

SYLLABUS

GEOG 5300: Geography of Transportation

Autumn 2025 – TR 12:45 - 2:05pm Hitchcock Hall 035

3 credit hours

Computer/tablet are required for in-class activities.

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Instruction team

Instructor: Dr. Huyen Le, Associate Professor, Department of Geography

Email: le.253@osu.edu

Office hours: 2-3 Monday; 2:30-3:30 Thursday **at Derby Hall 1110**.

TA: Mostahidul Alam, PhD student, Department of Geography

Email: alam.146@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Office hours: 11 am -12 pm on Tuesday and 12-1 pm on Wednesday at **Derby Hall 1083**

We also hold office hours upon request. To request an appointment outside of the above times, please email us with your availability up to a week ahead.

Prerequisites

None.

Course description

This course examines the spatial and system-wide aspects of transportation in the U.S. and internationally. It covers transportation methods at the introductory level and emphasizes the applications and critical views of the transportation system.

Course learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Summarize key theories underlying the spatial organization and operations of transportation systems.
- Analyze interconnections within and between social, environmental, and transportation systems.
- Interpret patterns in transportation systems.
- Apply concepts and methods to solve real-world problems in transportation.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of theories and methods.
- Identify consequences of development processes and affected parties.
- Recognize differences in interests and values of stakeholders.
- Evaluate the outcomes and performance of a transportation system.

HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

Mode of delivery: This class includes in-person lectures, discussions, and reviews. All slides and reading materials will be uploaded on Carmen Canvas.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a **3-credit-hour course**. According to Ohio State policy (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content, group activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

Communications with the instructor and TAs outside of classroom: *Questions related to class materials and assignments should be posted on Carmen discussion board.* We will check these posts once per school day. We encourage you to help your classmates out if you know the answers, but make sure you are not violating the code of student conduct (e.g., do not upload your assignment or show them the exact answer to complete their assignments).

Other questions can be directed to the instructors via email or office hours (always include both TA and the instructor in your emails, in case one of us is unavailable). ***Make sure that you put “Geog 5300”+ your issues in the subject line, in addition to the topic/issue that you want to discuss.***

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Textbooks

Rodrigue - The Geography of Transport Systems, Routledge (2013)

Guiliano & Hanson, The Geography of Urban Transportation, Guilford Press, Fourth Edition

Van Wee et al. The Transport System And Transport Policy, 2nd edition.

And other selected academic book chapters and academic peer-reviewed journal articles.

You are NOT required to purchase the physical text books. All the books and assigned readings are available on the OSU libraries website and Carmen Canvas page.

<https://guides.osu.edu/geog5300>

Course technology

Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** ocio.osu.edu/help
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Technology skills needed for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- Buckeye Box cloud storage (<https://box.osu.edu/>)
- Recording a slide presentation with audio narration (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)
- Recording, editing, and uploading video (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)

Required equipment

- Computer/tablet: current Mac (Mac OS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection for in-class sessions (note taking and group activities) and homework. If you choose to use a tablet or iPad, you may need an external keyboard.
- Webcam (for Zoom office hours): built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone (for Zoom office hours): built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

Required software

- Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.

Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

GRADING AND FEEDBACK

How your grade is calculated

All assignments outside of class time will be submitted through Carmen Canvas by 11:59 PM on the due date (always a Friday) to be considered on time.

CATEGORY	POINTS	DUE DATES
Self-introduction	1	Original post: 8/29 Comments to peers: 9/3
Class participation	12	N/A
Assignment 1	16	Check canvas
Assignment 2	17	Check canvas
Assignment 3	17	Check canvas
Assignment 4	17	Check canvas
Final paper - reflection	20	12/12
Total	100	
<i>Extra credit</i>	<i>2 (max)</i>	<i>12/12 or as indicated in ESSREP portal</i>

Descriptions of major course assignments

Description: In each assignment, you will create a short memo (~800 words) for transportation practitioners to support them in the decision making process. You will use the knowledge, theories, and methods that you learned in this class to explain and address problems in the real world.

Details about each assignment, including guidelines and rubric, will be made available on Carmen Canvas.

Academic integrity and collaboration: This is an individual assignment. You may discuss the assignments and approaches to solve the problems with your classmates, however, you may not share your written papers with them or provide them with direct answers. Using text from ChatGPT or any AI program outputs for any part of your submission is considered plagiarism.

We strongly recommend that you use version control, such as Google Docs or Microsoft Word Online/ Desktop that syncs to your OSU OneDrive, to record the modification history of your assignments.

To reduce any potential biases in grading, we will anonymously grade your assignments and final paper by omitting your displayed name on Carmen Canvas. Once the grading is done, your name will be retrieved. For this, **we ask that you do not put your name on your submission.** If you prefer to put your name, do so on the very last page, separate from the main essay. *This policy does not apply to in-class submissions.*

Participation

Your participation will be taken in the form of quizzes, in-class discussions, and other activities during class. You can drop the lowest grades of 2 quizzes and 2 in-class discussions (including the ones that you miss – see the

Excused absence section below). Note that these activities are not available in every class session (we may have 0-2 activities per week).

Excused absence

You don't need to notify us if you are absent for a week or less. While your absence may result in a 0 of the participation point (if available that day), you may drop the lowest points as long as you don't miss too many class sessions (see the *Participation* section).

If you are missing classes for three or more consecutive sessions, contact the instructor and TA (always CC both of us) before class with the excuse and supporting documents.

