

# TTP 220/GEO 236 Transportation Planning and Policy

## Spring 2020

<b>Lectures:</b>	MW 10:00-11:50 Via Zoom (209 Wellman)
<b>Details:</b>	4 units, letter grade
<b>Instructor:</b>	Susan Handy
<b>Office:</b>	Via Zoom or Skype or phone (2138 Wickson Hall)
<b>Office hours:</b>	W 2-4 PM or by appointment
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### Description

Transportation is essential to civilization as we know it. By enabling the movement of people, goods, and information across space, it provides the foundation for industrialized economies and fosters the development of educational, cultural, and other kinds of institutions. But for all the good that it brings to modern-day society, the transportation system also creates many challenges, from its sheer cost to the significant and inequitably distributed environmental impacts it generates, to the vast number of fatalities it is responsible for. Government plays a critical role in both building and operating the transportation system and in lessening its impacts.

The objective of the course is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of transportation policy from the federal to the local level, largely from the US perspective but with some attention to international differences. The course is divided into three sections: setting the stage, policy concepts, and policies:

- **Setting the Stage:** we will examine the rationale for government intervention and the history of urban transportation, focusing on the very different trajectories of transit and cars.
- **Policy Concepts:** we will examine concepts and theories about policy, including different types of policy instruments, responsibilities across different levels and branches of governments, and the process of developing, adopting, and implementing policy.
- **Policies:** we will examine current policies and processes, starting with federal and state policy on vehicles and fuels, then moving to infrastructure policy at the federal, state, regional, and local levels, finishing with a discussion of demand-side strategies for addressing transportation problems, including strategies such as subsidies, pricing, transit services, bicycle and pedestrian programs, and land use policies.

### Requirements

Students will have three assignments, one for each section of the course:

1. **Critical concepts 1:** The first concepts assignment will focus on the material covered in the

“Setting the Stage” section of the course. The assignment is due 4/13 and will count for 20% of the final grade.

2. Critical concepts 2: The second critical concepts assignment will focus on the material covered in the “Policy Concepts” section of the course. The assignment is due 4/27 and will count for 20% of the final grade.
3. Policy analysis: An analytical comparison of national, state, regional, or local policies across two or more jurisdictions. A one-page memo describing the chosen policies and jurisdictions is due on May 4. A draft of the 15-page double-spaced paper is due on May 27 and the final paper is due on June 8. Students will give 10-minute presentations on their papers in class via Zoom on 5/27, 6/1, and 6/3. This paper, including the memo and presentation, will count for 50% of the final grade.

More detailed descriptions of the assignments will be posted in Canvas and discussed in class. In addition to completing these assignments, students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. Preparation and participation in class will count for 10% of the final grade.

### **Readings**

I have not ordered a textbook for the course. All readings will be posted in Canvas. The readings are organized by the date they will be discussed in class. If you’re interested in acquiring a reference book for the material covered in this course, I recommend Susan Hanson and Genevieve Giuliano’s *The Geography of Urban Transportation*, Fourth Edition.

### **Expectations**

I expect you to attend class, complete assigned readings, participate in discussions, and submit original papers that reflect your own original work. Plagiarism, the intentional or inadvertent use of someone else’s work without appropriate credit, will not be tolerated! Cutting and pasting material from the web and claiming it as one’s own is a serious offense that merits disciplinary action. Lots of useful websites are available to help you determine when citations are appropriate and to avoid accidental plagiarism (e.g., <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/files/plagiarism.pdf>). I encourage you to discuss your work with your classmates in and outside of class, but the work you submit must be your own. Please familiarize yourself with the [Code of Academic Conduct](#).

Learning is ultimately your responsibility, but I have an obligation to facilitate that learning by providing a coherent guide to the course material and assigning activities that give you an effective opportunity to apply that material. You can expect me to provide clear direction and timely feedback on assignments and to provide adequate response to questions and concerns. You can expect me to be fully prepared for class sessions and available during office hours.

Students who require special accommodations because of disabilities should visit the Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.ucdavis.edu/>) at the beginning of the quarter. I will not be able to provide for special accommodation unless the student has first gone through the process required by the DRC. Students who will be missing class or cannot meet assignment deadlines for religious or medical reasons or for essential family business should let me know as far ahead as possible and must provide written documentation if I request it.

## Schedule

The attached schedule is subject to change. An up-to-date version of the schedule, with assigned readings and additional resources, is posted in Canvas.

### TTP220 Schedule - Subject to Change

	Date	Day	Topics	Due Dates
SETTING THE STAGE	3/30	Mon	<b>Introduction</b>	
	4/1	Wed	<b>Rationale for government intervention</b>	
	4/6	Mon	<b>How we got here:</b> transit vs cars	
	4/8	Wed	<b>How we got here:</b> highway vs transit policy	
POLICY CONCEPTS	4/13	Mon	<b>Policy instruments</b>	Critical concepts 1
	4/15	Wed	<b>Who does what</b>	
	4/20	Mon	<b>Policy process</b>	
	4/22	Wed	<b>Discussion</b>	
POLICIES	4/27	Mon	<b>Vehicles &amp; fuels</b> - federal*	Critical concepts 2
	4/29	Wed	<b>Vehicles &amp; fuels</b> - state*	
	5/4	Mon	<b>Infrastructure</b> - federal	Memo on policy paper
	5/6	Wed	<b>Infrastructure</b> - regional planning	
	5/11	Mon	<b>Infrastructure</b> - project development	
	5/13	Wed	<b>Infrastructure</b> - local government role	
	5/18	Mon	<b>Demand</b> - concepts	
	5/20	Wed	<b>Demand</b> - strategies	
	5/25	Mon	<i>Holiday</i>	
	5/27	Wed	<b>Presentations</b>	Draft policy paper
6/1	Mon	<b>Presentations</b>		
6/3	Wed	<b>Presentations</b>		
6/8	Mon		Policy paper due	

\* Austin Brown, Director of the UC Davis Policy Institute