

CORE 104 – Change and the Future

Instructor

Professor Vanessa Schwartz, Department of History

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11, and by appointment

Lecture TTh 11-12:20 THH 116

Discussion F 11 WPH 107

F 1 WPH 107

(except when we have fieldtrips and IML labs on Fridays 11-2)

Lab F 11-2 WPH 107

11:00-12:20, T, TH Taper 116

Discussion Leader

Catherine Clark catherec@usc.edu

Office Hours: 1-2, T and 10-11,Th

Boats, Trains, Cars and Planes:

How Mobility and Transportation Shaped the Modern World



The recent turn towards a “global” historical framework has put the spotlight on one of the key dynamics of the process of globalization itself: mobility in history. Across regions and time periods, historians now consider routes rather than roots. This course will examine the acceleration of time and the shrinking of space through modern modes of transportation. It interrogates the modern emphasis on speed and the coming of the global order by looking at trains, boats, cars, and planes. The class will emphasize the history of technology as it intersects with the movement of people and goods.

Course Mechanics

All scheduled classes are mandatory and will begin on time. Please do not arrive after class begins. Class time will either consist of lecture (which will include images and student participation) or lecture-discussion based on the week’s readings. More than three missed classes will result in failure. No late papers will be accepted. In addition, each Friday you will have class, either as a field trip, a section or an IML lab. There are, however, a few weeks, when discussion will take place on Thursday rather than Friday. Please note this carefully in the syllabus.

Reading: Reading in this course is extensive and all listed readings are required. It is essential that you keep up with the readings on a weekly basis in order to follow the lectures and participate in discussion. Readings marked with an * are available on the class blackboard. There is also a class wiki.

Required Reading

Bernstein, William J. A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped the World. New York: Grove Press, 2009.

Brinkley, Douglas. Wheels for the World: Henry Ford, His Company, and a Century of Progress. New York: Penguin, 2004.

- Gordon, Alastair. Naked Airport: A Cultural History of the Worlds Most Revolutionary Structure. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Iyer, Pico. The Global Soul. New York: Random, 2001.
- Ladd, Brian. Autophobia: Love and Hate in the Automotive Age. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Lewis, Daniel. Iron Horse Imperialism: The Southern Pacific of Mexico, 1880-1951. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2008.
- Schivelbusch, Wolfgang. The Railway Journey. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
- Urry, John. Mobilities. Cambridge: Polity Press/John Wiley & Sons), 2007.
- Verne, Jules. Around the World in Eighty Days. Trans. William Butcher. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Writing Assignments and Exams: All written work must be your own and proper citation is essential as you write your papers and projects. Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated and the academic integrity code will be strictly enforced.

- 1) In-class mid-term, February 17
- 2) 3-5 page paper report and multi-media companion: Due, Monday, March 20 to BB and Wiki
- 3) Group Presentation: See schedule by Group Number
- 4) Final Project: Due May 12, 11 am.

Project and Multi-Media Component of the Class: Students will be divided into four project groups.

- 1) Technologies of transportation (the machines)
- 2) The spaces of transport (train stations, ports, airports, garages, parking lots, freeways)
- 3) Representations of the experience of transport (in written fiction, film, art)
- 4) Displays of technology and transport (as in transport museums)

Each student will prepare a three-five page paper and a powerpoint or short film to distribute to each of their fellow group members on an individual element in each group. For example, in spaces of transport, we might have someone do a paper/project on Heathrow and another on the Gare Saint-Lazare. This will depend on the number of students in the class and relative student interest etc. The students will read each other's papers and look at each other's powerpoint/film and develop a multi-media narrative presentation that they produce together for their group to be presented in a single class period. The student group presentations may merge individual presentations or may be an entirely new production. All materials (individual jpgs, film clips, powerpoints and quicktime movies) will be available for all students to use as they do the take-home final.

The class final exam will be to create a final written or multi-media project that answers one of three questions distributed at the start of the group presentation process that will be based on materials from all of the presentations. The length of the written paper will be ten pages and in slide terms will be about 75 slides or ten minutes of film.

Grading: These are meant to serve as guidelines for evaluation in this course. Grades are not calculated mathematically, but are determined through a process of evaluation. All grading is done on an A-F basis.

Mid-term Exam:	20%
Paper and companion presentation:	20%
Group Project:	20%
Take-Home Final:	30%
Participation:	10%

Field Trips: All Field Trips are mandatory and will take place of Fridays between 11-2. You will be given more explicit information about transportation to and from the site but below see the list of trip locations and dates.

Friday, January 23: Union Station, 11-2
Friday, January 30: Huntington Library: Special Collections: Meet with curator Dan Lewis, 11-2
Friday, February 6: Peterson's Automotive Museum, 11-2
Friday, February 13, Felix Chevrolet, 11-2
Friday, March 27, LAX, Flight Path Learning Center, 11-2

Week One. Moving Things and Moving People

January 13 Why a class on Mobility and Transport?
January 15 Moving Things before Moving People.
January 16 Discuss readings in discussion section.

