

CP 4310 Urban Transportation Planning Syllabus

Fall 2026

Course Description

This course will introduce the fundamentals of urban transportation planning and policy and is applicable to anyone interested in cities and how they function. The course will acquaint students with the various components of a city's transportation system and how they affect local and global issues, 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 the fundamentals of urban transportation planning and how it fits into the daily life and the planning and operations of cities. By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Explain how transportation systems evolved over time and what local and global issues they influence
2. Define the many components of a city's transportation system and how they work together
3. Conduct preliminary data collection in order to understand specific transportation issues and analyze that data to form recommendations
4. Describe the governance, structure, and process of transportation plans, including goal-setting, performance measurement, and stakeholder and community engagement.
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 and should be reviewed before each class. 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.

Course Policies

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 informed questions are critical skills in the professional world. In the interest of promoting a productive learning environment for all, please:

1. Attend class, be present, and participate in discussions. Please use laptops for notes only and refrain from using your cell phone unless asked to do so.
2. Respect yourself and others including fellow students and guest speakers
3. Complete readings before class and submit assignments on time (all via Canvas website)
4. Follow the [Georgia Tech Honor Code](#)
5. Please communicate with me on any questions or concerns on the course, you may reach me by email and/or set up a time to meet during office hours.
6. Use of AI: You are welcome to use AI tools to assist in brainstorming ideas, but you may not submit any work generated solely by AI tools as your own original work. In urban planning AI tools can be problematic as their references are often inaccurate, misrepresent community values, and can limit your own ideas and analysis, and stifle learning. When using any AI support, please use an AI statement to briefly describe how you used it in your work.
7. Be curious and open minded

Attendance Policies

The field of urban planning and transportation are interdisciplinary and require engaging with colleagues as well as critical stakeholders.

Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussion where attendance will be taken. Four absences (same as institute approved) are permitted*. The fifth absence will lower one's class participation grade by 5%. The sixth absence results in 0% participation grade. This policy begins on Week 2 (Sept 1).

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

Grading Policy and Components

Participation	15%	This includes class attendance and participation in class discussion.
Assignments + Group Project	35%	Short writing responses/exercises (20%) and one group project (15%) 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. The group project will be graded individually and individuals will be assessed in the overall comprehensiveness of their deliverable and meaningful contributions to the group.
Midterm	25%	Midterm Exam
Final	25%	Final Exam
Extra Credit	Maximum of 10%	Extra credit opportunities will become available throughout the semester which will likely involve in-person trips to document public meetings, or conduct field observations that would count towards assignment grading.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Criteria
A	90-100%	High quality, professional work, detailed examples and analysis when applicable.
B	80-89%	Mostly meets expectations, but lacking sufficient explanation and/or analysis detail.

C	70-79%	Assignment has been completed but writing is not clear, is unsubstantiated, and/or disorganized or the information is incorrect.
D	60-69%	Serious shortfall in meeting the assignment's expectations.
F	0-59%	Work is incomplete or not submitted on time

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.

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