

Course Syllabus

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Section 1

Instructor, Course Information & Objectives

**Advanced Academic Programs
Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
Johns Hopkins University**

**Transportation Policy and Smart Growth
AS.420.646.81.FA17**

Instructor Information

Instructor: Christopher S. Van Wyk
Telephone Number: 202-253-1956
Email Address: cvanwyk1@jhu.edu – I will try to respond to emails within 3 business days
Office Hours: If your question might possibly be answered by other students and you don't mind sharing, please post it to the "Syllabus and Assignment Questions" discussion board. That way if other students have the answer or might benefit from it, all can see it. Otherwise, please first try to contact me by email. If you need to reach me by phone for some reason, do not contact me by phone before 8am or after 8pm.

Course Description

This course examines how transportation policy and decisions can alleviate or prevent problems resulting from urban sprawl. How can transportation decisions and planning contribute to more "livable" urban designs and land use patterns that promote "smart growth," growth that is environmentally and ecologically sustainable? Students discuss how different environmental media—land, water, and air—are affected by our transportation systems and resulting development patterns, and how the design of transportation systems—the highways, roads, transit systems, and bike and walk paths—can more closely harmonize with nature and provide communities with a better quality of life. A wide range of policy options are examined, from altering the structure of road pricing to redesigning neighborhoods and altering urban form. A number of case studies are examined to illuminate the issues and principles raised in the course.

Course Goals & Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- *Identify and describe the characteristics of different types of development patterns in the United States as well as influences on those patterns;*
- *Identify and explain the interaction between transportation and land use development in*

- the United States, but especially those that result in urban sprawl;*
- *Apply knowledge of potential strategies that can be used to alleviate the environmentally damaging effects of urban sprawl; and*
 - *Evaluate extant geographic areas for the potential introduction and implementation of such strategies.*

Sample Syllabus

Section 2

Course Materials

Textbook

There is no textbook for this course, but rather a diverse set of reading and media materials that include government publications, judicial decisions, and other scholarly articles. These materials will be made available on “eReserves” at the library, provided by the instructor, or will be the responsibility of the students to secure (generally through the internet or research databases available through the library). The module for each unit of the course will detail the readings for that unit, as well as any other materials you will need to cover or media you need to review to prepare you for the assignments and threaded discussions.

Specific Technology Requirements & Skills for this Course

This course requires the use of a computer with access to the internet and software sufficient to view Blackboard and presentations streamed through Adobe Presenter/Panopto.

Learning online requires some basic knowledge of computer technology. At a minimum, you need to be able to:

- Navigate in and use Blackboard; the Blackboard Student Orientation course on your “My Institution” page
- Listen to .mp3 audio files and view video content
- Create and save MS Word documents; see [MS Word training and tutorials](#) for PC users (all versions); [Word Help](#) for Mac users
- Find basic resources on the Internet
- Create and organize files & folders on your computer
- Send, receive, and manage email

Section 3

About Your Course

Course Topics

Unit 1 – Course Introduction/Overview

Unit 2 – History of U.S. Transportation Policy

Unit 3 – History of Urban Sprawl and U.S. Development Patterns

Unit 4 – Effects of Sprawl: Environmental, Social, and Health

Unit 5 – Smart Growth Strategies: Part 1

Unit 6 – Smart Growth Strategies: Part 2

Unit 7 – Smart Growth Criticism and Concerns

Unit 8 – International Perspectives and Possibilities for the Future

Directions for Students

Next Steps: Carefully review the remaining sections of the syllabus section of this course before beginning Unit 1 activities, which are located through the Lessons button in your Blackboard course. Once you feel that you are ready to begin the first unit's activities, click on the Lessons button on the left-side navigation. Then click on Unit 1 and begin with the roadmap for Unit 1.

What To Expect in this Course

This course is one semester in length and includes individual and whole group activities in what is approximately a two-week cycle of instruction, with each two-week block constituting one unit. Please review the course syllabus thoroughly to learn about specific course outcomes and requirements.