Reading: John Urry, Mobilities, pp. 1-16.
William Bernstein, A Splendid Exchange, pp. 1-20, 54-76, 241-279, 316-337.

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: January 19, 2009

Week Two. Machines and Motion

January 20 The Industrial Revolution: Steam Power and Boats.
January 22 Discuss readings: Group 1 at 11:00 and Group 2 at 11:40.
January 23 **Field Trip to Union Station, 11am-2pm.**

Reading: *Mumford, Technics and Civilization, pp.131-142, 158-167 (available on Blackboard).
Wolfgang Schivelbusch, The Railway Journey. pp. 1-70; 159-170.

Week Three. Full Speed Ahead: Trains

January 27 New Views of the Landscape.
January 29 What Capetown to Cairo Meant.
January 30 **Field Trip: Huntington Library, 11am-2pm.** Rare books and manuscripts related to trains; led by Dan Lewis. Also discuss with Lewis, Iron Horse Imperialism.

Reading: Dan Lewis, Iron Horse Imperialism.

Week Four. Wheels for one, Wheels for all

February 3 The auto takes off.
February 5 Discussion of Brinkley.
February 6 **Field Trip Petersen's Museum, 11am-2pm.**

Reading: Douglas Brinkley, Wheels for the World, pp. Intro; 113-160; 310-354; 604-637.

Week Five. The Cultural Implications of Automobility

February 10 The Freedom of the Road.
February 12 Discussion of Ladd.
February 13 **Field Trip Felix Chevrolet, 11am-2pm.**

Reading: Brian Ladd, Autophobia.

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

Presidents' Day: February 16, 2009

Week Six. Mid-Term Week
February 17 Mid-Term exam in-class.
February 19 IML Visit Lecture: Thinking about Multi-Media Presentations.
February 20 **IML Lab Visit #1, 11am-2pm.**

Week Seven. Taking Flight
February 24 Wings.
Lecture by Sylvie Lindeperg on film, "Night and Fog"
12:30-2:00 extra credit opportunity in SOS 250.
February 26 The View from Above.
February 27 Discussion of readings.
Reading: Crouch, *Wings, pp.54-118, 254-264; Cosgrove, "The Virtual Globe" from
Appolo's Eye, p, 265-267, *Van Vleck, The Logic of the Air.

Week Eight. The Air Life and The Jet Set
March 3 A New Cosmopolitan World Order.
March 5 Airports: The Worst Non-Places in the World.
Lecture by Rosalind Williams, "The Visible and Invisible in the History of Technology"
12:30-2:00 extra credit opportunity in SOS 250.
March 6 Discussion of Gordon.

Reading: Alastair Gordon, Naked Airport.

Week Nine. Re-Presenting Transport
March 10 Screening of Transport Clip Reel.
March 12
or March 13 Student Choice: **IML Lab #2**

Reading: Articles from Virtual Voyages, edited by Ruoff.
*Ruoff "Cinema as Audiovisual Vehicle"; Rabinovitz, "From Hale's Tours to
Star Tours"; and Bloom, "Trans-Saharan Automotive Cinema."
Jules Verne, Around the World in Eighty Days.

SPRING RECESS: March 16-21, 2009

Week Ten. Reconsidering Mobility
March 24 Time to Work on Individual Research.
March 26 Discussion of Verne, Around the World in Eighty Days: Oracle of a Century or not?
March 27 **Field Trip to LAX Flight Path Learning Center, 11am-2pm.**

PAPER DUE: Monday, March 29, 2009

**3-5 page paper due on Blackboard/Wiki – you must read the paper
of each of member your group before Thursday, April 2**

Week Eleven. What is the Global Soul?
March 30 Why bother leaving home?
April 2 Time to work on projects in groups.
April 3 Discussion of Iyer.

Reading: Pico Iyer, The Global Soul.

Week Twelve. Project Meetings

April 7 Meeting with Group 1 at 11; Group 2 at 11:40.

April 9 Meeting with Group 3 at 11; Group 4 at 11:40

N.B. When your group does not meet with the professor, you should be working on the group project either together or separately.

April 10 Last IML Lab, 11-2

Last Day to Drop a Class with Mark of "W": Friday, April 10, 2009

Week Thirteen. Is Globalization dependent on Mobility? What kind?

April 14 Moving Goods, Moving People, Still

April 16 Group Project Work

April 17 Discussion of Urry and Bernstein.

Reading: Urry pp. 63-end.
Bernstein, pp.339-385.

Week Fourteen. The Presentations Begin

April 21 Final Group Meetings

April 23 Group 1: The Machines

April 24 Group 2: The Spaces of Transport

Week Fifteen: Presentations Continue

April 27 Group 3: Representations of Transport

April 29 Group 4: Displays of Transport History

**Final Projects Due no later than May 12, 2009, at 11am
to be posted on Blackboard/Wiki and delivered to History office if files are too big**