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

**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.  

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.  


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

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.”

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