

COMPARATIVE URBAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY

MEXICO CITY

Days/Times: Thursdays (2/20 – 3/13) from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Monday through Friday (3/24 – 3/28) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
2 or 3 additional sessions TBA (4/14 – 5/16)
Room: 5373 Public Affairs Building (Urban Planning Conference Room)

Instructor: Brian D. Taylor
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Office hours: By appointment at www.its.ucla.edu/hours

Course Description

This course compares and contrasts transportation policy and planning issues in two world cities: Mexico City and Los Angeles. This is a special field course whereby graduate students in the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs spend one week in Mexico City meeting with planning officials, urban and transportation scholars, and activists to learn first-hand about the transportation issues facing residents of Mexico City. To appeal to the wide range of interests among UCLA students, the course will focus on *access* – to employment, housing, culture, etc. – and the role of transportation policy and planning plays in facilitating access. This course will count toward completion of the transportation policy and planning specialization in the Department of Urban Planning as a Group 3 (policy) course.

Course Format and Requirements

The course requirements are as follows:

1. ***Attend at least three of the four preparatory class meetings during the Winter 2014 quarter.***

The meetings will be used to (1) plan the policy and planning topics to be covered in Mexico City, (2) develop specific itineraries for each day, and (3) to finalize all of the logistical arrangements for the trip. If you are unable to meet at this time, coordinate with Professor Taylor and the trip organizers to ensure you have all the information necessary.

2. ***Arrange a portion of the field activities in Mexico City.***

During the Winter 2014 quarter student teams of two to four students will take the lead in arranging the field activities for each morning and afternoon. In addition, two teams of students will be responsible for overall planning of the field trip. Upon returning to Los Angeles, each team will be responsible for writing and thanking each of the speakers with whom we visit during our Mexico City field activities.

3. ***Course Reading.***

Each student is responsible for completing the required course reading prior to beginning the field activities in Mexico City. See attached required readings list.

4. ***Participate in five days of meetings and other field activities in Mexico City.***

On each morning and afternoon of the five business days during the week of 24 March 2014 (March 24 – 28), one of the teams of two to four students will lead the entire class on a field trip and to meetings with policy and planning officials, researchers, and activists in Mexico City. The entire itinerary should be confirmed in advance and distributed to each class member on the day prior to the field activities, including when and where to meet to begin each session's activities.

5. ***Prepare and deliver a presentation, write a research paper, or produce some other intellectual product to present at the concluding event, covering some aspect of access policy and planning, comparing and contrasting Mexico City and Los Angeles.***

This project should select a specific, clearly defined planning issue on the general theme of "access" and should compare and contrast the treatment of this issue by policymakers, planners, and/or activists in Mexico City and Los Angeles. The presentation should be 20 minutes in length (15 minute presentation and 5 minute Q&A), should reflect original research work on your part, and should be very polished both orally and visually. The research paper be about 2,000 to 3,000 words in length with a clear thesis and should cite evidence to support of all findings and conclusions. Any other form of intellectual product must be approved by the instructor.

6. ***Attend two or three concluding meetings during the Spring 2014 quarter.***

The first of these meetings will be to de-brief on our trip and plan for our concluding session(s). The second (probably third) sessions will be to present the findings of your research projects to the broader UCLA Luskin community.

Grading

Grades will be determined as follows:

1. **Attendance at preparatory and concluding class sessions and organization of Mexico City field activities** (25%).
2. **Participation in the Mexico City field activities** (30%).
3. **Course project** (35%).
4. **Participation** (10%). Each student will complete a self-evaluation and a group evaluation at the end of the course.

Readings (to date)

1. Bus Rapid Transit

- a. Overview of Mexico City's BRT:
 - i. <http://www.nyc.gov/html/unccp/gprb/downloads/pdf/Mexico%20CityMetrobus.pdf>
- b. BRT and Land Value:
 - i. Velandia Naranjo, Durfari Janive 2013. The Impact of Bus Rapid Transit System on Land Prices in Mexico City. Lincoln Land Institute Working Paper.
http://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/dl/2267_1606_Velandia_WP13DV1.pdf

2. Housing and Land Use

- a. TOD and anti-sprawl:
 - i. Michael Gilat and Joseph Sussman, "Coordinated Transportation and Land Use Planning in the Developing World: Case of Mexico City," *Transportation Research Record* 1859, no. 1 (January 1, 2003): 102–109, doi:10.3141/1859-13
- b. Mexico's suburbs
 - i. <http://erickguerra.net/2013/06/the-new-suburbs-evolving-travel-behavior-the-built-environment-and-subway-investments-in-mexico-city/>

3. Environment

- a. Overview of the City's environmental challenges:
 - i. Schteingart, Martha. "The environmental problems associated with urban development in Mexico City." *Environment and Urbanization* 1.1 (1989): 40-50. <http://eau.sagepub.com/content/1/1/40>
- b. Driving restrictions as an environmental policy:
 - i. Davis, Lucas W. "The effect of driving restrictions on air quality in Mexico

City." Journal of Political Economy 116.1 (2008): 38-81.

http://instructional1.calstatela.edu/mfinney/Courses/433/articles/mexico_program.pdf

4. Innovative Policies

a. Parking management:

i. <https://go.itdp.org/display/ADBdemo/ecoParg>

b. Bicycle share:

i. <https://go.itdp.org/pages/viewpage.action?pagelId=54887669>

c. Public space—Bajo Puentes

i. http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/in-mexico-city-planners-turn-vacant-space-under-freeways-into-places-to-work-dine-play/2013/05/28/ade28c26-c32e-11e2-9642-a56177f1cdf7_story.html