

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Non-State Spaces in Transition - The Global Bicycle Path**

**Course Number and Section:**

CGS

3521F 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Mark Franke

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

We are engaging in critical investigations into formations and contestations over spaces made through and for the movements and relations of bicycling. We will study: how it is that bicycling introduces and makes spaces and spatial possibilities in the world; what quality of spacings are made through the dynamics of bicycling; and what is at stake in the active formations, transformations, and/or control or limiting of bicycling spaces. And we will take these studies to multiple registers at once, considering the significance of the spatial and spatialising actions of pedal-based automobility in regional, globalised, and local terms. However, our studies, in these regards, are not reducible to the concerns of cyclists or bicycling social movements themselves. The stakes of our studies have a much broader scope.

In studying the spaces for bicycling and the productive spatial productions of bicycling, our aim in this course is to open up critical investigations into the stakes of human automobility within late modernity. Bicycling will be studied as a part of modernist movements to develop and establish worlds oriented to automobility. We are studying the politics of how we move in the modern societies we build with one another and how our modes of movement impact how our social, political, economic, and cultural contexts are shaped. In this respect, inevitably, our studies of spaces of and for pedal-powered bicycling will lead very directly to contrasts with human automobility via motorised transport, in particular the car.

## Learning Outcomes:

Students in this course will have opportunities to broaden and deepen their understandings of globalization in specific relation to issues of mobility, social and political geographies, social inequalities, and the aims of governance with respect to the movements of persons. Students will enrich their understandings of how problems of automobility in late-modernity are conditioned by politics of gender, race, and class. They will study how specific forms of current public activism, related to global issues, are conditioned by capacities for and modes of mobility. On this register, specific emphasis will be placed on gaining critical understanding of the stakes of mobility for feminist actions and anti-racism. And students will have the opportunity to develop creative critical understanding of how it is that established built environments and transportation networks can be effectively re-imagined with respect to critical forms of automobility. Students will gain substantial experience and exercise in learning how to develop and communicate interpretive analyses of study and research materials. Students will gain experience in this course in developing their own sites and problems of research and analysis, through the development of interdisciplinary field studies. And students will gain deep practice in the development of all aspects of major academic research papers.

## Textbooks and Course Materials:

For every week that we meet as a class, there are a set of readings that are assigned as "required readings." These are readings that students must have completed and studied before meeting as a class in that given week. As well, in most weeks, you will find lists of "recommended readings." These recommended readings are indeed merely suggestions for further reading in that week's particular topic and problems, for those who have the time or wish to do further research in that particular subject area either out of personal interest or for work on assignments.

Most of the required and recommended readings are drawn from scholarly journals. Journals that feature strongly in these lists include:

- Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography
- Journal of Geography
- The Journal of Transport History
- Mobilities
- Space and Culture
- Space and Polity
- Technology and Culture
- Transactions
- Transfers

The remaining readings are drawn from a broad series of books, some of which are ordered for purchase in the Western University Book Store.

Physical copies of the following four books have been ordered for purchase in the Western University Book Store, as we will be studying many chapters as required reading from each:

Steven Fleming, *Velotopia: the production of cyclespace in our minds and our cities* (nai010 publishers, 2016).

Zack Furness, *One Less Car: Bicycling and the Politics of Automobility* (Temple University Press, 2010).

Aaron Golub, Melody L. Hoffmann, Adonia E. Lugo, and Gerardo F. Sandoval, eds., *Bicycle Justice and Urban Transformation: Biking for All?* (Routledge, 2016).

John G. Stehlin, *Cyclescapes of the Unequal City: Bicycle Infrastructure and Uneven Development* (University of Minnesota Press, 2019).

All of the above books are also available through Huron University College's Library, in electronic and/or paper form.

Other books from which we will be drawing our required readings or that simply connect well with the course include:

Stefan Bendiks and Aglaée Degros, *Cycle Infrastructure* (nai010 publishers, 2013).

Bruce Bennett, *Cycling and Cinema* (Goldsmiths Press, 2019).

Una Brogan, *The Alternative Modernity of the Bicycle in British and French Literature, 1880-1920* (Edinburgh University Press, 2022).

Ralph Buehler and John Pucher, *Cycling for Sustainable Cities* (MIT Press, 2021).

Peter Cox, *Cycling: A Sociology of Vélomobility* (Routledge, 2019).

Peter Cox, *Cycling Activism: Bike Politics and Social Movements* (Routledge, 2024).

Peter Cox and Till Koglin, *The Politics of Cycling Infrastructure: Spaces and (In)Equality* (Policy Press, 2020).

Govind Gopakumar, *Installing Automobility: Emerging Politics of Mobility and Streets in Indian Cities* (MIT Press, 2020).

Melody L. Hoffmann, *Bike Lanes Are White Lanes: Bicycle Advocacy and Urban Planning* (University of Nebraska Press, 2016).

Adonia E. Lugo, *Bicycle/Race: Transportation, Culture, and Resistance* (Microcosm Publishing, 2018).

James Longhurst, *Bike Battles: A History of Sharing the American Road* (University of Washington Press, 2015).

Glen Norcliffe, *The Ride to Modernity: The Bicycle in Canada, 1869-1900* (University of Toronto Press, 2001).

Glen Norcliffe, Una Brogan, Peter Cox, Boyang Gao, Tony Hadland, Sheila Hanlon, Tim Jones, Nicholas Oddy, and Luis Vivanco, eds., *Routledge Companion to Cycling* (Routledge, 2022).

Justin Spinney, *Understanding Urban Cycling: Exploring the Relationship Between Mobility, Sustainability and Capital* (Routledge, 2021).

Luis A. Vivanco, *Reconsidering the Bicycle: An Anthropological Perspective on a New (Old) Thing* (Routledge, 2013).

There are many more titles that I could list, but that is a start.

All journal articles and book chapters that are listed as "required reading" are available in pdf form, by week, in the Content section of the OWL Brightspace course space for CGS 3521F. And most of everything is available electronically via the university Library online catalogue.

**Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	ongoing through term	15%
10 Weekly Critical Reading Studies	weekly through term	35%
Paper Proposal	October 28	10%
Final Paper	December 5	40%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, August 9, 2024