

CEE295c
Seminar in Transportation Systems Engineering
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For 2015-2016, the CEE295c Seminar in Transportation Systems Engineering will offer a different format. Instead of a weekly meeting of graduate students presenting MS or PhD research, participating in debates, or listening to presentation by faculty or outside speakers, we will offer a three quarter sequence focused on **Transportation Problems, Planning, and Policy**.

FAQs for 2015-2016

What are the Registration Requirements?

At this time, students **must** enroll in and complete the fall seminar to be able to enroll in the winter seminar (and likewise for the spring). Students that complete the entire three seminar sequence will be able to count this toward their degree program as an elective in the “other” (non 200-289) category. We likely can accommodate students who need a fourth credit hour via a 1-unit CEE299. You may stop enrolling in subsequent quarters but you may not be able to count these units toward the degree program. For this **fall quarter**, please register for CEE295c [17410]

Who’s Eligible to Enroll?

All graduate students interested in transportation may enroll, whether MS or PhD, whether in engineering, planning, economics, or other areas. Undergrad students may enroll with permission of the instructor. While new students might benefit the most from this course, all returning students are strongly encouraged to enroll.

What Is the Seminar Format?

The seminar will meet for one 50 minute session each week for 10 weeks. We will likely change the current Friday 10-11am time slot to Friday afternoon. The initial sessions will be lectures by Professor McNally addressing the course topic of **Transportation Problems, Planning, and Policy**. A tentative listing of course topics is attached. From the defined problem areas, students will select a topic on which to write a brief problem definition summary. These summaries will be peer-reviewed over the following week, after which the author will revise and submit in the subsequent seminar. The course instructor or other faculty will then review and edit this final draft and return a graded review at the following seminar. This process will be completed three times within an overlapping four week cycle (see below). The last assignment may optionally focus on research approaches associated with the problem area.

What is Require for the Three Writing Assignments?

The first assignment will include:

- a. **Title Page or Header**, with your name, date, topic, and course information;
- b. A **summary** of the problem selected, including its relevance and importance;

- c. Supporting material (properly referenced) providing analysis, data, graphical displays, and facts supporting your assessment of the problem selected. This is **not** original research: you should scour the web, papers, books, or any other sources for this material;
- d. A brief **discussion** with your interpretation and conclusions.

A rough guide would be 500-1000 words for the first assignment (the number of pages will depend on the amount of supporting material included). The second and third assignments will follow one of two formats:

1. Extend the problem summary to include a discussion of planning or policy. What changes may be needed in the current planning process (e.g., what modeling approaches) to address the defined problems? What policies hinder or support problem resolution?
2. Repeat the first assignment for a second or third problem area.

What about the Winter and Spring Quarters?

In each of the winter and spring quarters, new sets of Transportation Problems will be presented. We may replace one or more of the written assignments with either debates or oral presentations.

What is the Writing Cycle?

Each quarter, there will be three writing cycles:

1. Week 1. Choose a problem area from the choices discussed. Over the next week, **complete the first draft** of the writing assignment
2. Week 2. Submit your draft for **peer-review**. Over the next week, you will review, edit, and comment on another student's work.
3. Week 3. Return your review. Over the next week, you will **revise** your summary based on the associated peer-review.
4. Week 4. Submit your **final** summary. Begin Writing Cycle 2.
5. Weeks 4-7 Writing Cycle 2
6. Weeks 7-11 Writing Cycle 3 (due to Thanksgiving, the final draft submittal will be at the end of exam week.

What is the Format of the In-Class Sessions?

Each 50 minute in-class session will be a combined lecture and discussion. Background information of selected transportation problems will be presented which, together with class discussion, will assist you in selecting a problem to explore in greater depth. Class attendance is important so you can miss no more than one of the seminars without prior approval. My schedule is such that I might miss one or more classes: if so, these will be announced in advance if the class will not be covered by a faculty colleague.

What Transportation Problems Will Be Considered?

Please see the attached syllabus for the entire 3-quarter sequence. Fall quarter will likely cover items 1 through 4 on that syllabus.