

TTP 220 Transportation Planning and Policy
Spring 2010

Lectures: MW 10:00-11:50
Robbins 146

Details: 4 units, letter grade
CRN 83218

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Description

Pick up the paper or watch the local news and you're likely to find a story about transportation problems in California's metropolitan regions, most notably the growth in traffic that has outpaced even the growth in population and the multitude of problems that come with it – economic inefficiencies, poor air quality, other environmental impacts, social inequities, safety concerns. Although most people agree on the problems, few agree on the solutions. Proposals include investing in light rail systems, expanding the freeway system, implementing pricing strategies, promoting transit-oriented development. But which of these options or others is likely to be most effective? How do regions go about deciding what set of strategies to pursue? How do these decisions and the process by which they are made fit within the current and historical context of federal transportation policy? These are the issues we'll explore in this introduction to transportation planning and policy at the regional level.

The objective of the course is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the transportation planning process at the regional level as it is shaped by federal policy. The course is divided into three sections: context, process, and strategies. In the first section, we will examine the history of urban transportation, the institutions involved in transportation planning, and federal transportation policy as it relates to planning at the regional level. In the second section, we will review the planning process as carried out by Metropolitan Planning Organizations, including long-range transportation plans, transportation improvement programs, air quality conformity, project development, travel demand modeling, financing, and public involvement. In the final section, we will examine the evidence on a variety of demand-side strategies for addressing regional transportation problems, including pricing, transit services, bicycle and pedestrian programs, and land use policies.

Requirements

Students will write three 7-page double-spaced papers, one for each section of the course:

1. History: An exploration of a topic of the student's choosing relating to the history of transportation systems and/or policy. A one-page memo describing the proposed topic is due on April 7. The paper is due on April 19.
2. MPO analysis: An analysis and comparison of the activities of two MPOs of the student's choosing with respect to accessibility orientation, bicycle/pedestrian orientation, or another issue of the student's choosing. A one-page memo describing the chosen MPO and analysis issue is due on April 28. Students will give a two-minute overview of their findings on May 12. The paper is due on May 12.
3. Strategy: An evaluation of the potential of a particular strategy from the categories of pricing, transit services, bicycle/pedestrian programs, and land use policies. Topics will be selected in class on May 10. Students will give a 20 minute presentation on their chosen strategies in class during the last three weeks of the quarter. The paper is due on June 7.

Each paper, including memos or presentations, will be worth 30% of the final grade. More detailed descriptions of the paper assignments will be distributed in class. Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. Preparation and participation in class will count for 10% of the final grade.

Readings

I have not ordered a textbook for the course. All readings will be posted on the course website and/or in SmartSite. The readings are organized by the date they will be discussed in class. The website for the course is: http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/TTP220/TTP220_page.htm

If you're interested in acquiring a reference book for the material covered in this course, I recommend Susan Hanson and Genevieve Giuliano's *The Geography of Urban Transportation*, Third Edition.

Expectations

I expect you to attend class, complete assigned readings, participate in discussions, and submit original papers that reflect your own original work. Plagiarism, the intentional or inadvertent use of someone else's work without appropriate credit, will not be tolerated! Cutting and pasting material from the web and claiming it as one's own is a serious offense that merits disciplinary action. Lots of useful websites are available to help you determine when citations are appropriate and to avoid accidental plagiarism (e.g., <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>). I encourage you to discuss your work with your classmates in and outside of class, but the work you submit must be your own.

Learning is ultimately your responsibility, but I have an obligation to facilitate that learning by providing a coherent guide to the course material and assigning activities that give you an effective opportunity to

apply that material. You can expect me to provide clear direction and timely feedback on assignments and to provide adequate response to questions and concerns. You can expect me to be fully prepared for class sessions and available during office hours.

Students who require special accommodations because of disabilities should visit the Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.ucdavis.edu/>) at the beginning of the quarter. I will not be able to provide for special accommodation unless the student has first gone through the process required by the DRC. Students who will be missing class or cannot meet assignment deadlines for religious or medical reasons or for essential family business should let me know as far ahead as possible and must provide written documentation if I request it.

Schedule

The attached schedule is subject to change. An up-to-date version of the schedule is posted on the course website: http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/TTP220/TTP220_page.htm

TTP220 Schedule - Subject to Change

	Date	Day	Topics	Due Dates
CONTEXT	3/29	Mon	Overview: definitions, concepts, issues	
	3/31	Wed	History: transit, cars	
	4/5	Mon	History: federal policy	
	4/7	Wed	Institutions: players, agencies, responsibilities	Memo on topic
	4/12	Mon	Federal Policy: \$\$, requirements, debates	
	4/14	Wed	Movie: Divided Highways	
	4/19	Mon	State Policy: AB32 and SB375	Paper 1
PROCESS	4/21	Wed	Regional Planning: concept, process	
	4/26	Mon	Forecasting: role, limitations, innovations	
	4/28	Wed	Conformity: AQ, GHG, TCMs	Memo on MPO
	5/3	Mon	Programming: prioritizing, financing	
	5/5	Wed	Project Development: NEPA, design	
	5/10	Mon	Local Government: roles, responsibilities	Topics selected
	5/12	Wed	MPO Critique: structural, internal	Paper 2
STRATEGIES	5/17	Mon	Strategies Overview: changing behavior	
	5/19	Wed	Pricing Strategies	Presentations
	5/24	Mon	Transit Strategies	Presentations
	5/16	Wed	Bike-Ped Strategies	Presentations
	5/31	Mon	<i>Holiday</i>	
	6/2	Wed	Land-Use Strategies	Presentations
	6/7	Mon	<i>class will meet 8 to 10 if needed</i>	Paper 3