

Problems in Public Policy: Urban Transportation Policy and Planning
PA 5351 Summer 2019
UAC 406
5:30-8:30
June 3, 11, 14 2019

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Office Hours:
Before class by
appointment

Course Summary

From congestion to climate change, major issues related to transportation have emerged as contentious and vexing urban policy areas. For metropolitan areas around the globe to continue to grow and thrive, the fundamental components of the transportation system need to be effectively managed. There is a significant divide between the United States and Europe as to the most appropriate urban transportation management system. In the U.S., the primary approach to metropolitan mobility focuses on managing automobiles in a large-scale system of highways. In northern European countries like the Netherlands, auto mobility management is balanced with access to transit and active transportation (walking and bicycling).

This class examines the policy divide between these two approaches through an experiential “field classroom” based in the Netherlands. The class begins in San Marcos with a comparative analysis of the U.S versus Netherlands transportation and urban policy. This is followed by an immersion into one of the world’s most progressive transportation systems in the Netherlands. The trip begins with an analysis of large metropolitan systems in Amsterdam. This is followed with an in-depth analysis of transportation and urban policy in the Rotterdam/Delft region. In Rotterdam and the surrounding region, we will explore how transportation, urban planning, and environmental projects are brought together into an integrated framework focused on community livability. Daily field trips will take us to meet with regional leaders to examine how key projects were planned and administered. Students will engage in this transportation culture through focused policy writing.

The class is structured to initially provide a pre-trip overview of key policy issues in a classroom setting. This is followed with 2 weeks of field study in Amsterdam and the Rotterdam region of the Netherlands that focuses on immersing student’s in the Dutch transportation system. At the end of this course, students will:

1. Become acquainted with and build skills in discussing key transportation policy issues in a comparative setting.

2. Gain experience in writing through a reflections journal and a final paper that outlines key lessons for U.S. leaders based on course readings and experiential learning in the Netherlands.
3. Build professional policy writing experience through the production of a stand-alone policy blog that builds a detailed discussion of a transportation policy issue.

Text

Required:

1. Pucher, J., & Buehler, R. (2012). City cycling. MIT Press.

Projects and Grading

1. Exam: 30% (**June 14**)
Description: The exam will include a number of multiple choice, fill-in the blank, and short answer questions. They will also include several short essay questions.
2. Journal and Class Participation: 40%
Description: This class is based on engagement. Students are expected to attend all sessions and actively engage in discussions and daily activities. Students will keep a daily journal of reflections that trace key ideas, questions, and revelations. The journal entry should include photos and other images to help build critical reflections. In addition, students will produce a two to three page (750 or so words), stand-alone “blog” that builds a detailed discussion of a transportation policy issue. This will be used for the final report. This stand-alone blog will be used in the final project report that will be available online. If you have any concerns about the public viewing, please see me as this component is optional. The blog should include photos and go beyond a simple travelogue to discuss a key policy issue. The journal and stand-alone blog will be reviewed at the end of the class to judge the level of engagement. More discussion of expectations for this component will be discussed in class before we leave for the Netherlands. **Due July 15.**
3. Final Policy Paper: 30%
Description: The policy paper will describe the key dimensions of a significant transportation policy problem related to course materials. It should be written as an extended policy memo. The paper should be double-spaced and 5 to 7 pages in length. It should include at least 6 appropriately cited academic or professional policy references. This is the absolute minimum number of citations. A title page and works cited should be included and do not count towards the paper length requirement. A strong structure with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion is expected. This paper will be used in the final project report that will be available online. If you have any concerns about the public viewing, please see me as this component is optional. More information on expectations will be provided in class. **Due July 23.**

Course Schedule

June 3 Introduction and Understanding Transportation Policy: An Overview of the Public Policy Framework in the United States

Readings:

1. Fields, B., & Cradock, A. L. (2014). Federal Active Transportation Policy in Transition From ISTEA to Complete Streets. *Public Works Management & Policy*, 19(4), 322-327. Available from the Alkek Library online.
2. Raymond A. Mohl and Mark H. Rose. 2012. "The Post-Interstate Era: Planning, Politics, and Policy since the 1970s," *Journal of Planning History* 2012 11: 3. Available from the Alkek Library online.
3. Downey, Mortimer L. III. 2007. "Legislative Considerations for Long Term Policy Change" in National Roundtable on Surface Transportation". Regional Plan Association and Lincoln Institute for Land Policy. Available at: <http://www.america2050.org/Legislative%20Considerations%20-%20Downey.pdf>
4. Fields and Tudor. 2015. "Age-Friendly Community Policy Innovation: Complete Streets Implementation in Louisiana, United States," (2015). ON TRACS.
5. SWOV: Sustainable Safety: https://www.swov.nl/rapport/Factsheets/UK/FS_Sustainable_Safety_principles.pdf
6. KUT Vision Zero Series: Read/listen to the series on the challenges of Vision Zero in Austin:
 - a. Overview: <http://roadtozero.kut.org/look/posts/traffic/>
 - b. What is Vision Zero: <http://kut.org/post/what-exactly-vision-zero-plan-and-why-does-austin-need-one>
 - c. Speed Limits and Engineering: <http://kut.org/post/decades-old-theory-behind-speed-limits-might-make-it-harder-change-them>
 - d. What's Next for Vision Zero in Austin: <http://kut.org/post/whats-next-austins-vision-zero-plan>