Late submissions

By default, late submissions of discussion posts/responses, quizzes, assignments, and final paper are subject to 5% grade reduction for each late day. **We will NOT accept submissions that are more than 10 days late, unless you have permission from the instructor before or on the due date.** Late submission is always better than no submission.

One-day automatic extension: You have one opportunity to extend your deadline for one day during the semester (indicate it in your submission to get full credit). This extension will be applied to an assignment of your choice, including the final paper. No permission is required; you will indicate in your submission that you are using the one-day extension. We suggest that you use this opportunity wisely and reserve it for the end of the semester when the workload is unusually high.

In case of personal and family emergencies, please notify the instructor as soon as possible so that we can work out a new submission time. Such extensions will be granted on a case-by-case basis. If you fail to notify the instructor by 5 days after the deadline, your excuses will not be accepted and all blanket policies in this class will apply.

Extra credit

There will be opportunities for extra credit during the semester, with a maximum of 2% of the final grade. These are activities that are related to transportation/ sustainability research and practice, for example, participating in research surveys in the OSU Sona system (i.e., ESSREP program) or volunteering for local planning agencies (e.g., Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission or MORPC). More details about the latter opportunity will be available during the semester.

Environmental and Social Sustainability Research Experience Program (ESSREP)

The goal of ESSREP is to enhance student's understanding of social scientific research methods and help apply class lessons to their lives. As a way to gain extra credit for this class you can get hands-on experience participating in research studies conducted by Faculty and Graduate Students in the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Lab in SENR. Research studies may take the form of online or in-person surveys, interviews, or focus groups and will be related to a current research in a variety of topics in transportation, resource management, environmental science, psychology, and rural sociology.

In order to sign up for research opportunities you will first need to create a Sona account using your .osu email address at <https://osu-essrep.sona-systems.com>. You will then be able to view and sign up for studies and monitor your credit accumulation through Sona Systems. Please see our website <https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/research-option> for more detailed sign-up instructions, credit amounts, policies, and Frequently Asked Questions. **You must be 18 or older.**

A total of **up to 2 research credits** will be possible as extra credit for this course, constituting 2% of your final grade.

If you encounter difficulties with Sona systems please contact the acting lab manager Madeline Stewart at: stewart.2424@buckeyemail.osu.edu who is serving in the role while the existing lab manager is on leave. **Your instructors and TAs do not have access to Sona systems and will not be managing the paper option; please direct all ESSREP-related questions to the lab manager.**

Grading scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E
≥93%	90-92%	87-89%	83-86%	80-82%	77-79%	73-76%	70-72%	67-69%	60-66%	<60%

For students who take this course to fulfill the requirements for their majors, a C- is a minimum passing grade.

Feedback and response time

We are providing the following list to give you an idea of our intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-4357(HELP)** at any time if you have a technical problem).

- **Grading and feedback:** For large assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **10 school days** (e.g., about 2 calendar weeks, excluding holidays), unless emergencies occur to one of the instructors.
- **Email:** Collectively, we will reply to emails within **2 school days (excluding weekends and holidays) when class is in session at the university.**
- **Discussion board:** We will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **48 hours on school days.**

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Academic integrity policy related to AI

See **Descriptions of major course assignments**, above, for my specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

Using AI as a research tool is permitted in this class with caution: current large language models are known for producing misleading information (i.e., AI hallucination). **You may not use direct AI outputs as part of your papers in this class. All usage of AI for class assignments should be acknowledged at the end of your**

paper. We strongly recommend that you use version control while working on your assignment (e.g., Google Docs or Microsoft Word that syncs to your OneDrive or other cloud services).

If we suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, we are obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). COAM determines that you have violated the university's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact us.

Copyright for instructional materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Additional OSU Policies

The following website: <https://ugeducation.osu.edu/academics/syllabus-policies-statements/standard-syllabus-statements> contains the Ohio State University's policies regarding:

- Academic Misconduct
- Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity
- Religious Accommodations
- Disability Statement with Accommodations for Illness
- Intellectual Diversity
- Grievances and Solving Problems
- Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The following website: <https://ugeducation.osu.edu/academics/syllabus-policies-statements/optional-syllabus-statements> contains the Ohio State University's policies regarding:

- Counseling and Consultation Services / Mental Health Statement
- Content Warning Language
- Military-Connected Students

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. Last updated: 8/25/2025. Please check CarmenCanvas regularly for the most up-to-date schedule.

Week	Start dates	Topics	Assignments
1	8/26	Transportation systems: an overview	Self-introduction
2	9/2	Complex systems System dynamics of transportation	
3	9/9	System dynamics of transportation (cont)	
4	9/16	Externalities: economy & society Externalities: environments, safety, and health	Assignment 1
5	9/23	Externalities: environments, safety, and health (cont)	
6	9/30	Externalities: environments, safety, and health (cont) Transportation modes	Assignment 2
7	10/7	Freight and logistics (cont)	
8	10/14	Transportation network <i>No class on Thu - Autumn break</i>	
9	10/21	Spatial organization	Assignment 3
10	10/28	Transportation and land use	
11	11/4	Transportation and land use (cont) Travel behavior	
12	11/11	<i>No class on Tue - Veteran's Day</i> Travel behavior and demand management	Assignment 4
13	11/18	Accessibility, transportation poverty and equity	
14	11/25	<i>Thanksgiving break</i> <i>No class on Tue and Thu</i>	(Work on final paper)
15	12/2	ICT and travel, COVID-19 Emerging technologies and future outlooks	
16	12/9	Class wrap-up on Tue <i>No class on Thu</i>	Final paper