

**Instructor**

Dr. Yujie Hu

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**Lab Website**

<https://geonavilab.geog.ufl.edu>

**Office Hours and Location**

Wed. 1:00 – 1:55 pm; Fri. 3:00 – 4:00 pm (or by appointment); via Zoom

**Class Meeting Time and Location**

Wed. 1:55 – 3:50 pm; Fri. 1:55 – 2:45 pm; via Zoom

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 **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduces the history and evolution of transportation systems, and essential concepts, theories, and topics in transportation geography, such as spatial organization, economic foundations, urban form, major modes, globalization, and environmental impacts. Also covers network representation of transportation systems, basic network measures, and challenges for transportation geography.

 **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

After successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- Describe the history and evolution of the U.S. transportation system;
- Identify the geographic nature of transportation systems;
- Apply the vocabulary, concepts, theories, and data models that are central to the study of transportation systems;
- Gain background for upper-level courses in transportation geography.

 **PREREQUISITES**

- Sophomore standing or higher.

 **TEXTBOOKS**

Required:

- Rodrigue, Comtois, and Slack. (2020). *The Geography of Transport Systems* (5th edition). Routledge.

Recommended:

- Taaffe, Gauthier, and O'Kelly. (1996). *Geography of Transportation* (2nd edition). Prentice-Hall.

## EVALUATION

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION

#### **For undergraduate students:**

- **In-class quizzes (2 points each – 10%)**

*Five* short quizzes will be administered throughout the course, in class. These may be in a form of multiple choice, short answer, or short essay responses. Each quiz is worth 2 points—*1 point for participation and 1 point for the question itself.*

- **Reading assignments (10 points each – 15%)**

There will be assigned readings designed to inform class discussions. For each of these assigned readings you should prepare a written summary of 250-300 words summarizing and critiquing the reading. A sample written summary will be provided. The summary should be posted on Canvas by the Thursday evening (no later than 8 pm) prior to the Friday class.

- **Discussion leader (10 points each – 15%)**

Students are expected to lead/chair class discussion on the Friday class, which involves a short (10 – 15 minutes) presentation of the key theoretical and conceptual issues in the lectures and readings pertaining to that week and introducing questions for the class to explore. This will often be done in groups of 2-3.

- **Lab assignments (100 points – 10%)**

Hands-on lab assignments are provided to help you use GIS to study transportation.

- **Mid-term exam (100 points – 20%)**

A close-book exam, covering all course contents by the day of the test, will be administered in class. The exam will comprise a mix of short answer, short essay responses, and math problems.

- **Review short paper (100 points – 15%)**

Each student will write a short reading report (ca. 1,500 words, 3-5 pages) on a book or set of research articles (must be approved by the instructor) related to the course themes (a suggested format of the report will be provided). Topic approval by the instructor is required.

- **Final presentation (100 points – 15%)**

Each student will prepare a 15-minute presentation (10-minute for presentation and 5-minute for Q&A) discussing the selected topics reviewed in his/her review short paper. Students will be provided with a rubric to guide their presentation. This usually takes place in the last two weeks of the class.

#### **For graduate students:**

- **In-class quizzes (2 points each – 10%)**

*Five* short quizzes will be administered throughout the course, in class. These may be in a form of multiple choice, short answer, or short essay responses. Each quiz is worth 2 points—*1 point for participation and 1 point for the question itself.*

- **Reading assignments (10 points each – 15%)**

There will be assigned readings designed to inform class discussions. For each of these assigned readings you should prepare a written summary of 250-300 words

summarizing and critiquing the reading. A sample written summary will be provided. The summary should be posted on Canvas by the Thursday evening (no later than 8 pm) prior to the Friday class.

