

USP 544: Urban Transportation Planning - Winter Quarter 2024

Mondays 6:40 – 9:20 p.m. Room: Urban Center Room 220

Instructor: Liming Wang, PhD lmwang@pdx.edu

Office Hours: Mondays 3:30 – 5pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Transportation planning is a relatively new field, and in many ways developed out of concern for the various deficiencies found in traditional transportation engineering practice. While some planning practice clearly overlaps with engineering approaches, such as traffic impact analysis, other issues such as public involvement and regional planning bring broader methods to bear on transportation problems. In this course, we introduce students to the most common elements and processes in urban transportation planning. We organize the course starting with federal, state, and local planning processes, followed by sessions on some of the major elements of urban transportation planning. This is a skill-based course, presenting topics and information in the context of the practicing urban planning professional. A focus of this course is on the application of these urban transportation planning principles in agency and consultant work.

The course will explore the following concepts and skills:

- Brief overview of urban transportation problems - connection with travel behavior/demand, land use, capacity constraints
- Environmental/NEPA planning, politics, transportation funding and finance
- Federal policy, finance and planning
- Statewide and regional planning
- Oregon-specific urban transportation planning processes
- Title VI, Public involvement processes and techniques for projects of different sizes and scopes;
- Active transportation and transit planning
- Parcel-level and small project planning

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

The course includes required weekly readings and class meetings, several assignments, a group project, and a final exam. The small class size will make it imperative that everyone prepares the readings and the assignments. We will discuss and debate the readings during class, and you will be graded on your participation. It is essential to come to every meeting in this course.

Assignments should be treated as technical memos that would be delivered to a client, and will be judged for their coherence, clarity, and quality of writing. **Communication is an essential tool of planning and writing quality will be considered as part of the grade for each assignment. If you need help with writing, please contact the PSU Writing Center – they are a great resource!** When appropriate, make sure you cite all references and sources of data. **Because the assignments emphasize audience-specific formats like technical memos to decision-makers, it may be inappropriate to cite sources in standard academic fashion.**

All assignments should be uploaded as a Word or PDF file onto Canvas for the class. Please also bring the assignments with you to class as they will likely be discussed (on your computer is fine). The final grade will be calculated from weighting the assignments and in-class performance in the following manner:

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| 1. Assignments | 50% |
| 2. In-class participation and attendance | 15% |

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| 3. Group project & presentation | 25% |
| 4. Final Exam | 10% |

Short Assignments: There will be assignments posted to accompany the required readings and will be due the date of the class in which they will be discussed. Assignment due dates are non-negotiable except for very extenuating circumstances (medical, family emergency). Late assignments with no excuse will not be accepted.

Group Term Project: Your group is tasked with creating a plan for upgrading Main Street/OR-226 in the City of Scio in the Willamette Valley. ODOT is partnering with the City of Scio to improve the roadway. Your term assignment has three components, that will be completed as part of a team:

- An annotated outline of your Plan
- The Plan document
- A presentation on your plan to the class, professors

Your group’s plan will build on material covered in the course throughout the term. Students can break up the work amongst the team in a manner of their choosing, but all team members must contribute in a way that is fair and equitable. Some class assignments will relate to your planning for the City of Scio. **See Canvas for a full description of the term project.**

Final Grading Scale: A 94.0 % and above ; A- 90.0 % ; B+ 87.0 % ; B 84.0 % ; B- 80.0 % , etc. –This follows standard grading scale for Portland State University and is not negotiable

COURSE RESOURCES

Readings: There is *no* textbook for the course. The Canvas site contains all assignments and required readings (except for those readings that are hyperlinked in the class schedule below). Please upload your completed assignments to the relevant assignment folders. We will use Canvas to grade assignments and provide feedback.

Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Subject	Assignments and Readings (posted on Canvas)
1/8/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and course overview • Brief history • Trends • Vision, goals, and objectives • Discuss term project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #1 Pick-a-plan (Due 1/22/24) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon Planning Goal 12 (skim) • Mobility Standards Paper (pages 1-4) • Meyer-Miller Chapter 4.3 • A Historical Overview: Chapters 3 and 12
1/15/23	No class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
1/22/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Assignment #1 • Federal Planning Framework • Transportation planning rule (TPR) • Transportation system plans (TSPs) (part 1) • Blueprint for Urban Design • Term group project: Vision & Goals exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment #2: BUD (Due 1/29/24) • Start group project Annotated Outline (Due 2/5/24) Readings for the following week: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of TRB Parking Management Guide • Preface to <i>High Cost of Free Parking</i>

