Course Materials
1. All materials are posted on Sakai under the corresponding lesson.
2. If you are new to transportation policy, a good textbook is The Geography of Urban Transportation (3rd or 4th Edition), available at the Undergrad Library Reserves (24 hour loan period).
3. NHTSA Style Guide. Oh, yes! This comes from the Department of Transportation.

Weekly Readings and Topics

All course readings should be completed before class. I use a variety of “reading” to discuss policy, including online articles, videos, podcasts, etc. We will also do in-class readings as well. All of these materials can be found on Sakai under the lesson or under the Resources folder.

**OVERVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION—HISTORY**

**January 18**


**January 20**


**TRANSPORTATION GOVERNANCE**

**January 25**


**January 27**


Reference: Techniques for Involving the Public (Report/Handout)

**January 29**
Equity in Evolving Transportation Financing (TRB Spec Rpt 303 Aug 2011)—Transport Finance Chapter


**February 1**

Findings and Recommendations of the APTA Peer Review Team on Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project GoTriangle, October 2019

**DISRUPTIVE MOBILITY & TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY**

**February 3**


Provides an overview of shared mobility, users, and challenges.

Optional: Regulation of TNCs nationwide and other modes

**February 8**


**February 10**


Podcast: Ride Hailing Services: Wheelchairs and Seniors Waiting at the Curb | OAS Episode 37 | July 12, 2018

Reed, Rachel (2017) "Disability Rights in the Age of Uber: Applying the Americans With Disabilities Act Of 1990 To Transportation Network Companies," Georgia State University Law Review: Vol. 33 : Iss. 2 , Article 7. (Read: Part 1; only up to p. 528)


**February 15**


The Future of Mobility
https://mobilitystudy.fjordnet.com


**Draft Op-Ed due**

**February 17**

https://comotionnews.com/2020/04/29/to-make-electric-scooters-safer-focus-on-the-street/


**TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT**

**February 22**


**Op-Ed returned with comments**

**February 24**

Parking
**March 1**

**TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT**


**Op-Ed Final Draft due**

**March 3**

*Congestion Pricing*

New York City


**March 8 and March 10**

Group Reports and Presentations due

**March 15 and March 17 –Spring Break**

**PROJECT EVALUATION**

**March 22**


**March 24**


**TRANSPORTATION METHODS AND ANALYSIS**

**March 29**


**March 31**


**April 5**

**April 7**

**April 12-21 Presentations**

**April 26 Last Day – Review course; TDM Paper due.**

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classes Begin for All Students</td>
<td>Mon. Jan 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day for Late Registration</td>
<td>Sun. Jan 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
<td>Mon. Jan. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Classes Held, Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Fri. Mar. 11-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classes resume</td>
<td>Mon. Mar. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>Fri. Apr. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>No Classes Held, Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>Wed. Apr. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Days</td>
<td>Th. Apr. 28;Wed. May 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Days</td>
<td>Apr. 29, 30, May 2, 3, 5, 6 (F,Sa,M,T,Th,F)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Commencement</td>
<td>Sun. May 8</td>
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**Other Academic Business**

**Late Assignments**
You can turn in ONE assignment up to 48 hours late, no questions asked. This can be used only for individual assignments.

**Tardiness/Absences**
Please come to class on time. If you are coming from across campus, just let me know. If you need to leave class early, please email me 24 hours ahead of class.

If you are sick or have been exposed or just need a mental health day, then take it. If you want me to beam you in via Zoom, that is a possibility.
Resources
My purpose is to help you to excel in this learning environment. Should you need further assistance beyond my help, please consult the following on-campus resources:

- **The Writing Center**: [http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/)
- **Academic Success Program** (for students with learning disabilities (LD) and/or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD): [http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/](http://www.unc.edu/depts/lds/)
- **Learning Center**: [http://www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/learn.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/learn.html)
- **Counseling and Wellness Services**: [http://campushealth.unc.edu](http://campushealth.unc.edu)

Honor code
The UNC honor Code states: “It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the honor code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity.”

We are committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at [http://honor.unc.edu/honor/code.html](http://honor.unc.edu/honor/code.html) If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask the professor about the Code’s application. All written work, and other projects must be submitted with a signature that you have complied with the requirements of the Honor Code in all aspects of the submitted work.

Laptops and cell phones
Please turn off your cellphones before entering class. If you must have your phone on during class because of an extraordinary circumstance, please let me know beforehand. Laptops are permissible only for classroom purposes. You must turn off all other programs including web browsers, emails, instant messaging, etc. If laptops are used for anything other than taking notes, I will ask you stop using your laptop during class time.

Disability
If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you may need to contact the Academic Services office that houses the Academic Success Program for coordination in your academic accommodations. Please contact me to discuss any accommodations that may be required to satisfy your needs. I have no problem making any necessary accommodations. Feel free to follow up with me because sometimes I do not receive the AS emails in a timely fashion. They are overworked and understaffed.