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GPHY 432.01: Human Role in Environmental Change

Thomas J. Sullivan

The University of Montana, thomas.sullivan@umontana.edu

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University of Montana Department of Geography

Geog 432- Human Role in Environmental Change

“SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION”

Fall Semester 2014

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:10AM–12:00PM

Instructor: Tom Sullivan

Office: Room 307B, Stone Hall

Office Telephone: (406) 243-4810

Email: thomas.sullivan@umontana.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00AM-12PM (or by appointment)

Overview of the Course

In our contemporary world, globalization and sustainability are catch phrases with multiple and complex meanings. Geographers have long been involved in the study of the relationship humans have with the environment. Rather than focus on a broad and generalized study of World processes, however, this course focuses on one of many problems associated with the human/nature relationship, emphasizing the impact of energy systems on our surroundings with a specific focus on transportation. An integral part of our landscape is the automobile and our dependence on this form of transportation has transformed nearly every part of our daily lives including the creation of a massive transportation network, the reconfiguration of our cities, and a profound negative impact on our environment. During this course we begin by understanding the concept of automobility as it developed into an unconscious form of practice. Next, we look at how individuals develop these unconscious practices through the lens of Pierre Bourdieu—a French sociologist/philosopher—who attempts to develop a general theory of practice. And finally, we look at alternative ways to re-design our environment without a total reliance on cars and envisioning a way we can modify our practices in preparing for a world of transportation that lessens the burden on our environment.

This course is based on a lecture/discussion format. There will be a series of lectures, including guest speakers and films, which will supply material for class discussions. Also, there is a fair amount of required readings; material from which you are required to write papers based on your critical examination of the theory and practice of transportation.

Policies and Procedures

The following policies allow me to teach without distractions, and, it will provide each student with a pleasant atmosphere for learning:

Please refrain from talking in class unless engaging in questions with the instructor or actively participating in-group discussion. If you are disturbing the lecture, I may ask that you exit the classroom.

No cell phones **on** in class! Please make sure your cell phone is off before lecture begins.

Be on time! I expect everyone to be on time for class in order to not disturb the lecture. If for some reason you are late, I ask that you be extremely quiet and not disturb anyone as you enter and sit down.

Please do not leave the class early. If you have a special reason for leaving early please contact me before class begins and sit close to the door in order to exit quietly.

No reading of any material during class is allowed. Please pay attention to each lecture.

Course Assignments and Grading

Writing Assignments (50 points total):

There are a number of writing assignments of varying length and point totals that you are required to complete throughout the semester. Each paper will be graded according to content, creativity, organization and grammar.

I do not accept late papers!

Midterm and Final Examination (100 points total):

Each of the exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. These exams will test your knowledge of the readings and the material covered in the lectures. The midterm and final are worth 50 points each.

Final Paper/Presentation (50 points)

The final paper is based on a project that is assigned towards the beginning/middle of the semester. Although you will work in groups, the paper is an individual assignment while the presentation is collaboration amongst group members.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

THIS IS A PAPERLESS COURSE!

Course Grading

There is a total of 200 points available for the course. All assignments and examinations, as well as the final grade, are based on the following scale:

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89.99%

C = 70 – 79.99%

D = 60 – 69.99%

F = 59.99% and below

Please note that in order to be fair to all students, I will not round up a grade. For example, if you receive a 79.99%, you will receive a 'C' in the course.

Please note, this class is offered for traditional letter grade only, it is not offered under the credit/no credit option.

Required Texts:

Jordan, Pete. 2013. *In the city of bikes: the story of the Amsterdam cyclist*. New York: Harper Perennial.

Bordieu, Pierre. 1977; 2009. *Outline of a theory of practice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Seiler, Cotton. 2008. *Republic of drivers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

NACTO 2013. *Urban street design guide*. Washington: Island Press.

