

GEOG 3466F: Transportation and the City

Course Outline

Location:	SSC 2322
Class time:	Thursdays, 4:30-6:30
Lab time:	Thursdays, 6:30-7:30

Instructor Information

Name and title:	Dr. Diana Mok
Contact information:	dmok3@uwo.ca Office: SSC 4426 extension 86368 Office hour: TBA
Course webpage:	geography.ssc.uwo.ca/faculty/mok (password protected)

Course Syllabus

Description

How do stakeholders behave in urban transportation systems? This course introduces students to the geography of urban transportation from a behavioral perspective. The course has three core components: developing theories, constructing analytical models, and conducting empirical tests of the concepts and theories. It includes case studies that cover various modes of transportation: air, railway, bus, ocean freight, and private vehicle.

Objectives

- To introduce students to the principal concepts and theories in the economics of transportation geography.
- To understand transportation behavior.
- To develop analytical and modeling skills for analyzing transportation behavior.
- To apply these concepts and skills in gathering evidence in transportation studies.

Prerequisite(s):

Geography 2210 (or any equivalent statistics course(s)) and
Economics 1021 (or any equivalent first-year economics course(s))

Antirequisite(s):

NA

Note: It is students' responsibility to ensure that all prerequisite conditions are met or that special permission to waive these requirements has been granted by the Faculty. Unless the student has either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Associate Dean's Office to enroll in it, he/she will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from the student's record. It is also the student's responsibility to ensure that he/she has not taken a course listed as an anti-requisite. The student may not be given credit if he/she violates the anti-

requisite condition. The decisions regarding either prerequisite or antirequisite may not be appealed. The student will receive no adjustment to tuition fees in the event that he/she is dropped from a course for failing to meet prerequisite and antirequisite conditions.

Approach

The course is run as a series of weekly lectures. The lectures also include student participation in case studies and class activities. Some class time is set aside for course administration.

Topics

The following list of topics will be considered during the term.

- Transportation planning and modeling
- Transport as a derived demand
- Price elasticity of demand
- Forecasting demand
- The supply of transport
- Road cost
- Railways cost
- Pricing policy
- Trip generation and distribution
- Modal split
- Policy and management

Course Materials

Most readings are posted on the course webpage. The course readings are drawn from two required textbooks:

McCarthy, P. 2001. *Transportation Economics: Theory and Practice*. Mass.: Blackwell.

Ortuzar, Juan de Dios. 2011. *Modelling Transport, Fourth Edition*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Readings are also drawn from recommended references:

Hanson, S. and Giuliano, G. (eds.) 2004. *The Geography of Urban Transportation, Third Edition*. New York: Guilford Press.

Cole, Stuart. 2005. *Applied Transportation Economics: Policy, Management and Decision Making, Third Edition*. London: Kogan Page.

Meyer, M.D. and Miller, E.J. 2001. *Urban Transportation Planning, Second Edition*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Supplementary readings are drawn from research articles in journals such as

- Annals of Regional Science
- Environment and Planning
- Journal of Advanced Transportation
- Journal of Economics Literature

- Journal of Regional Science
- Journal of Regional Science and Economics
- Journal of Transportation Economics
- Journal of Transportation Geography
- Journal of Transportation History
- Journal of Urban Economics
- Regional Studies
- Review of Regional Studies
- Transportation
- Transportation Quarterly
- Transportation Research A
- Transportation Research Record
- Urban Geography
- Urban Studies

Methods of Evaluation of Assignments

The course has three components: Class Participation, Midterm Test, Labs, and the Term Essay/Research Essay.

(a) Class Participation. Class participation is worth 10 percentage points towards the final course grade. There will be 5 small in-class activities, which are randomly distributed throughout the term. These activities are meant to ensure that students understand and remember the concepts discussed in lectures. Each small activity is worth 2 percentage points to give a total of 10 points towards the final course grade.

(b) Midterm Test (October 24, 2013). A two-hour, open-book midterm test will be held in-class. The test will cover material from assigned readings, lecture material, and lab material. The test is worth 20 percentage points towards the final course grade.

(c) Labs. There are 3 labs in total; each is worth 10 percentage points towards the final grade (see schedule for the specific due dates). The labs are intended to assist students getting started with the final course essay.

The labs are mini-research assignments, which will become the first few sections of the final essay. There is no lab manual provided; submission forms are provided on the course webpage.

(c) Term Essay/Research Essay. The term essay is worth 40 percentage points towards the final course grade. The term essay is a mini-research exercise built on the labs. The objective of this exercise is to provide a learning experience for students to conduct a thesis-like research and to write professional, academic research papers. A detailed document is provided to guide students through writing the paper. Students should pick a topic related to the course content and obtain approval from the course instructor. The topic should be within a manageable scope and contain an empirical component with a clear testable (quantitatively) hypothesis. Students are also expected to find the best available data to conduct this mini-research exercise.

Students are reminded that the report should be written in a professional manner. Please edit your work before you submit.

In sum, the breakdown of the course grade is given as follows:

Grading scheme	Grade	Date due
Class participation	10%	NA
Midterm test	20%	TBA
3 Labs	30%	See Schedule
Research Essay	40%	TBA

Students are responsible for any lectures and/or labs that they have missed. The material will not be re-taught.

Late assignments will be penalized at 10% per day late, including weekends. Assignments more than a week late will not be graded.

Projects and labs are to be submitted to Dr. Diana Mok directly or to her email address (dmok3@uwo.ca). If submitting by email, use ASCII (plain text), RTF (rich text format), MS Word, or PDF (portable document format); no other format will be accepted.

Requests to have an assignment re-read, re-checked, or re-graded must normally be made no later than two business days following return of the assignment, and must include a brief written explanation. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the grade both upward and downward, where appropriate.

Additional Statements

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Statement on Academic Offences

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC)
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>
Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>
[www.uwo.ca] for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.