

Lakehead University

2017-2018

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Office Hours: 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Wednesday

or by appointment

Course Outline

GEOG 3911: Special Topic in Geography- Transportation Geography

TTh 10:00 am-11:30 am
Room OA 2006

Course Objectives and scope

This human geography course is a study of transportation structures, systems and tools. In the study of transport systems for examining issues of mobility, conceptual and methodological approaches will be discussed. Assessment of transport utilities and facilities on the environment, society, economy and human spaces will be examined relative to societal trends and impacts for achieving sustainable transport systems. The course introduces the concepts and methods of contemporary transportation geography based on current research on the real world geography of transportation systems.

Required Text:

Rodrigue, Jean-Paul with Comtois, Claude and Slack, Brian. (2013). *The Geography of Transport Systems, 4th Edition*. London and New York: Routledge

E-Resource: <http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans>

Recommended Text:

Black, William. 2003. *Transportation: A Geographical Analysis*. New York: The Guilford Press.

Evaluation:

Assessment of student performance will be as follows:

- Class Participation- 20% (Attendance and 2 Take Home Class Exercises)
- Mid-term Exam- 30%
- Final Exam- 30%
- Term Paper – 20% (Due April 9, 2018)

Guidelines on the term paper: 'My Transport World in 2030' will be distributed within the first day of class. This is a visioning exercise where students will draw from

(a) the OECD's optimistic vision for the transport world in 2035, (b) the chapters from the text and (c) other relevant research and web-resources for framing their own futuristic view of the structure and dynamics of transportation geography in Canada. The **midterm exam** for lectures will be written in class on **Thursday, February 15, 2018**. The final exam date will be announced by the Office of the Registrar in due course. The final exam will be based on lectures and not cumulative.

Schedule of Lectures/Readings:

Topic/Important Date/Reminder		
Week 1	Introduction and Fundamentals Course Orientation Term Paper: 'My Transport World in 2035' What is Transportation Geography? History and Current Transportation Systems and Trends <i>Read: Chapter 1, Rodrigue et al., 2013</i>	First Day of Class Course outlines and guidelines on Term Paper
	Transportation and the Spatial Structure <i>Read: Chapter 2, Rodrigue et al., 2013</i>	
Week 2	Transportation Modes <i>Read: Chapter 3, Rodrigue et al., 2013</i>	
Week 3-4	Transportation Terminals <i>Read: Chapter 4, Rodrigue et al., 2013</i>	
Week 5	International Trade and Freight Distribution <i>Read: Chapters 5, Rodrigue et al., 2013</i>	
Week 6	Urban Transportation Transportation, Land Use and Urban Form Mobility, Transport Problems <i>Read Chapter 6, Rodrigue et al.</i>	
	<i>Mid-Term, in class OA 2006, Thursday, February 15, 2018</i>	
Week 7	Transportation and the Economy <i>Read: Chapter 7, Rodrigue et al., 2013</i>	
Week 8	Transportation, Energy and Environment Transport and Environment, Societal Trends and Impact on Transport Transport and Sustainability	

Transport and Environmental Management
Read: Chapters 8, Rodrigue et al., 2013

Week 9 **Transportation Planning and Policy**
Transport and Planning
Transport Safety and Security
Transportation and Disasters
Read: Chapter 9, Rodrigue et al., 2013

Week 10-12 **Methods in Transportation Geography**
Methods and the Policy Process
Read: Chapter 10, Rodrigue et al., 2013

Week 13 **Research Week for Term Paper**

Reminder: **Deadline for Term Paper: 'My Transport World in 2035'**
April 9, 2018 Final day of Winter Term classes
Submit your printed papers at OA 3025 on due date.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly and participate in class discussions and learning activities.
2. All students are advised to familiarize themselves with the policies on academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating.
3. Students are strongly encouraged to contact the Instructor during office hours, by e-mail or by telephone, and/or by appointment, if they have questions and problems with the course requirements, lectures and student evaluation.

GEOG 3911: TRANSPORTATION GEOGRAPHY
Winter 2018, Lakehead University-Orillia

Tips to Writing your Critique and Visioning Exercise

This paper offers some easy-to-follow steps to help you organize, write and submit your term paper for GEOG 3911 referred here as '**My Own Vision of Transport World in 2035.**'

