



Spring 2016

Wednes 9:00-11:45

Location:

City Studio

742 Johnson St

Geog 491

#biketoria +

Course outline subject to change. See CourseSpaces site for updates.

Course Overview

Geog 491 #biketoria+ provides a unique applied learning experience for UVic students to explore and creatively engage with a range of urban transportation issues in the Victoria. The primary focus will be on bicycle and active transportation planning in the City of Victoria and other area municipalities – with additional material on planning and policy contexts in the Capital Region and across Canada.

The course will be led by local transportation consultant and advocate Ray Straatsma, and will feature numerous guest presentations from local area city planners, professionals and community leaders. Class presentations, discussions and assignments will present opportunities to research and evaluate bicycle projects, active transport plans and related urban issues in Victoria and other CRD municipalities (e.g. #biketoria plan, Shelbourne St corridor).

Ray Straatsma

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Policies:

1. A penalty of 10% per day will be applied to late assignments.
2. Contact lead instructor and / or your group as early as possible if you will be absent (with legitimate documented excuse) for the corridor scan or poster presentation.
3. Plagiarism – zero tolerance (see UVic's [academic integrity policy](#))
4. Accessibility – please meet with instructor and the [Resource Centre for Students with a Disability](#) early if you may need accommodation
5. Do your part to ensure an engaging class.. Be punctual, respectful, collegial and attentive.

Assessment

As a student in this course, you will be assessed on the following:

1. **Participation** (20%) –Active and positive contribution to class environment
2. **Policy/Planning Project** (30%) – Working in a small group you will undertake a specific project serving a research, outreach, or other need of the City of Victoria or partner involved in local transport planning initiative (e.g #biketoria). In terms of deliverables, this project could take many forms (written report; research analysis; essay with photos; survey design).
3. **Site /Corridor Scan & Assessment** (30%) – Working in small groups you will undertake a scan of a physical site (cycling lane, intersection, public space) and submit a succinct report detailing planning /design issues for consideration (due Feb 4th)
4. **Poster / Slide Presentation** (20%) - Each group will design a poster or PPT that effectively communicates their term project – importance, objectives, outcomes. The posters will be presented to City officials, UVic colleagues and the public at an event at the Legacy Art Gallery (during the first week of April).

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 are no required texts for this course. However, select mandatory readings will be provided to complement in-class work. These readings will be posted on the Course Spaces site. These select readings are considered essential for the full enjoyment and success in this course. We recommend active engagement with the readings (highlighting, underlining, taking good notes etc.). Some discussion of readings will take place in class.

Course learning objectives

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

1. the regional and international context within which a renewed interest in urban cycling and infrastructure investment is taking place
2. multiple perspectives on urban planning, city cycling and the benefits of investments in active transportation
3. the complexities of developing and implementing a city planning initiatives and the challenges, barriers, politics, and strategies involved
4. the rationale and details of the City of Victoria's #biketoria initiative and be able to critically assess the planning process
5. the extent to which #biketoria (and other active transport) initiative(s) support broader urban and regional sustainability efforts
6. the importance of qualitative and quantitative data (and methods) to support urban planning initiatives

Students will also have the opportunity to develop specific skills and habits including: effective reading, listening, and notetaking; learning from a wide range of sources and perspectives; written, oral, and visual communication skills; learning to take initiative and ownership of your learning; group work and respectful dialogue skills; critical thinking* and problem solving.

Keep in mind employers are just as concerned with your skills and habits as your marks.

**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; piercing questioning; making important linkages and connections; recognizing and evaluating multiple perspectives and the values and assumptions underlying each (including one's own); evaluating evidence and arguments (while recognizing power relations in knowledge claims); offering alternative solutions and approaches; arriving at defensible positions on issues and working towards a more respectful, inclusive, just, and sustainable world.*

Note on Course Experience Survey

We 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.