- **Discussion leader (10 points each – 15%)**  
Students are expected to lead/chair class discussion on the Friday class, which involves a short (10 – 15 minutes) presentation of the key theoretical and conceptual issues in the lectures and readings pertaining to that week and introducing questions for the class to explore. This will often be done in groups of 2-3.
- **Lab assignments (100 points – 10%)**  
Hands-on lab assignments are provided to help you use GIS to study transportation. Note that graduate students will have additional questions in lab assignments compared to undergraduate students.
- **Mid-term exam (100 points – 20%)**  
A close-book exam, covering all course contents by the day of the test, will be administered in class. The exam will comprise a mix of short answer, short essay responses, and math problems. Note that graduate students will have additional questions compared to undergraduate students.
- **Term paper (100 points – 15%)**  
Each student will pick a specific transportation geography question of interest (topic approval by the instructor is required) and find evidence/information—through reading papers and/or performing geographic analyses—that supports your claims. Write a paper (ca. 5,000 words, 6-8 pages; a suggested format of the paper will be provided) summarizing how you address the question.
- **Final presentation (100 points – 15%)**  
Each student will prepare a 15-minute presentation (10-minute for presentation and 5-minute for Q&A) discussing his/her term paper. Students will be provided with a rubric to guide their presentation. This usually takes place in the last two weeks of the class.

#### GRADING SCALE (&GPA EQUIVALENT)

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93+	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

**Note:** A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#hgrades>.

#### **CLASSROOM POLICIES**

- **Attendance & makeup:** Attendance is mandatory for all students. Absences may be excused if they are documentable and the instructor is notified two business days in advance. If absence is excused, students are responsible for material missed during any

class session (lab or lecture). S/he should obtain notes from a peer for the material covered in class. If the absence is unexcused, assignments not being turned in at the assigned time will be considered late and a penalty will be applied. See the university attendance policies for more detail: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

- **Cell phone and texting:** To encourage uninterrupted participation in class, it is expected that students turn cell phones to silent mode before coming to class.
- **Late submissions:** Late submissions of the review short paper will not be accepted. Late submissions of assignments can be accepted, but 10% of the points will be deducted per day after the due date.
- **Grade disputes:** Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

- **Academic honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.
- **Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.
- **Counseling and mental health resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should contact the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).
- **Online course evaluation process:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under

GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.a.a.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- COVID-19 Statement:** Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### SUGGESTED COURSE SCHEDULE

Students should note that there may be changes to the class schedule.

Weeks	Dates	Lectures	Dates	Assignments/Labs
1	09/02/20	Course overview; syllabus walkthrough; Overview of transportation geography	09/04/20	Overview of transportation geography
2	09/09/20	History of transportation systems	09/11/20	Lab 1 (GIS warm up) due
3	09/16/20	Transportation and spatial structure	09/18/20	Group presentation
4	09/23/20	Economic foundations	09/25/20	Group presentation
5	09/30/20	Transportation modes	10/02/20	Lab 2 (Download and map transportation data) due
6	10/07/20	Transportation and environment	10/09/20	Group presentation
7	10/14/20	<b>Mid-term exam</b>	10/16/20	Lab 3 (Build network dataset) due
8	10/21/20	Urban transportation	10/23/20	Group presentation
9	10/28/20	Transportation planning	10/30/20	Group presentation
10	11/04/20	Transportation networks and basic measures	11/06/20	Group presentation
11	11/11/20	<b>NO CLASS: Veterans Day</b>	11/13/20	Lab 4 (Network topology) due
12	11/18/20	Globalization and transportation	11/20/20	Prepare for final paper
13	11/25/20	<b>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving</b>	11/27/20	<b>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving</b>

14	12/02/20	Challenges for transportation geography	12/04/20	Final project presentation
15	12/09/20	Final project presentation	12/11/20	<b>NO CLASS: Reading Day</b>

 **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Mid-term exam: 10/14/2020
- Review short paper topic (for GEO4938 only): determined and approved by 11/06/2020
- Term paper topic (for GEO6938 only): determined and approved by 11/06/2020
- Final presentation slides: submitted by 12/09/2020
- Reading report (for GEO4938 only): submitted by 12/15/2020
- Term paper (for GEO6938 only): submitted by 12/15/2020