

Winter 2015
R 18:30-21:20
CLE A303

Geog 391

Transportation Geographies

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Office: DTB B208

Office hours: R 5-6 pm
Saturdays: 10:30-noon

Policies:

1. Late policy – 10% penalty per day late for 3 days (for assignment).
2. Plagiarism – zero tolerance (see UVic's [academic integrity policy](#))
3. Accessibility – please meet with instructor and the [Resource Centre for Students with a Disability](#) early if you may need accommodation
4. Do your part to ensure an engaging classroom. Be punctual, respectful, compassionate and attentive.

Course Overview

Transportation is more than just getting from point A to point B in the shortest amount of time. Our choices around modes of transportation have a tremendous impact on the form of cities and regions, and how we move around mediates our experience of place. The course focuses on Victoria and the Capital Regional District as a living laboratory. We begin with an historic overview of Victoria's early streetcar lines and consider the impact of these transportation choices on the morphology of the city. We then move on to consider the impact of different modes of transportation as ways of both organizing space, and understanding it. A recurring theme in this exploration is the intersection of land use and transportation systems. We will critically interrogate our own experience of place as a result of the shaping influence of different modes of transportation. A series of professionals engaged with different aspects of transportation planning will round out our understanding of the different forces that are continuing to shape our image of the city.

The key themes of the course are:

- The organization of space and place
- Mobility and access to the city
- The binary of transportation and land-use
- Transportation planning

Assessment

1. **Reflective Reading Assignments** (30%) January 28, February 18 and March 10
2. **Transect Assignment** (30%) – A field report on the transportation geographies of a transect (details will be provided in class). Due February 25.
3. **Pecha Kucha** (25%) – In class presentation on a local transportation issue. Due either March 17, 24 or 31. Sign up sheets will be circulated in class. Detailed instructions will also be provided in class.
4. **Participation** (15%) – consists of quality of contribution to class room and / or online forum discussion, field trip attendance.

Note on marks: A-level marks (80%+) reflect exceptional (beyond expectations), outstanding, or at least highly competent efforts. B+/B level marks (73-79%) reflect good or at least acceptable efforts (usually above the class average). B-/C+ level marks (65-72%) represent average efforts, showing some understanding but deficient in some way. C/D level marks (50-64%) represent passable but largely insufficient efforts, while F marks (<50%) represent failing the course.

Course readings

There is no text book for this course. Instead mandatory readings will be posted on the Course Spaces site. Reading - and engaging with the readings (highlighting, underlining, taking good notes etc.) – is essential for your enjoyment of and success in this course. On average 3-4 readings will be required a week. These will draw from a wide variety of sources, some academic and others from the media, literature, and popular non-fiction. Doing the readings will support your participation in class discussions and debate.

Notes on learning expectations

If you ever plan to
motor west
Travel my way, that's
the highway that's the
best
Get your kicks on
Route 66

Now, it winds from
Chicago to L.A.
More than 2,000 miles
all the way
Get your kicks on
Route 66.

- 'Route 66'
Composed by
Bobby Troup,
1946

1. Think deeply about why you are here and what you want to get out of your experience at UVic in the short time you'll be here. Use this time wisely to develop marketable skills and good habits - e.g. effective written and oral communication, critical thinking*, problem solving, empathic listening, organization, perseverance, and initiative.
2. I consider such skill development and good habit formation as being at least as important as content mastery in this course. While I want you to learn important things about transportation geography, I also want you to develop particular skills and habits. Keep in mind employers are just as concerned with your skills and habits as your marks.
3. Effective learning involves recognizing how the course material is directly relevant to your life – in this case how your own experience of place has been shaped by transportation.
4. *Note: critical thinking is often misrepresented as cynical, pessimistic, or “being against things”. In this class it should rather be understood in terms of healthy skepticism with received wisdom recognizing the things could /should be otherwise; ceaseless, piercing questioning of status quo “common sense”; trying to make important linkages and connections; recognizing and evaluating multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying each (including our own); evaluating evidence and arguments (while recognizing power relations in knowledge claims), arriving at defensible positions on issues and working towards a more respectful, inclusive, just, and fair country (and world). It is also about beginning to understand and assess how you know what you know and perhaps to come to new or different conclusions based on this in depth questioning and self reflection.

Tentative Schedule of Classes

Week 1	January 7	Introduction to Transportation Geography
Week 2	January 14	Historic Geographies--Street Car Suburbs of Victoria Guest Lecture—Dr. Larry McCann
Week 3	January 21	Mobility and Representations of Space
Week 4	January 28 *Reflective Response #1 Due	Planes, Trains and Automobiles *Transect assignment discussion
Week 5	February 4	Field Trip—Meet at Uptown Mall Exploring a Transect
Week 6	February 11	Reading week—No class!
Week 7	February 18 *Reflective Response #2 Due	Transit Planning Workshop Guests: Matt Boyd, MCIP and Tania Wegwitz from BC Transit
Week 8	February 25 *Transect Assignment Due	Pedestrian Geographies Land Use and Transportation
Week 9	March 3	Biketoria: Guest Lecture Kate Berniaz
Week 10	March 10 Reflective Response #3 Due	Highways and Byways Sustainable Transportation

Week 11	March 17	Pecha Kucha Part 1 Equity and Power
Week 12	March 24	Transportation and Economic Development Guest: Thomas Madden, AICP Commissioner of Economic Development for Stamford, CT Pecha Kucha Part 2
Week 13	March 31	Pecha Kucha Part 3 and Wrap up Lecture

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

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, 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 via MyPage 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.