June 11 Transportation Policy History: Competing Visions and Changing Trajectories

Readings:

1. Brown, J. R., E. A. Morris, and B. D. Taylor. 2009. Planning for cars in cities: Planners, engineers, and freeways in the 20th century. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 75 (2), 161-177. Available from the Alkek Library online.
2. Pucher and Buehler. 2012. City Cycling Chapters 1 and 2 (pages 1-31) and Chapter 6 (Peter Furth pages 105-140) and Chapter 12 (Handy et al p. 257-286)

3. Review National Association of City Transportation Officials 2012. *NACTO urban bikeway design guide*. Available at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/2012-nacto-urban-street-design-guide.pdf>
4. Fields, Billy. 2020. Working Draft of Adaptation Urbanism Chapter 1.
5. David Hembrow: Cycling Safety in the Netherlands
<http://www.aviewfromthecyclepath.com/2014/10/our-streets-are-too-narrow-for-cycle.html>
6. SWOV Vulnerable Road Users:
http://www.swov.nl/rapport/Factsheets/UK/FS_Vulnerable_road_users.pdf
7. SWOV Fact Sheet Zones 30: urban residential areas:
https://www.swov.nl/rapport/Factsheets/UK/FS_Residential_areas.pdf

In class, place evaluation of our campus/city interface

June 14 Exam

June 24-July 6 Netherlands Study Abroad

Readings:

1. Pucher and Buehler. 2012. City Cycling Chapter 6 (Peter Furth pages 105-140) and Chapter 12 (Handy et al p. 257-286)
2. City at Eye Level. Karssenberget al (eds). 2016. Available at:
<http://www.thecityateyelevel.com/>
 - a. About This Book: p. 10-11
 - b. City at Eye Level: p. 14-25
 - c. Streets as Places: p. 26-28
 - d. Iconic Thinkers: p. 48-53
 - e. The Cities of the Future are Bicycle-Friendly: p. 109-112

Extra Reading:

- f. Acknowledgement (Rotterdam): p. 338
- g. Slippery Squares and Concrete Buildings (Rotterdam): p. 180-183
- h. Street Experiences in a Car-Dominated City (Rotterdam): p. 64-67
- i. Take Action 3 City (Rotterdam): p. 305-309
- j. The Never-Ending Story of Street Management (Amsterdam): p. 152-157
3. Review blog examples for inspiration:
 - a. Wharton School basic template (introduction to policy issue, background, costs/benefits, conclusion, sources):
<https://publicpolicy.wharton.upenn.edu/for-students/blog/>
 - b. School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University (how to write a blog): <http://carletonperspectives.com/line-em-up-eyewitness-misidentification-and-the-criminal-justice-system/>

Netherlands Program Itinerary 2019

Sunday June 23 Depart for Amsterdam

Monday June 24 Arrive in Amsterdam and Leave Bags at Student Hotel; Orientation Begin
3:30PM Centraal Station Amsterdam

Tuesday June 25 Amsterdam Rain Proof Cities and Place Analysis with Sustainable
Amsterdam

Wednesday June 26 Bike Tour in Zwolle with Mobycon

Thursday June 27 Morning: Visit to Amsterdam City Archives Cycling City Amsterdam PM:
Transfer to Rotterdam

Friday June 28 Delft Study Tour and Place Analysis

June 29 and 30 (weekend off)

Monday July 1 AM: Water Walk Tour with Liliane Geerling from HZ University PM: Lecture by
municipality of Rotterdam on water and climate adaptation policy

Tuesday July 2 AM: Analysis of Case Location (Walenburgerplein) PM: Play climate game
Blijdorp

Wednesday July 3 AM: Case Study Work PM: Kinderdijk Tour

Thursday July 4 Rotterdam Place Analysis and Presentation Preparation

Friday July 5 AM: Presentations preparation PM: Present designs and proposals at City
Hall of Rotterdam

July 15: Journals Due; Note: you may turn these in early when they are ready as well.

July 23: Papers Due; Note: you may turn these in early when they are ready as well.