Undergraduate Minor in Transportation and Logistics

TRANSPORTATION 310: PREVIOUS PAPER TOPICS

First Paper: Case Study
A descriptive case study of a particular transportation or logistics firm or industry, or of a public policy debate.

- Passenger rail in the United States
- O’Hare expansion plan
- Capacity problems for Union Pacific railroad
- The Chicago Metropolis 2020 plan
- Urban growth boundaries
- Facility location for emergency services
- Airline response to fuel price increases
- Capacity expansion at San Diego airport
- Railroad track maintenance
- Highway privatization
- Foreign investment restriction in U.S. aviation
- Railroad regulation in the United States
- US Airways / America West merger
- The Chicago area transit financial crisis of 2007
- Dynamic routing for commercial trucks
- Fourth party logistics
- Transportation and the environment
- Regulation of motor carriers
- Design of parking lots
- Airport privatization
- Low cost air carriers in Asia
- Electronic ticketing for commuter rail
- Effect of urban growth boundary on Portland, Oregon
- Developments in ocean shipping companies
- “Cashing out” of parking by employers
- Transit in Colorado Springs
- Container shipping possibilities on the Great Lakes
• Effect of highway congestion pricing on retail stores
• Effect of videoconference on business air travel
• Exclusive highway lanes for BRT and taxis
• Anti-trust immunity and airline fares
• Defining captive shippers of railroads
• Evolution of air cargo hubs
• Economic development effects of high-speed passenger rail
• Rail transit in Los Angeles
• Growth of Emirates, Eithad and Qatar airlines
• Activity-based travel demand models
• Effect of California high-speed passenger rail on land use
• Reverse logistics in retailing
• Mapping for disaster preparedness
• Barriers to domestic Bus Rapid Transit development
• Economic impact of Japanese high-speed trains
• Effect of new high-speed rail service on land use in Takaoka, Japan
• Queuing models of airport security screening
• Express rail service to O'Hare
• ADA Paratransit finances
• The Hyperloop
• IKEA’s supply chain
• Cruising for parking
• Transit Expansion in Suburban Atlanta
• Aviation cabotage
• Transatlantic low-cost airlines
• New York East River crossing tolls
• Long-distance ride sharing
• Honolulu light rail project
• Blockchain in logistics industry
• Logistics of blood supply
• Essential Air Service program
• Joint venture between American Airlines and Qantas

**Second Paper: Research Paper**
An extended, analytical, paper that evaluates a specific public policy initiative or a business issue.

• High speed passenger rail feasibility in the United States
• Effect of competition on air fares
• Design of Lincoln Street / Sheridan Road intersection
• Essential Air Services program evaluation
• Population density and transit performance
• Effect of flight restrictions on Dallas Love Field on fares at Dallas-Fort Worth airport
• Effects when an airport ceases to be a hub (two separate student papers)
• Cabotage in aviation
• Financial feasibility of Positive Train Control
• Effect of travel across time zones on performance of professional baseball players
• Oil and gas exports from Russia to Europe
• Effect of truck driver safety violation notification system
• Effect of fuel prices on airline financial performance
• ADA paratransit provision
• Transit investments association with the Olympic Games
• Carbon emissions in supply chains
• The effect of ethanol as a fuel on food production
• Air cargo to Hawaii
• Effect of airline capacity reductions in 2008
• Worldwide airline stock prices
• Effect of population growth on commuter rail ridership
• Comparison of transit provision in five cities
• Competition between container shipping companies
• Parking policies on Northwestern’s Evanston campus
• Financial performance of high-speed passenger rail
• Pedestrian deaths on the railroad
• Effect of e-shopping on shopping trips
• Stability of duopoly in airline markets
• Cost-benefit analysis of exclusive highway lanes for BRT and taxis
• Competition and fares on air routes from Las Vegas
• Market power in coal transportation from the Powder River Basin
• Effect of airline baggage fees
• Effect of network expansion on ridership of Los Angeles rail transit
• Growth of transcontinental air service
• How the valuation of time may vary by mode
• Ranking U.S. corridors for high-speed passenger rail development
• Airline market power and flight delays
• Effect of self-distribution laws on development of craft breweries
• Comparison of BRT versus LRT ridership in Los Angeles
• Airport security screening
• Fare elasticities for subway and commuter rail services
• Effect of texting bans on highway fatalities
• Effect of “bad news” on airline stock prices
• Development in railways in the Soviet Union 1917-1932
• Optimal locations for hub airports in the United States
• Conditions for implementing “road diets”
• Airfare premium for non-stop flights
• Modeling demand for long-distance car sharing in France
• Changes in taxi demand by neighborhood in Chicago after the entry of Uber/Lyft etc.
• Effect on air fares of the introduction of “basic economy” fares
• Effect of a tax on ride-hailing trips in downtown Chicago on the demand for traditional taxis
• Estimation of an Origin-Destination matrix for the Chicago Transit Authority rail system, and the estimation of revenue effects of a zonal fares system
• Analysis of the outsourcing of Northwestern University's Saferide system to Via
• Analysis of ridership changes at stations on Dubai’s mass transit rail system
• Analysis of ridership changes at stations on the Chicago Transit Authority rail system