

**Wayne State University**  
**Department of Urban Studies & Planning**  
**UP 6520 Transportation Policy and Planning**  
**Winter Term 2015**

**Instructor Information**

Dr. Chade Saghir

[aw5586@wayne.edu](mailto:aw5586@wayne.edu) E-mail is the best way to reach me.

Office Hours: After Class Sessions and by appointment

**Course Information**

Day: Wednesday evenings Time: 5:30pm to 8:15pm Location: 0168 Main

Please make every effort to be punctual. While class absences do not directly affect your course grade, you are responsible for all the material covered in this course. A detailed schedule of readings and assignments appears below.

**Bulletin/Overview**

Open only to graduate and post-bachelor students; others by consent of instructor.

**Introduction** to the role of transportation in the planning process involving both regional and urban considerations. This course *introduces* students to many of the important issues facing transportation planning professionals today. It begins by briefly examining the planning process and transportation problems facing communities. It then explores the reasons why we plan transportation systems. In other words, what are the goals of the plans we prepare? The course will then review the planning context—most importantly the roles government playing transportation decision making. Finally, it looks at the many significant policy debates in the field. In tandem, throughout the semester, the course will also review the most common transportation project evaluation methods.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be able to explain the role of a professional Transportation Planner.
2. Students will be able to describe what the roles and responsibilities of Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, State Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Transit Authority, and Road Commissions are.
3. Students will be able to identify and distinguish between Regional Transportation Plans; Transportation Improvement Programs; Intermodal Transportation Plans; Complete Street Plans; and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans.
4. Students will be able to discuss the four steps in the Travel Demand Model.
5. Students will be able to differentiate between transportation legislation, regulations, acts, and executive orders related planning and policy.
6. Students will be able to analyze transportation issues and policy and provide alternatives for addressing the transportation issues.
7. Students will be able to identify transportation funding source at the federal, state, local government levels.
8. Students will be able to discuss the three transportation related pollutants and the health effects of each pollutant.
9. Students will be able to analyze Regional Transportation Plans.
10. Students will be able to define the following terms Conformity Determination; Gravity Model; Fiscal Constraint; Transportation Control Measures; Enhancements; Production and Attraction; Parking Elasticity; Transportation Operations; Cruising for Parking; and Model Validation.

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**Original Work**

As professionals—future professionals—and graduate students, you should adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct. The instructor assumes that a paper, report or other material that bears your name is your original work. The line between scholarship and plagiarism is very thin. You may use the ideas and words of others in your work, but only with proper attribution. Exact passages from other sources also require quotations. In your professional work, failure to adhere to this rule will have severe consequences—this course is no different. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade for the course and may subject the plagiarist to disciplinary action by the University. Please see the Graduate Bulletin for more information on the University policy.

**Accommodation**

If you feel that you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please feel free to contact the instructor to discuss your specific needs. Additionally, the Office of Educational Accessibility Services (EAS) coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The office is located in room 583 of the Student Center Building. You may reach a staff member by telephone at 7-1851 or 7-3365 (TTY).

**Texts / Readings**

Required readings will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

*Recommended Readings:*

Downs, Anthony. *Still Stuck in Traffic: Coping with Peak-Hour Traffic Congestion*.  
Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2004. (available online at WSU library)

Hanson, Susan, and Genevieve Giuliano, eds. *The Geography of Urban Transportation*,  
3d ed. New York: The Guilford Press, 2004.

Katz, Bruce and Robert Puentes, eds. *Taking the High Road: A Metropolitan  
Agenda for Transportation Reform*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution  
Press, 2005. (available online at WSU library)

Meyer, Michael, and Eric J. Miller. *Urban Transportation Planning: a Decision Oriented  
Approach* 2nd Ed. New York.: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

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**Grading**

*Reading Responses (20%) Due Weekly*

Weekly, the instructor will assign a question based on readings for the following class session. Each student is required to respond in writing prior to the next class session. These one page brief responses will help organize your thoughts for class discussions. They will also help the instructor ensure that you are recognizing, noting and understanding the most important points presented by the various authors. Late reading responses will not be accepted.

*Research Paper/Project Proposal (5%) Due February 11, 2015*

You will be required by February 11, 2015 to turn at least one paragraph summarizing your topic for your research paper. You will also submit 3 peer-reviewed references and 1 reference from the Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board with the proposal. References must be in APA format.

*Mid-term examination (30%) Will be on March 11, 2015*

The midterm examination will comprise a series of true/false, matching, fill in-the-blank, problem solving, and short answer questions. Unless otherwise noted, the examination will cover all course material presented through February 26. There will be a topic review at the end of class on March 4. The mid-term exam will be on March 11, 2015 beginning of class.

*Research Paper (25%) Due April 29, 2015*

You will be required to complete a research paper on a topic of your choice related to transportation policy and planning.

Guidelines for Research Paper:

1. Your research paper must be no less than 12 pages in length.
2. The research paper should be in APA format. Your title page and reference page must be in APA format also. APA format resource: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
3. You must use at least 3 peer-reviewed references.
4. You must use 1 reference from the Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board.

*Topic Presentation (20%) Presentation will be on April 15, or 22, 2015*

You will be required to put together a presentation to class on your selected research paper topic. The presentation will be 20 minutes in length. You must have your presentation ready on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. You will present either the 15<sup>th</sup>, or 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. Your presentation must be interactive and involve the use of multimedia during your presentation.

**Deadlines**

Students are required to meet the assignment deadlines set for this course. Except in very rare cases, the instructor will not grant deadline extensions.

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**Tentative Course Schedule as of 1/12/2015**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	January 15	Course Introduction, Syllabus Overview, and History of Transportation Planning
2	January 22	Transportation Planning Process / Regionalism and Localism
3	January 29	Transportation Plans and Plan Evaluation
4	February 4	Regulations, Legislation, and Key Court Cases
5	February 11	Transportation Modeling / Air Quality Conformity
6	February 18	Parking / Pricing
7	February 25	Transportation Finance - Class on Blackboard
8	March 4	Transportation Operations – Field Trip
9	March 11	Mid Term Exam
10	March 18	Spring Break Week – No Class
11	March 25	Public Transit – Guest Speaker
12	April 1	Transportation and Land Use / Complete Streets
13	April 8	Students Prepare for Presentations - Class on Blackboard
14	April 15	Student Presentations
15	April 22	Student Presentations
16	April 29	Research Papers are Due