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

UVic Geography

#BIKETORIA+ 491 (Topics in Urban Transportation)

Spring 2017- City Studio 742 Johnson St. (downtown Victoria)

DRAFT Schedule #4 [Jan 4 – Feb 15]

Jan 4	9:00- 9:20 Introduction: Ray S / Greetings w Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps (Welcome to City Studio!) 9:30 -10:15 Icebreaker and introductions / course overview 10:30 -11:00 Ray Straatsma “ <i>Two Wheels Good: Dimensions of City Cycling</i> ” 11:10 - 11:45 Todd Litman : “ <i>Urban Transportation Trends in North America</i> ”
Jan 11	9:00- 9:10 - Check in 9:15-10:00 Kay Teschke (UBC/Cycling in Cities Research) “ <i>Bicycle infrastructure in Can. Cities</i> ” 10:10-10:50 Sarah Webb (City of Victoria) “ <i>#biketoria in Context: Urban Transport in Victoria.</i> ” 11:00–11:45 “Making Group Work Effective” Workshop / Assignment Options
Jan 18	9:00- 9:15 - Check in 9:20- 10:00 John Hicks or Kate Bernaiz (CRD) “ <i>Regional Transport Planning</i> ” 10:10-10:50 Johan Feddema (UVic) “ <i>Climate Change & Active Transportation</i> ” 11:00 -11:45 – Group work and Assignment Options (course project #1)
Jan 25	9:00- 9:15 - Check in 9:20-10:30 Neil Arason “ <i>Vision Zero and Road Safety in Canada</i> ” 10:30-11:15 Matt Boyd & Tania Wegwitz (Watt Consulting Group) <i>The Importance of multi-mobility in the creation of Complete Streets</i> 11:20- 11:45 Project reviews and course/group work. (course project #1)
Feb 1	Course Project #1 due 9:00- 9:15 - Check in 9:20-10:00 Tim Hewitt (& ?) <i>Biketoria corridor design concepts</i> 10:05 - 10: 40 Joaquin Karakas (City of Victoria) – <i>Public Realm Planning: #VisualYYJ</i> 10:50 - 11:45 Group walkabouts / site visits work to plan course project #2 (instructors / city staff circulate)
Feb 8	9:00- 9:15 – Check in 9:20 -9:45 Troy McKay (District of Saanich) “ <i>Towards an Active Transportation Plan</i> ” 9:55-10:50 Matt Boyd (BC Transit) and Tania Wegwitz (Watt Consulting Group). <i>#Movetoria: An interactive workshop introducing students to the opportunities and challenges of designing an active transportation network.</i> 11:00 - 11:45 Group walkabouts to document/analyse chosen site or corridor (course project #2)
Feb 15	Reading Week – NO CLASS

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DRAFT Schedule #4 [Feb 22 to March 29]

Feb 22	9:00-9:15 – Check in 9:20-10:30 Karen Laberee (UVic – Bikemaps.org) – <i>Maps and Metrics</i> 10:45-11:45 Meghan Winters - Assistant Prof., Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU “ <i>Current Research on Active Transportation and Health in Canada</i> ”
March 1	9:00-9:15 - Check in 9:20-10:00 Lorne Daniel - <i>Placemaking: People-centred cities and spaces</i> 10:00-11:15 Troy McKay & Cameron Scott (Saanich) <i>Shelbourne Corridor Plan</i> Group walkabouts to review/scan chosen site or corridor (course project #2)
Mar 08	9:00-9:15 Check in 9:20-9:45 Steve Hutchison & Nick Armstrong (City of Victoria) “ <i>Working with transportation data</i> ” 9:55–10:30 ?? Brian Patterson ?? (Urban Systems): “ <i>Lessons in Active Transport Planning/Consulting</i> ” 10:30-11:45 – Group work to plan course project #2 (instructors / city staff circulate)
Mar 16	9:00-9:15 Check in 10:05 –10:40 Corey Burger/Ed Pullman (GVCC) “ <i>Advocacy Lessons in Active Transportation</i> ” 10:45 -11:15 Ray Straatsma – “ <i>Urban Planning and Communication</i> ” 10:30-11:45 – Group work to plan course project #2
Mar 22	9:00- 9:15 - Check in 9:20 -10:30 Jayne Bradbury (Fort Properties) and//or Shane Devereaux (Habit Coffee) “ <i>City Cycling – A Business Perspective</i> ” 10:35 - 11:45 Class time to finalize group or individual projects
Mar 29	9:00- 9:15 - Check in Final Class – Presentations
1st week April	Special Evening Social / Public Presentations