

# **GEOGRAPHY 491 - A01 (11743)**

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA FALL TERM 2025 RAY STRAATSMA

# COURSE OUTLINE Urban Mobility – Transport & Cities

Lecture: Thursdays, 9:00-11:50am, Clearibue Building, Room A118

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30pm-1:30pm (open); Thursday 1-2pm (by appointment)

Office Location: David Turpin Building. (DTB B204)

Contact: rays@uvic.ca

We acknowledge and respect the ləkwəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Urban Mobility: Transport and Cities (Geog 491)** provides a unique applied learning experience for students to explore and creatively engage with a range of urban transportation issues in Canada and in the Victoria area specifically. Public transit, active transportation, road safety, bicycle planning and design and related urban design concepts will be addressed in the context of planning, policy and geography of Victoria & the Capital Region, with comparative looks at cities around the world. The course will feature several guest presentations from local area city planners, professionals and community leaders. Special presentations and discussion groups as well as **walk and bicycle tours** will also take place during class or designated times.

**KEY THEMES:** Cities in the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> century; urban transportation & development; urban and human geography; transit planning and design; active transportation; walkable cities, bicycle planning and urban design.

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)** – *Selected chapters from:* avail. thru UVic Library Jeff Speck – *Walkable Cities* (revised Anniversary Edition – 2022)

Jeff Speck – Walkable City Rules: 101 Steps to Making Better Places (2018)

John Lorinc – *Dream States: Smart Cities ...* (2023)

BRIGHTSPACE: https://bright.uvic.ca/d21/home/422952

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course successful students will be able to clearly articulate and explain:

1. The critical role of cities and their transportation networks in human history and civilization, and the more recent evolution of urban transport in the 20<sup>th</sup> century city

- 2. Multiple perspectives on urban planning, multi-modal transportation and active transportation in the context of urban and built environments and the benefits and challenges of retrofitting transportation systems
- 3. The challenges, of developing and implementing city planning initiatives and the barriers, politics, and strategies involved
- 4. Rationale for & assessment/analysis of recent or ongoing active transportation investments in City of Victoria, District of Saanich, UVic and other jurisdictions
- 5. The extent to which active transport and related mobility investments support broader urban and regional sustainability efforts, e.g climate change, road safety, quality of life
- 6. The importance of qualitative and quantitative data and methods, including critical field or on-site observations to support and assess urban planning initiatives.

# **EVALUATION**

- 1. Student Participation & two Reading Quizzes (20%)
- 2. Assignment #1 Research Paper /OR/ Urban Field Diary (30%)
- 3. Assignment #2 Street or Site Analysis and Design /OR/ Data Research project (30%)
- 4. Assignment #3 In-Class Presentation group or individual (20%)

# **GRADING SYSTEM**

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding</b> and <b>excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

#### **GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO**

- Geography Department website: <a href="https://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/">uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/</a>
- Geography Department Chair: <a href="mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca">geogchair@uvic.ca</a>
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: <a href="mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca">geogadvising@uvic.ca</a>

#### **POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

A deduction of 5% for late submission of two days. 15% for 7 days or more. Please contact me with any assignment issues or timing.

# **POLICY ON ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is expected at all classes. Please advise in advance if you cannot make a class.

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating**, **plagiarism**, **unauthorized use of an editor**, **multiple submission**, and **aiding others to cheat**.

**Policy on Academic Integrity**: web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see <a href="https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php">uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php</a>.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible (uvic.ca/services/cal/). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

# **POSITIVITY AND SAFETY**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

### SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting <a href="uvic.ca/svp">uvic.ca/svp</a>. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca Web: uvic.ca/svp

# **COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed online and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

WEEKLY CALENDAR - Classes every Thursday 9am - 11:50

WEEK	DATE	
1	September 04	First class – Introductions; Course Outline; Readings; Why Cities? Why Urban Transport?
2	Sept 11	Cities and Transportation (plus campus tour w/ Alannah Rodgers, UVIC Campus Planning)
3	Sept 18	<u>Downtown Bicycle tours</u> – details to be shared [Sept 16Last day for 100% reduction of fees for dropped courses]
4	Sept 25	<u>Downtown Walk tour</u> (details in course sked & shared in class) [Sept 19 last day for adding courses.]
5	October 02	Walk tour #2 (details in course sked & shared)
6	Oct 09	Century of the Car; Course Project #1 DUE – Oct 08) Oct. 09 last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees [Reading Quiz #1]
7	Oct 16	The Bicycle Boom; Case Studies; Design Principles
8	Oct 23	Road Safety and Design; Vision Zero;
9	Oct 30	Land Use and Urban Transport; Guest: Emilly Sinclair (MOTI)  [Thur. Oct 31 last day for withdrawing without penalty of failure]
10	November 06	Public Transit – Challenges & Opportunities > [Reading Quiz #2]
11	Nov 13	Urban Transport, Politics & Governance (TBA Guest Speaker ?) Course Project #2 DUE (Nov. 12)
12	Nov 20	Transport Futures; Assignment Prep Time
13	Nov 27	Final Class – Student Presentations

# **DISCLAIMER**

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES & SERVICES:**

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning - The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <a href="uvic.ca/services/cal/">uvic.ca/services/cal/</a>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Elders' Voices - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. <a href="www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php">www.uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php</a>