1/29/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss Assignment #2 ● Traffic impact analysis ● Transportation Demand Management ● Development planning ● Access management ● Parking (and how to tame it) ● Group project: questions, discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assignment #3: traffic impact analysis, parking (Due 2/5/24) <p>Readings for following week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Section of Public Participation in Env. Assessment and Decision- making
2/5/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss Assignment #3 ● Meaningful public involvement ● Transportation system plans (part 2) ● Evaluation criteria ● Politics and “how things get done” T2020, FOS, RFFA, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● group project Annotated Outline due ● Assignment #4: Public involvement plan (Due 2/12/24) <p>Readings for following week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 5 of Seattle Ped Plan ● Modeling Primer
2/12/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss Assignment #4 ● Modeling and its applications to urban transportation planning ● Induced Demand ● Active transportation and emerging mobility (bike, pedestrian, bike share, scooter share, etc.) Group project “office hours” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assignment #5: Active transportation planning (Due 2/19/24) <p>Readings for the following week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Jarrett Walker piece: https://humantransit.org/basics/thetransit-ridership-recipe ● Skim Section 5309 Program overview ● Title VI guidelines presentation ● NEPA Primer
2/19/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Urban transit planning and capital investments ● National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ● Title VI and Environmental Justice ● Mega projects (Interstate Bridge Replacement project and others) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work on term project! <p>Readings for following week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter of NCFRP Freight Planning Guide
2/26/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss Assignment #5 ● Funding and finance ● Freight issues ● Value-driven trends influencing planning ● Group project “office hours” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Work on term project! <p>Readings for following week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review Metro presentation on pandemic changes
3/4/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review final exam ● Guidance on presentations for 3/11 ● Future of transportation and implications for planning ● Post-pandemic paradigm ● Group project “office hours” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final Exam (take home) <p>Readings for following week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TBA
3/11/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Safety, Vision Zero Planning ● Final Musings ● Group project “office hours” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final exam due on Canvas by 6:40 PM Monday 3/18/24
3/18/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final group reports, due on Canvas by 6:40 PM Friday 3/22/24

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to previous USP 544 instructors Kate Drennan and Ryan Farncomb for sharing their course materials.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to be ethical not only in the classroom, but also out of the classroom. It is in all students' interest to avoid committing acts of academic dishonesty and to discourage others from committing such acts. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: engages in any form of academic deceit; refers to materials or sources or uses devices not authorized by the instructor for use during any quiz or assignment; provides inappropriate aid to another person in connection with any quiz or assignment; engages in Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of claiming someone's work as your own through copying it without giving the creator of the work credit. Plagiarism can also include using another person's theories, ideas, or phrases without proper attribution. The simplest way to avoid plagiarizing is to always cite the sources from which you gather information or develop arguments – just cite anything you use from someone else (it actually makes your work stronger!). Plagiarism is a serious issue and is a violation of the PSU Student Conduct Code http://www.ess.pdx.edu/OSA/osa_b.htm. University policy requires instructors to report all instances of plagiarism and penalize the perpetrator(s) according to guidelines set. Please see University Writing Center if you ever have any questions about how to cite your work, or contact your Professor.

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

PSU values diversity and inclusion; My goal is to create a learning environment that is accessible, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. I am committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. Additionally, the Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. The DRC works with students who have physical, learning, cognitive, mental health, sensory, chronic illness, and other disabilities.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations.

If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received your DRC Faculty Notification Email so we can discuss your accommodations.

The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, Suite 116. You can also contact the DRC at 503-725-4150 or, drc@pdx.edu. Visit the DRC online at <https://www.pdx.edu/disability-resource-center>.

Discrimination and Harassment Notice

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672 or schedule Online at <https://psuwrc.youcanbook.me>. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to:

- PSU's Title IX Coordinator: Julie Caron by calling 503-725-4410, via email at titleixcoordinator@pdx.edu or in person at Richard and Maureen Neuberger Center (RMNC), 1600 SW 4th Ave, Suite 830
- Deputy Title IX Coordinator: Yesenia Gutierrez by calling 503-725-4413, via email at yesenia.gutierrez.gdi@pdx.edu or in person at RMNC, 1600 SW 4th Ave, Suite 830

Please be aware that all PSU faculty members and instructors are required to report information of an incident that may constitute prohibited discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence that may have violated university policy or student code of conduct, I have to share the information with my supervisor, the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of the Dean of Student Life. However, the Title IX Coordinators will keep the information confidential and refer you to a confidential advocate. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus in your Canvas.

Syllabus Disclaimer

All syllabi are subject to minor changes to meet the needs of the instructors, school, or class. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as deemed necessary. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any syllabus or schedule changes in class, and through the Canvas announcements and class email. Please remember to check your PSU email and the Canvas messages often.