During each unit you will review content that may include readings, videos, multimedia presentations, web-based resources, and articles from professional journals. This content may be integrated within an activity during the unit or provide some key information to assist in your learning and complete your assignments. Be sure to refer to the list of activities each unit to see the unit activities at a glance and the targeted dates for completion of activities. Be sure to keep to the course schedule.

Course Structure

The course is structured to first look broadly at the topics of the course, the problem of urban sprawl, and transportation policy generally. Later on the course delves deeper into the issues of urban sprawl, finally concluding with a look at potential solutions and the outlook for the future.

Sample Syllabus

Section 4

Assessments and Grading Policy**Assignments**

(Insert brief descriptions of the number and types of assignments here. Include general information about due dates and specific information about assignment weights.)

Assignments	Due Dates	Points Possible
<p>Assignment 1: Quiz</p> <p>A quiz will be assigned during Unit 4 to ensure students have understood the basics concerning the history of transportation policy and urban sprawl. This will ensure more robust discussions throughout the remainder of the course and that students are prepared for the assignment that follows.</p>	End of Unit 4	15% of total grade
<p>Assignment 2: Community Assessment: Part 1 (Identification)</p> <p>This assignment involves the selection of a real community in the United States that has development patterns reflective of urban sprawl. The assignment will require students to develop a basic description of that community, including aspects that demonstrate urban sprawl and its existing transportation connections/amenities. The student will need to prepare a short written paper as well as a short presentation. These work products will be combined with those developed for Part 2 of the assignment later in the course. This assignment will be made available and assigned at the beginning of Unit 3.</p>	End of Unit 5	20% of total grade
<p>Assignment 3: Community Assessment: Part 2 (Assessment and Proposal)</p> <p>This assignment involves the evaluation of the community you chose in the United States that has development patterns reflective of urban sprawl, as well as development of strategies for alleviating the negative effects of sprawl and/or strategies for redeveloping the community along the lines of smart growth. The assignment will require students to use the tools they have learned in the course for matching smart growth principles based on knowledge learned about a particular community. The student will need to prepare a short written paper as well as a short presentation that adds</p>	End of Unit 7	25% of total grade

<p>to the work product developed for Part 1 of this assignment. This assignment will be made available and assigned to students at the beginning of Unit 6.</p>		
<p>Assignment 4: Course Participation</p> <p>You are expected to have an active presence in course discussions, and complete course activities as noted in the assignment guidelines to maximize your learning. Participation in activities should be consistent, of high quality, and reflect both a high level of academic thinking and your own personal perspectives, opinion, and ideas.</p> <p>Your course participation grade will be based on your participation in threaded discussions and the course wiki throughout the semester. Threaded discussions will be assigned for each unit of the course, and students are expected to participate in each forum of every unit (some units may have more than one forum) with a minimum of two substantive posts (these can be responses to others) per forum. For example, if a unit contains two forums, at a minimum you must post twice in each of those forums, for a minimum of four posts for that unit. Aside from meeting this minimum requirement, your grade will depend on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The extent of your participation (you should be sure to contribute to discussions and participate without dominating them, posting material of an appropriate length, i.e., don't post something so long that you wouldn't want to read it if it were written by someone else); The timing of your participation (your contributions should be engaged with others, not just a single post at the beginning without later responses and not only adding your thoughts at the end after the discussion is basically over); and The quality of your participation (your contributions should demonstrate that you have completed the readings and other assignments. Also, that you have thought about the issues in a careful manner). <p>The risk of miscommunication when using a solely electronic text medium (like that of threaded discussions) is higher than with in-person communication due to the lack of body language. When participating in the discussions, practice good communication skills by trying to understand what others are writing before you reply. Also, when referring to text, it is sometimes useful to quote material to ensure that others are on the same page (literally). Finally, ensure that you participate in the threaded discussions in a timely manner. This means doing the readings for each unit early in the unit, rather than waiting until the end. If you wait until the end, the most fulsome parts of the discussion will already be</p>		<p>40% of total grade</p>

completed, and it will be impossible at that point to participate in an adequate manner. Moreover, although the threads will not be locked at the end of each unit, the discussion will move on quickly to the next unit to keep the class moving, so no posts after the close of a unit will receive full credit. Finally, after posting, check back often to see whether others have replied to keep the conversation going.		
Total		100%

Grading

The following grading scale will apply to this course:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	98% to 100%
A	94% and less than 98%
A-	90% and less than 94%
B+	88% and less than 90%
B	84% and less than 88%
B-	80% and less than 84%
C	70% and less than 80%
F	0% and less than 70%

Assignment Guidelines

How should assignments be submitted?

