



**Meets:** Wed 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.  
Carnegie 105

**Instructor:** Laura Smith  
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**Office hours:** M 1:30–2:30 p.m.  
 T, W 1:15–2:15 p.m.  
 Th 1:30–2:30 p.m.  
 or by appointment



## COURSE CONTENT AND GOALS

Transportation Geography is a research seminar in which students conduct individual inquiries into issues of transportation geography, from the effects of transportation on urban form and land use to the environmental and human dimensions of transport. Students also lead comprehensive discussions on current transportation research themes.

The majority of the semester will be given to exploration and *discussion* of current transportation research and issues, and different approaches to a range of transportation problems. Through our readings, discussions, guest speakers, and field experiences, you will be introduced to a variety of research areas and applications, data sources, and both quantitative and qualitative research methods. We will take advantage of our location within the Twin Cities metropolitan area to host alumni who are currently working in transportation to gain exposure to a professional view of the field.

At the end of the semester, you will *present* the findings of your research project in a comprehensive written paper and a conference-style presentation. You will have the opportunity to make this presentation at a regional undergraduate conference to be held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison at the end of April.

As a geography capstone course, the primary learning objectives for this course are to advance your ability to analyze and critically evaluate ideas and arguments, to independently formulate and answer an original research question, and to express yourself orally and in writing.



## EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

### Reading materials

Required readings and articles for discussion will be placed on our Moodle site. Selected transportation geography texts are available on library reserve.

The course syllabus, final project directions, discussion schedule, and other information and resources can also be found on our Moodle site.

### Grading

As a seminar, class attendance and participation is required and forms a significant component of your grade in the course. You are expected to have done all assigned reading before coming to class and be prepared to discuss it. A productive discussion is one in which students listen and learn from one another, that focuses on understanding an issue and making connections (to other readings, to “real-life” events, etc.), and that advances our collective knowledge of a topic.

Each of you will be expected to facilitate discussion during one class period; there will be two facilitators per topic. You and your partner will choose the discussion topic and select readings with my approval; this allows us to tailor the content of the course to your specific interests in transportation geography. Details are presented in the *Discussion Sessions* handout.

To keep you on track with your individual research project, you will be required to complete a series of updates and written assignments, culminating in the final research project and presentation. Details are presented in the *Final Research Project* handout.

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

Seminar participation	= 15%
Discussion leadership	= 10%
Expanded research proposal and bibliography	= 5%
Argument draft	= 5%
Project draft	= 15%
Peer review of project draft	= 5%
Research presentation	= 15%
Final research project	= 30%

### Incompletes, extensions

Incompletes and/or extensions will not be granted unless exceptional circumstances require it and prior arrangements have been made.

### Academic resources

The Macalester Academic Excellence (MAX) Center (<http://www.macalester.edu/max/>), located on the first floor of Kagin Commons, provides numerous academic resources from time management and study strategy workshops to writing assistance.

**Academic accommodations**

In some circumstances, course design may pose barriers to a student’s ability to access or demonstrate mastery of course content. Academic accommodations can be implemented in such circumstances. If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please contact the Disability Services Office (<http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/>) at your earliest convenience. You may schedule an appointment by emailing [disabilityservices@macalester.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@macalester.edu), or calling the Disability Services Office at 651-696-6974.

**Academic honesty**

Academic honesty and integrity are expected at all times. You are responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. If you have questions about Macalester's academic integrity policy, please refer to the *Student Handbook* (<http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/>).

All sources used in preparing your final project must be cited; this includes maps and data sources. APA is the preferred citation style of the Geography Department; see the library’s citation guides and resources under the Research Guides menu at <https://libguides.macalester.edu/citation>.



**SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*(Please note: schedule subject to revision)*

Date	Topic	Reading/ Assignment Due
1. Jan 30	WINTER! ❄️	
2. Feb 6	Introduction to seminar and assignments; Evolution of the U.S. transport system	Muller 2017
3. Feb 13	Discussion of research topics; Evolution of transportation geography; Major concepts in transportation research	<b>DUE:</b> Research topic Black 2001; van Wee 2016; Hanson 2015
4. Feb 20	Library research session; Quantitative research in transportation	<b>DUE:</b> Preliminary sources Smith et al. 2004
5. Feb 27	Discussion #1; Discussion #2	Readings TBA
	<b>DUE</b> (Thurs, Feb 28): Expanded proposal/bibliography	

Date	Topic	Reading/ Assignment Due
6. Mar 6	Discussion #3; Research proposal consultations	Readings TBA
<i>Mar 13-14</i>	<i>Minnesota's Transportation Conference Saint Paul RiverCentre <a href="http://mntransportationconference.org/">http://mntransportationconference.org/</a></i>	
7. Mar 13	Discussion #4; Discussion #5	Readings TBA
<i>(Spring break – March 16-24)</i>		<b>DUE</b> (Fri, Mar 15): Argument draft
8. Mar 27	<b>Guest speaker:</b> Joe Klein '16 Associate Planner, Metro Transit	Readings TBA
9. Apr 3	<i>No class – American Association of Geographers (AAG) conference</i>	
10. Apr 10	In-class peer review of research project drafts	<b>DUE</b> : Project draft
11. Apr 17 <b>*early departure*</b>	<b>BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) FIELD TRIP</b> <b>Guest speaker:</b> Christina Morrison '04 Project Manager, BRT Projects Metro Transit	Readings TBA
12. Apr 24	Editing workshop	
<b>*Fri-Sat, Apr 26-27*</b>		<b>Research presentations</b> <i>15<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwestern Undergraduate Geography Symposium University of Wisconsin-Madison</i>
13. May 1	<b>Research presentations</b>	<b>DUE</b> (Mon, May 6): Final research project

## READINGS

- Black, William R. 2001. An Unpopular Essay on Transportation. *Journal of Transport Geography* 9: 1-11.
- Hanson, Susan. 2015. "Transportation Geographies and Mobilities Studies: Toward Collaboration." In Julie Cidell and David Prytherch, eds., *Transport, Mobility, and the Production of Urban Space*. New York: Routledge.
- Moore, Terry, Paul Thorsnes, and Bruce Appleyard. 2007. *The Transportation/ Land Use Connection*. Chicago, IL: American Planning Association.  
Ch. 3: "The Evolution of Surface Transportation Policy"  
Epilogue: "The Big Questions: Answers, Equivocations, and Directions"
- Muller, Peter O. 2017. Transportation and Urban Form: Stages in the Spatial Evolution of the American Metropolis. In Susan Hanson and Genevieve Giuliano, eds., *The Geography of Urban Transportation*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: The Guilford Press.
- Smith, Laura J., John S. Adams, Julie L. Cidell, and Barbara J. VanDrasek. 2004. Highway Improvements and Land Development in the Greater Twin Cities Area, 1970-1997. *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board* 1885: 48-55.
- van Wee, Bert. 2016. Accessible Accessibility Research Challenges. *Journal of Transport Geography* 51: 9-16.

## RESOURCES

- University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies: [www.cts.umn.edu](http://www.cts.umn.edu)
- Transportation education and careers: [www.cts.umn.edu/education/](http://www.cts.umn.edu/education/)
- Current transportation job listings: [www.cts.umn.edu/education/current/jobs/](http://www.cts.umn.edu/education/current/jobs/)
- Advancing Women in Transportation: [www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)
  - <https://www.wtsinternational.org/education/scholarships/>
- MnDOT Career Track Program: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/careers/student-grad.html>
- Young Professionals in Transportation: [yptransportation.org](http://yptransportation.org)
- Transportation-related events (including "roadeos"): [www.cts.umn.edu/events/](http://www.cts.umn.edu/events/)
- Move Minnesota: <https://www.movemn.org/>
- Minnesota Transportation Alliance: <http://www.transportationalliance.com/>
- Personal Rapid Transit (Skyweb Express):
  - <http://citizensforpersonalrapidtransit.org> (Citizens for Personal Rapid Transit)
  - [www.prtconsulting.com](http://www.prtconsulting.com)
- Transportation Geography Specialty Group (American Association of Geographers):
- "Gridlock Buster" Traffic Control Game: [www.its.umn.edu/GridlockBuster/](http://www.its.umn.edu/GridlockBuster/)
- Let There Be Light Rail blog (Christina Morrison '04): [lettherebelightrail.blogspot.com/](http://lettherebelightrail.blogspot.com/)