I. Catalog Description

EC 433  Economics of Transportation (4)

The economic characteristics of transport, the functions of the different transportation agencies, transportation pricing, problems of state and federal regulation; coordination of facilities; and current transportation problems. 4 lectures/problem-solving sessions. Prerequisites: EC 201 or EC 202.

II. Required Background or Experience

EC 201 or EC 202.

III. Expected Outcomes

Students in EC 433 will:

a) identify and summarize the characteristics, extent of application, and structure of the various modes of transportation in the transportation industry,

b) analyze pricing policies of different modes of transportation,

c) summarize the functions of state and federal transportation agencies,

d) evaluate the impacts of cultural groups on transportation, and the impacts of cultural groups on transportation in the U.S., and

e) identify current transportation problems and possible solutions.

IV. Text and Readings

Texts:


**Readings:**


References:

American Economic Review  
Journal of Economic Inquiry  
Journal of Industrial Economics  
Journal of Law and Economics  
Journal of Regulatory Economics  
Journal of Transport Economics and Policy  
Journal of Urban Economics  
*Rand Journal of Economics*  
Transportation Journal  
Transportation Research Record  
Yale Journal of Regulation

V. **Minimum Student Materials**

Textbooks, notebooks and access to library references and computer facilities.

VI. **Minimum College Facilities**

Classroom suitable for lecture/problem-solving sessions equipped with audio-visual equipment and computer facilities, ie. "smart" classroom.
VII. Course Outline

A. Introduction

1. Economic Significance of Improved Transportation

2. History of Transportation in the United States

3. Impact of the Political Process on Transportation

4. Impact of Improved Transportation on Socialization Process

B. Pricing

1. Freight Rates

2. Freight Rates and Locations of Industries and Markets

C. Railroads

1. Rates

2. Control

3. Competition

4. Long and Short Haul Discrimination

D. Trucks

1. Rates

2. Control

3. Competition

4. Economic Efficiency of Trucks

E. Water Transport

1. Rates
2. Control

3. Economic Efficiency of Water Transport

4. Competition

F. Impact of Improved Transportation of Various Cultural Groups in the United States

1. Impact on Blacks

2. Impact on Asians

3. Impact on Native Americans

G. Impact of Various Cultural Groups on Transportation in United States

1. Multi-Language Communication

2. Impact of Different Lifestyles on Services Offered

VIII. Instructional Methods

There are four methods of instruction:

a) assigned student readings,
b) presentation of lecture, audio-visual, and written material by the professor,
c) demonstration of how to prepare a written report concerning a transportation economics issue to guide students in preparation of their term papers, and
d) student development of answers to transportation policy issues on two take-home written examinations.

IX. Evaluation of Outcomes

There are two methods of evaluation:

a) two take-home essay examinations concerning the development of transportation policy issues to be no more than 10 pages in length, and

b) a term paper on a transportation economics problem to be no more than 15 pages in length.