COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor     Teaching Assistants

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Office: GSB-236
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Course description
Transport is concerned with the movement of people and goods over a transportation system. The performance of such systems affects our quality of life and is therefore a subject of study in many disciplines including geography. This performance is a reflection of the relationship between the supply of transportation (i.e., facilities and fleets), which tends to be fixed in the short term, and the demand for people and goods movement. Social, economic, technological and political processes not only condition this relationship, but also are themselves driven by transportation system performance in the long term. The effective management of transportation systems so as not to compromise our quality of life requires foresight, which implies that transportation professionals must have access to analytical methods. These methods are used to study the performance of transportation systems in both the short term and the long term. The results of these studies, especially in the public sector, often inform transportation policy. This course is designed to introduce you to the study of transportation systems from a geographic perspective, with a focus on:

2. Analytical methods for describing, analyzing and optimizing transportation systems.

The material covered in this course will provide you with a solid foundation for more advanced treatments of the subject. Mathematics is used extensively throughout this course.
Course objectives
At the end of the course, you will:

1. Demonstrate a sound understanding of concepts central to the study of transportation systems.
2. Use GIS in realistic transportation issues.
3. Be able to solve various transportation problems using analytical methods discussed in class and applied in labs.
4. Understand issues that impact the performance of transportation systems.
5. Develop familiarity with relevant software for problem-solving, including Excel.

Text
The suggested text for this course is:

In addition to it, we will make use of information from four websites:
- BTS Bureau of Transportation Statistics: http://www.bts.gov/
- EJTIR European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research: http://www.ejtir.tbm.tudelft.nl/
- GTS The Geography of Transportation Systems: http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/index.html

Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exercises (5@8 each)</td>
<td>40 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Partial Exam</td>
<td>30 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Partial Exam</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100 %</td>
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Course guidelines and regulations

1. **Contacting the instructor** – I plan to adhere to regular office hours as indicated in this outline, and you are encouraged to use this time to review material, clarify points or pursue issues. If for some reason you are unable to come during my set office hours, e-mail me for an appointment.

2. **Avenue to Learn** – A course page has been set up for this course.

3. **Course preparation** – Be advised that in general you will be required to dedicate at least 2 hours of preparation/study per hour of class/lab time. More preparation will help you to make out the most of the course, and will undoubtedly lead to a higher grade. If for any reason you are having trouble with the course come and see me or any of the teaching assistants as soon as possible. Problems that are identified **early** can often be rectified.

4. **The role of TAs in this course** – The TAs in this course are there to assist you in your lab slot. If you choose to not attend your lab, you forfeit your opportunity to get help from the
TA for that week. TAs will not be holding office hours in this course as they will have scheduled face time per week.

5. **Handing in assignments** – All assignments should be deposited in the corresponding Assignment (“Drop”) Box on the due date specified. The Drop Box is in the second floor of the General Science Building. **There are no late submissions.**

6. **Handing back marked assignments/examination** – Marked assignments/examinations will be handed back to the student exclusively during designated hours. (Note to TAs: keep assignments and exams in secure location at all times)

7. **Mark appeals** – The teaching assistants and I will make every effort to provide you with a grade that best reflects the quality of your work, and re-marking will be conducted at discretion. If you wish to have your work (assignments, examinations, etc.) re-marked, you will be asked to explain in writing, within at most 15 days after the work is initially returned, the reasons why it should be re-reviewed and the mark changed by the instructor or the TA. The first person to contact for clarification is the person who marked the work. A reply will be forthcoming in a period of at least **24 hours**. Please note that re-marking **may result in a higher or a lower grade**

8. **Students with special needs** – If you have (or suspect you may have) a learning disability that may require accommodations, you are advised to contact the Centre for Student Development (McMaster University Student Centre B101, Tel. 905-525-9140, ext. 28652, email: sas@mcmaster.ca). Accommodations are arranged exclusively through Student Accessibility Services (http://sas.mcmaster.ca/).

9. **Missed work** – Students who miss a due date for an assignment or miss the midterm exam for a valid reason must take documentation to their respective faculty office. Valid reasons include, but are not limited to, illness, death of a family member or religious holidays. Once documentation has been accepted by the Faculty Office and forwarded to the instructor, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor to make necessary arrangements for making up the work.

10. **If a student misses the midterm exam** – For any valid reason, there will not be an opportunity to write it again. It will be automatically added to the final exam as long as the proper documentation has been provided to your Associate Dean’s Office and the decision is “approved, with documentation.” If the decision is “discretionary, without documentation,” you will receive a grade of zero on the midterm.

11. **Academic dishonesty** – All students are reminded of the seriousness of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of a academic dishonesty please refer to
the Academic Integrity Policy (specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf). Plagiarism (e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained) and copying or using unauthorized aids tests and examinations are examples of academic dishonesty.

12. **Changes to the outline** – The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.