All assignments should be double-spaced and submitted in a Microsoft Word-compatible file type. We will be using _____ or the assignment tool in Blackboard for assignment submissions. In the Unit during which the assignment is due, there will be a submission link through which you can submit your assignment.

When submitting documents for an assignment, please specify the assignment name in the document title. When creating files, include your last name and the name of the assignment in the file title. Also, please be sure to only include one period in file names. The period should be between the file name and the extension. For example: vanwyk_assignment1.doc.

When will assignments be due?

Assignment and activity due dates are listed in this syllabus and the Unit lessons. The instructor via an announcement in Blackboard will announce changes.

When will completed assignments be returned?

The instructor will aim to return assignments to you within 7-10 days following the due date,

depending on the length of the assignment. You will receive feedback under the My Grades link on the left hand menu of your course.

What is the policy for late assignments?

You are expected to contact your instructor in advance if you think you cannot meet an assignment deadline. However, if an assignment is late and prior arrangements have not been made with the instructor, the assignment score will be reduced by one point per day out of 100 points needed for a perfect score in the course.

Time Management Expectations**What is the time demand and schedule of the course?**

Because this is a graduate-level course, it is expected that you look ahead to schedule your time. Plan to complete coursework across several days of the week rather than all in one day.

Some assignments require that you work on them for multiple weeks. Be sure to review the assignment directions at the beginning of the course so that you can plan your time accordingly. Please seek help before becoming frustrated and spending a significant amount of time to resolve an issue.

Section 5

Course Participation & Communication Policy

Participation

What are the participation requirements?

You are expected to log into Blackboard **at least three** times a week, though a daily check-in is recommended. It is your responsibility to read all announcements and discussion postings within the forums and to participate in all threaded discussions and online activities for the course. You should revisit the discussion multiple times over the unit to contribute to the dialogue. Students are also expected to complete the assigned content (readings, presentations, videos, podcasts, etc.) according to the schedule on the syllabus.

Network Etiquette (i.e. "Netiquette")

In this course, online discussion will be primarily take place in our online discussion board. In all textual online communication it's important to follow proper rules of netiquette.

What is netiquette? Simply stated, it's network etiquette -- that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. And "etiquette" means the social and cultural norms of communicating with others in a proper and respectful way. In other words, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving and interacting properly online.

The Netiquette "Core Rules" linked below are a set of general guidelines for cyberspace behavior. They probably won't cover all situations, but they should give you some basic principles to use in communicating online.

For Netiquette Core Rules visit [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#) web page.

Contacting the Instructor

The instructor for this course is Christopher S. Van Wyk (cvanwyk1@jhu.edu). For technical questions, please contact AAP Technical Support. For non-technical questions about the course, please post a question to the "Syllabus and Assignment Questions" Discussion Board. If you don't feel comfortable sharing your non-technical question with the class, please contact me by email with your question. I will normally try to respond within 3 business days.

All email messages will be sent to you via your JHU email account, so you should be in the habit of checking that account every day.

Section 6

Course Protocols

Course Protocols

How will I know about changes to the course?

Frequently, you will find new announcements posted in the Announcements, which contain information about current course activities that you are working on and any changes to the course. Please check announcements every time that you log into your online course.

How should I communicate with others in this course?

You should communicate often with your classmates and with your instructor. The majority of communication will take place within the Discussion forums. When you have a question about an assignment or a question about the course, please contact your instructor, or post your question in the course's "Syllabus & Assignment Question" forum. If you wish to chat with classmates about general topics that don't fit with the content of any particular unit, feel free to post them in the "Student Lounge" discussion forum.