NACTO 2013. *Urban bikeway design guide, 2nd edition*. Washington: Island Press.
<http://link.springer.com.weblib.lib.umt.edu:8080/book/10.5822%2F978-1-61091-582-3>
(Digital Version on Moodle)

Additional readings will be assigned during the course--available on Moodle.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Week 1	25 August	Monday	Introduction/Syllabus review
	27 August	Wednesday	Urbanized
	29 August	Friday	Sustainable Cities
	Reading this week: <i>Intro and Chapter 1 of Republic of drivers</i>		

PART I – THE AUTOMOBILE and THE INDIVIDUAL

Week 2	1 September	Monday	NO CLASS
	3 September	Wednesday	American Individualism
	5 September	Friday	Automobility and Gender
	Reading this week: <i>Chapters 2, 3 of Republic of drivers</i>		
Week 3	8 September	Monday	Automobility and Race
	10 September	Wednesday	Automobility and the Liberal Subject
	12 September	Friday	Discussion
	Reading this week: <i>Chapters 4, 5 of Republic of drivers</i>		

Paper 1: Due on Wednesday, September 17 on Automobility

PART II – THEORY AND PRACTICE

A classic binary exists between objectivity and subjectivity within critical human geography and sociology. In this section we are introduced to some complex ideas by the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in order to develop a deeper understanding of how our behavior becomes an ingrained construct. His theories of practice will help for us to better understand how the automobile, as well as other forms of transport, is a part of our subjective bodies.

Week 4	15 September	Monday	Pierre Bourdieu and Theory of Practice
	17 September	Wednesday	Objectivity
	19 September	Friday	Discussion
	Reading this week: <i>Part I of Outline of a Theory of Practice</i>		

Week 5	22 September	Monday	Structure
	24 September	Wednesday	Habitus
	26 September	Friday	Discussion

Reading this week: *Part II of Outline of a Theory of Practice*

Week 6	29 September		Habitus
	1 October		Power and Domination
	3 October		Discussion

Reading this week: *Part III, IV of Outline of a Theory of Practice*

Paper 2 Due on Friday, October 10 on *Outline of a Theory of Practice*

Week 7	6 October	Monday	Overview of Theory of Practice
	8 October	Wednesday	Discussion
	10 October	Friday	Midterm Review

MIDTERM EXAMINATION on Monday OCTOBER 13TH

PART III – SUSTAINABLE FORMS OF TRANSPORT

In this section of the course we will discuss the solutions for urban streets that provide a more safe and equitable way to share public space while promoting sustainable transportation.

Week 8	13 October	Monday	MIDTERM EXAMINATION
	15 October	Wednesday	Amsterdam
	17 October	Friday	Discussion

Reading this week: *In the city of bikes – Chapters 1 through 6*

Week 9	20 October	Monday	A Fetish for Bicycles
	22 October	Wednesday	Bicycling and the War
	24 October	Friday	Discussion

Reading this week: *In the city of bikes – Chapters 7 through 11*

Week 10	27 October	Monday	Bikes, Bikes, Bikes
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29 October Wednesday Bike vs. Car

31 October Friday Discussion

Reading this week: *In the city of bikes – Chapters 12 through 21*

Paper 3 Due on Monday, November 5 on *City of Bikes*

PART IV – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DESIGN

The final installment of this course emphasizes the “practice” of sustainable transportation through thought-provoking and creative design. Reviewing NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) guides in street design and bicycle design, we will identify and develop solutions for problematic intersections and streets in Missoula.

Week 11 3 November Monday Street Design Principles

5 November Wednesday Street Design Elements

7 November Friday Discussion

Reading this week: NACTO 2013. *Urban Street Design Guide*

Week 12 10 November Intersections

12 November Intersection Design Elements

14 November Discussion

Reading this week: NACTO 2013. *Urban Street Design Guide*

Week 13 17 November Bikes/Ped Design Principles

19 November Bikes/Ped Design Elements

21 November Discussion

Paper 4: Due on Monday, November 24 on NACTO

Reading this week: NACTO 2013. *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*

Week 14	24 November	NACTO review
	26 November	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
	28 November	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS
	Reading this week: NACTO 2013. <i>Urban Bikeway Design Guide</i>	
Week 15	1 December	Group Presentation
	3 December	Group Presentation
	5 December	Group Presentation
Week 16	8 - 12 December	FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK

FINAL EXAMINATION: 8 - 10AM on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014