

The Ohio State University

Geography 645 / Geography of Transportation / Autumn Quarter 2009

Instructor: Dr. Morton O’Kelly [okelly.1@osu.edu]
Class Location: DB 0140
Class Time: Tue, Thur 8:30-9:48 AM
Office: 1036 Derby Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 10am-12noon
Phone: 292-8744
T.A.: Jeff Olson <olson.154@osu.edu>
Phone: 292-8232
Office: 0126 Derby Hall
Office Hours: Monday 1-3pm

The course presents a review of the geography of transportation. Four major sets of ideas are discussed:

1) Introduction to Spatial Organization

- a. Spatial organization using concepts of linkage, node, hierarchy, and hinterland.
- b. Selected economic explanations and models of trade.
- c. Spatial interaction (gravity) models.

2) Network Analysis

- a. Aggregate or descriptive measures.
- b. Disaggregate or detailed descriptive measures.

3) Allocation Methods

Provides an example of optimal flow, where we aim to achieve efficient flows within a given network

4) Urban Transportation

Introduction to other selected urban transportation problem areas.

The emphasis is on three different interrelated approaches to understanding the geography of transport: [a] description, [b] explanation, and [c] normative or optimal models. The first type of approach asks “where? and what?” kinds of questions; the second approach asks “why?” questions; and the third approach deals with “how?” could a system be improved.

Course Text:

Taaffe, Gauthier, and O'Kelly, *Geography of Transportation*, Second Edition available at Uniprint at the Tuttle Center (by Tuttle garage near the University Bookstore) and its cost is approximately \$40.

Course Requirements

Exercise I	10 pts	Handed out Oct 8, due Oct. 20 8:30 am.
Midterm I	20 pts	Oct. 22.
Exercise II	10 pts	Handed out Oct 27, due Nov. 5 8:30 am.
Midterm II	25 pts	Nov. 19.
Final	35 pts	Wed Dec 9 7:30 AM - 9:18 AM

Penalties of 20% per day will be assessed for late projects [i.e. maximum score after 1 day late is 80%]. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the instructor receives the material on time. The Final Exam is comprehensive and is scheduled for the usual classroom. Please refer to the Committee on Academic Misconduct for a review of Student Code of Conduct. See their very useful web site including <http://oaa.ohio-state.edu/coam/faq.html>

An extra credit project (for up to 10 pts) will be provided for students wishing to work on a small transport problem throughout the quarter. This will involve gathering and synthesizing data, and writing a short illustrated report **due by the last day of class (Dec. 3rd)**.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Course Content

Week	Day	Date	Meeting	Topic	Read
	R	Sep 24	1	Introduction, Spatial Organization	Chapter 1
1	T	Sep 29	2	Spatial organization	Chapter 1
	R	Oct 1	3	Selected economic aspects	Chapter 2
2	T	Oct 6	4	Selected economic aspects	Chapter 2
	R	Oct 8	5	Spatial interaction (Ex. 1)	Chapter 7
3	T	Oct 13	6	Spatial interaction	Chapter 7
	R	Oct 15	7	Spatial interaction	Chapter 7
4	T	Oct 20	8	Spatial interaction (Ex. 1 due)	Chapter 11*
	R	Oct 22	9	MIDTERM #1	
5	T	Oct 27	10	Networks (Ex. 2)	Chapter 9
	R	Oct 29	11	Networks	Chapter 9
6	T	Nov 3	12	Networks	Chapter 9
	R	Nov 5	13	Allocation (Ex. 2 due)	Chp. 13*, 10
7	T	Nov 10	14	Allocation	Chapter 10
	R	Nov 12	15	Allocation	Chapter 10
8	T	Nov 17	16	Allocation	Chapter 10
	R	Nov 19	17	MIDTERM #2	
9	T	Nov 24	18	Urban Transportation	Chapter 6
	R	Nov 26		NO CLASS (Thanksgiving) Read Chapter 8, 12	
10	T	Dec 1	19	Urban Transportation	Chapter 8
	R	Dec 3	20	Urban Transportation	Chapter 12*
	W	Dec 9		Wed Dec 9 7:30-9:18	FINAL EXAM

Chapters with an “*” represent more advanced material which will be covered in an introductory manner depending on the availability of time. A non-credit practice exercise is planned for the allocation section.