Are there any requirements for sending e-mail messages?

When you send an e-mail message to the instructor or to another participant in the course, please observe the following guidelines:

- Include the title of the course in the subject field (e.g., JHU Transportation Policy and Smart Growth).
- Keep messages concise, and check spelling and grammar.
- Send longer messages as attachments.
- Sign your full name (the sender's email is not always obvious).

Section 7

Course Topics, Activities & Schedule**Tentative Course Schedule**

Important Note: Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each unit's corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

This schedule is subject to change as the semester progresses. As much as possible, changes will be announced prior to the start of the next unit through the course Announcement function.

Unit	Dates	Topics	Activities	Assessments & Due Dates
1	8/28/17 – 9/10/17	Course policies; introductions; overview of the course topics	Review and study syllabus and course materials; introductory forum; discussion forum	Discussion forums
2	9/11/17 – 9/24/17	Transportation history; modes of transportation; transportation policy	Review and study course materials; participate in discussion forum	Discussion forum
3	9/25/17 – 10/8/17	Sprawl and U.S. development patterns over time	Review and study course materials; contribute to course Wiki; begin community assessment assignment (part 1)	Course Wiki; assign first part of two-part community assessment assignment
4	10/9/17 – 10/22/17	Effects of sprawl: Environmental, social, and health	Review and study course materials; participate in discussion forum; quiz	Discussion forum; quiz assigned and due
5	10/23/17 – 11/5/17	Smart growth strategies: Part 1	Review and study course materials; contribute to course Wiki; finalize community assessment assignment (part 1)	Discussion forum; first part of two-part community assessment assignment is due
6	11/6/17 – 11/22/17	Smart growth strategies: Part 2	Review and study course materials; contribute to course Wiki; begin community assessment assignment (part 2)	Discussion forum; assign second part of two-part community assessment assignment

BREAK	11/23/17 – 11/26/17	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	11/27/17 – 12/11/17	Smart growth criticism and concerns	Review and study course materials; contribute to course Wiki; finalize community assessment assignment (part 2)	Discussion forum; second part of two-part community assessment assignment is due
8	12/12/17 – 12/19/17	International perspectives and possibilities for the future	Review and study course materials; participate in discussion forums	Discussion forums

Section 8

University Policies

General

This course adheres to all University policies described in the academic catalog. Please pay close attention to the following policies:

Students with Disabilities

Johns Hopkins University is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities should contact the coordinator listed on the [Disability Accommodations](#) page. Further information and a link to the Student Request for Accommodation form can also be found on the [Disability Accommodations](#) page.

Ethics & Plagiarism

JHU Ethics Statement: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor.

Read and adhere to JHU's [Notice on Plagiarism](#).

Dropping the Course

You are responsible for understanding the university's policies and procedures regarding withdrawing from courses found in the current catalog. You should be aware of the current deadlines according to the [Academic Calendar](#).

Getting Help

You have a variety of methods to get help. Please consult the help listed in the "Blackboard Help" link in the online classroom for important information. **If you encounter technical difficulty in completing or submitting any online assessment, please immediately contact the designated help desk listed on the [AAP online support page](#).** Also, contact your instructor at the email address listed atop this syllabus.

Copyright Policy

All course material are the property of JHU and are to be used for the student's individual academic purpose only. Any dissemination, copying, reproducing, modification, displaying, or transmitting of any course material content for any other purpose is prohibited, will be considered misconduct under the [JHU Copyright Compliance Policy](#), and may be cause for disciplinary action. In addition, encouraging academic dishonesty or cheating by distributing information about course materials or assignments which would give an unfair advantage to others may violate

AAP's [Code of Conduct](#) and the University's [Student Conduct Code](#). Specifically, recordings, course materials, and lecture notes may not be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes, for compensation, or for any purpose other than use by students enrolled in the class. Other distributions of such materials by students may be deemed to violate the above University policies and be subject to disciplinary action.

Sample Syllabus