CP 4310 Urban Transportation Planning Syllabus
Fall 2026

Instructor

Paul Supawanich: paulsupa@gatech.edu - Office hours by appointment

Teaching Assistant

TBD

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the fundamentals of urban transportation planning and policy and is applicable to students in a variety of concentrations of study. The purpose of the course will be to acquaint students with transportation planning as a profession and the types of projects that transportation planners are required to conduct.

Course Objectives and Outcomes: This course is designed to introduce an understanding of the fundamentals of urban transportation planning and how it fits into the daily life and planning of cities. You will become familiar with the larger factors that guide the transportation planning process, develop an understanding of the specific transportation planning activities that are undertaken at various levels of governance (local, regional, state, and federal levels) and begin to learn basic tools and analytical techniques used to plan elements of the transportation system.

By the end of the course, you will:

1. Understand the inputs and impacts the transportation system has on all other elements of urban planning and how a city functions.

2. Learn how practitioners plan and design transportation programs, infrastructure, and operations for motorists, transit vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

4. Understand the governance, structure, and process of transportation plans, including goal-setting, performance measurement, and stakeholder and community engagement,

3. Be able to conduct preliminary data collection and analytical methods for planning for urban transportation

5. Understand practical examples of how transportation plans and policies have impacted the City of Atlanta

Course Materials

Announcements, resources and readings/assignments will be shared in Canvas. There are no textbooks for this course**. All readings assigned will be taken from books, blogs, reports, articles, etc. and will be made available as the semester progresses. Assignments, due dates and other aspects of the course may change throughout the semester. Students will be notified when this takes place.

Grading Policy and Components

Participation	15%	Students are expected to attend every class and participate. The field of urban planning and transportation are interdisciplinary and require engaging with colleagues as well as critical stakeholders.
Quizzes	5%	Short quizzes will be given in class without prior notification. These are designed to assess students' understanding of the course material. They are not meant to be difficult and will be used to help judge how the class is responding to lectures and readings so lectures and assignments may adjust accordingly.
Assignments	20%	Multiple short writing responses or similar style assignments throughout the semester will be based on readings, events, design analyses and field work. These must be submitted via Canvas by the start of class on the date they are due. Each day late will be a deduction of 10% of the assignment's grade. After three days, the assignment will be given a 0.
Midterm	30%	Midterm Exam
Final	30%	Final Exam

Grading Scale		
Letter Grade	Percentage	Criteria

A	90-100%	High quality, professional work.
B	80-89%	Mostly meets expectations, but not up to professional quality.
C	70-79%	Assignment has been completed but writing is not clear and/or disorganized or the information is incorrect.
D	60-69%	Serious shortfall in meeting the assignment's expectations.
F	0-59%	Usually only possible if work is incomplete or not submitted

Course Policies:

1. Attend class, be present, and participate*
2. Respect yourself and others including fellow students and guest speakers
3. Be curious and open minded
4. Complete readings and submit assignments on time
5. Follow the Georgia Tech Honor Code
6. Communicate and reach out with any questions / concerns
7. Cell phone use in class is not permitted except when explicitly asked to do so.
8. Use of AI Chatbots - You are welcome to use AI tools to assist in brainstorming ideas, but you may not submit any work generated solely by a bot as your own. Relying on AI can be problematic as it is often inaccurate and can limit your own ideas and analysis, and stifle learning. When using any AI system, be transparent about its use.

*Email me in advance if you cannot attend a class or will be late due to an extenuating circumstance or an anticipated conflict.

Attendance Policies: You are expected to attend lectures and participate in class during the designated class times. The readings listed under each session below are required readings unless noted otherwise. Readings will be available on the course Canvas website. All students are expected to read all the assigned readings BEFORE class and to actively participate in the discussion.

Active participation in class is an important component of this course. As students in Atlanta, you all have engaged in urban transportation in some way and thus have lived experience on the topic. Being able to express concepts and opinions clearly and ask good questions are critical skills in the professional world. In the interest of promoting a

productive learning environment for all, please:

1. Arrive on time and stay for the duration of class.
2. Be present, and engaged in class discussion
3. Turn off or mute audible mobile devices for the duration of class.
4. Turn off laptops unless they are being used for notes, you are checking facts discussed in class, or if you are instructed otherwise.
5. During any team assignments, contribute and work collaboratively with other members

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

Core IMPACTS is the University System of Georgia's General Education curriculum. If you are teaching a course that counts towards Core IMPACTS, you should include a syllabus statement about the Core area and associated career competencies. This resource developed by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and Online Education at Georgia State University includes template syllabus statements for each of the Core IMPACTS areas that you may adapt for your course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Class Schedule

	Dates (T/Tr)	Class
Week 1	Aug 25	**Lecture: Without Transportation, What is a City?**
	Aug 27	**Lecture: Establishing the Practice: History of Transportation Planning (Part 1)**
Week 2	Sep 1	**Lecture: Unintended Consequences" History of Transportation Planning (Part 2)**
	Sep 3	**Field trip 1: Campus Walking Tour**
Week 3	Sep 8	**Lecture: How Do People Move Today? Examples from the US**
	Sep 10	**Lecture: How People Do People Today? Examples from Around the World.**
Week 4	Sep 15	**Lecture: How Does Land Use Affect How We Move? Connection Between Land Use and Transportation**
	Sep 17	**Lecture: How We Move (Trips and Modeling Travel)**
Week 5	Sep 22	**Lecture: What's The Role of the Street?**
	Sep 24	**Lecture: How We Move (Modeshare + Impacts)**
Week 6 Transit Week	Sep 29	**Lecture: Let's Travel Together: Public Transit - Planning**
	Oct 1	**Lecture: Let's Travel Together: Public Transit - Operations**
Week 7	Oct 6	Fall Break
	Oct 8	**Lecture: How We Move (Cycling and Walking - Planning)**
Week 8	Oct 13	**In-Class Discussion:** Mid-term Review Session
	Oct 15	Mid-Term Exam

Week 9	Oct 20	**Lecture: How We Move (Parking Policies)**
	Oct 22	**Lecture: How We Move (Freight and Goods Movement)**
Week 10 Data Collection Week	Oct 27	**Lecture: Understanding Conditions, Users and Trends - Data Collection Methods**
	Oct 29	**Field Trip 2 / Data Collection Methods**
Week 11 - Governance Week	Nov 3	**Lecture: Governance - Who Makes Decisions and Who Pays For It? (Part 1)**
	Nov 5	**Lecture: Governance - Who Makes Decisions and Who Pays For It? (Part 2)**
Week 12	Nov 10	**Lecture: Transportation Engineering - Design (Geometric Design) and Operations (Signals)**
	Nov 12	**Field Trip 3 - Transportation Operations**
Week 13 - Application Week	Nov 17	**Lecture: Putting into practice: Examples of Plans in Transportation Plans in Practice**
	Nov 19	**Lecture: Putting into practice: Examples of Policies + Outcomes Case Studies**
Week 14	Nov 24	No Class
	Nov 26	Thanksgiving
Week 15	Dec 1	**Lecture: Making it Real - Examples of Policies + Outcomes Case Studies**
	Dec 3	**Lecture: Looking Towards Future - Autonomous Vehicles and Electrification**
Week 16	Dec 8	**In-Class Discussion:** Exam Review Session
	Dec 10	Exam Week Begins