1. First, you must know what the **task is all about**. The term paper is both a critical review and a visioning exercise. It is a critical review because students are expected to read a minimum of three journal articles including web-based materials and other sources to be used for literature review. The literature review means that you will scan, collect and select materials that will provide adequate background and foundation on the topic or subject of your paper. In this assignment, you should be able to evaluate what you read based on certain criteria or guideposts. Here you should apply 'critical thinking' which means you have an open and analytical mind plus a working knowledge or background of the subject under study. The literature review will help you gain a working knowledge of the subject you have chosen for the term paper in addition to the lectures and course materials. If you are interested in a particular topic or subject but have little knowledge of (where and how to find information, search the library, access the e-journals from the library and the web/internet. You have to analyze and evaluate the information and make sense of what you are reading. Set the context and/or basis for your assessment (criteria). An example of a context is if you use the concept of sustainable transportation or sustainable mobility from the experience of the developed world.
2. Before you can do a visioning exercise, you need to read, synthesize and relate the key points raised by the authors as they relate to the selected topic or subject of your paper. For example, if you believe that the future transportation wave will be electric 'mini-aircars', then read about it if the likely leading-edge technology in place by 2035 by searching for transportation journals or geography journals or even engineering journals and major science journals such as AMBIO or 'Nature', the Economist, Harvard Business Review etc to browse, select materials that support your vision to develop your vision. On the web, you may surf the sites of OECD, HOFSTRA University, or the global motor manufacturers from GM to Chrysler and others. Or, if your topic is on the proliferation of hybrid vehicles that function somewhat like cars driven by James Bond; or, you may envision a rise of hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles or electric vehicles but that you make the argument that it will offer a sustainable picture of transport by 2035 in the developing world such as China? Another example of a topic may be a significant reduction in air travel and significant increase in telecommunications, given the wider use of teleconferencing and video conferencing today. What else is new 19 years later? Journal articles offer more recent and focused reviews and analysis of specific topics and fields. If you have not formed your own vision, an alternative is to collect the views and visions of inventors, transport scholars and engineers etc of what is going to be the 'it' transport technology or service of the future. There are thousands of journals

available on-line and in hard copies that you may consult to give you an idea of what our transport world could be! All you need is to read three journal articles including one web-based material for review!

3. After doing a critical review of selected and published literature, you are ready to speculate, build your own scenario which could either be an optimistic or pessimistic view of the future transport world by 2035. As a vision, you are free to make your own assumption and speculations to describe your own idea or picture based on your understanding of flows between places, transport utilities and facilities and networks. Build your ideas based on the literature/critical review. Or if you cannot decide, on your own scenario for the future transportation, perhaps you can identify the possible impacts and implications of hybrid motor and/or electric cars; broader and integrated public transport systems and projects concerning travel demand. But to do this, you need to do some research or background reading to increase your knowledge base concerning your critique paper for you to have a robust, well-written review paper. The text by Rodrigue et al.,2013 should be useful as a resource.
4. In doing research, you are trying to get info and background so you can begin to draft, redraft and write your paper because you have done your homework! That is, you have collected and read enough literature to understand what is out there on the subject/topic. READ, SURF (the internet), READ from the library, SURF, READ! But be sure to use scholarly journals and materials including electronically published papers.
5. In producing your paper as a critical review and visioning exercise, an outline is provided below to give you an idea of the expected items to be included in your paper. Don't just describe or put together information without thorough analysis. If you think the instructions and guidelines are vague and you have no clue of what you are expected to do, tell your Professor that you do not understand, what it is that you need to do!
6. One way to figure out exactly what the assignment is all about is to look at the recommended structure below. **Write your paper and then submit it on Monday, April 9, 2018.**
7. Outline and write your term paper in no more than 5 pages, single-spaced in 12 font text. First, provide a summary of articles or materials reviewed for the paper. Then briefly summarize what all the authors said about the topic or subject you are writing about by stating the pertinence, relevance and usefulness of the material to your visioning exercise as it relates to the future of transportation using as reference the OECD view. After reviewing the three sets of materials, is there anything new in terms of knowledge not covered or mentioned in the OECD vision for 2030 (OECD,1997) for the developed countries and the rest of the world? Give a summary of what the authors asserted, proposed or advocated or even envisioned at the time of their writing. What is the main thesis, argument, contribution to knowledge about the subject? Before making your own visioning exercise, state

what conclusion was drawn by each of the author(s)? Then quickly make your own analysis and assessment. Would you recommend it to class for digging further? Is there something new that we did not know before?

8. These guidelines should give you an idea of what to write and complete this task in a painless, yet enjoyable way. If you need citation tips, tell the Instructor so it can be sent by e-mail.
9. Now for the visioning exercise, you may follow the format/scope of the article called 'My Own Vision of the Transport World in 2035' by William Black (2003, pp. 336-342) placed on reserve at the library.¹ Using this and the OECD's optimistic vision for the transport world, write your own futuristic vision of transportation geography by focusing on one aspect, topic or item. As mentioned above, you may limit your topic to the phenomenon on the use of hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles (hydrogen, gasoline or natural gas) or making 'smart vehicles' available in OECD countries and other countries (if not the rest of the world) built with high-tech crash avoidance systems and high-tech communication systems. As Black (2003, p. 337) pointed out, ideas similar to the 'neighbourhood electric vehicles' that are rechargeable at park-and-ride stations, or more remotely controlled vehicles (that run like 'Kitt' in a TV movie series) could be the way for the future transport? Try to write your view of the transport world that addresses the complex question of transport sustainability while promoting mobility in cities and elsewhere- but one that looks to the future for solutions that are environmentally sound and safe.

¹ A copy of the paper will be reproduced as hand out before or during the first week of class.

