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Political Studies 179
Harvey Mudd College
Office hours by appointment (Parsons 1280)

Fridays 1:15-4:00
Room: Shanahan 2561
Spring 2016

BICYCLE REVOLUTION

This course explores the challenge of creating bike-friendly cities, using bicycle transportation as a window into broader themes surrounding the politics of social change in urban/ suburban settings. The course combines community engagement with an introduction to relevant research literatures. Each week we will ride along bike routes in the surrounding cities of Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties, meeting with local officials and advocacy groups and gaining insights into the promise and challenge of local sustainability. These will be augmented with all-day field trips on two Saturdays during the semester. The course readings draw on diverse intellectual traditions including political science, urban planning, comparative public policy, sociology, public health, and cultural geography.

The course is designed for students from all backgrounds and levels of biking experience. Bicycles are available for those who need them. Safety training during the first week is mandatory and is a prerequisite for taking the course. Grades will be based on contributions to online discussions of readings; a midterm; group projects in data analysis and video documentary; and a capstone project that offers analysis, design proposals, or other original contributions of value to community leaders. The class experience will be the subject of a documentary film.

Required Texts

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

National Association of City Transportation Officials, *Urban Bikeway Design Guide*, 2014 (PDF accessible online via Claremont library).

All other readings are available on Sakai.

Course Requirements

Participation	10 %
Quizzes	5 %
Online discussions	20 %
Blog post about rides	5 %
Video of bike route	5 %
Midterm	15 %
Crash Data Analysis	10 %
Community Project	
Draft	15 %
Final	15 %

Course goals: Learn a lot, have fun, stay safe!

By the end of the semester, you should:

- Be familiar with key concepts from the social science literature regarding the politics of social change in urban settings, and demonstrate an ability to apply these ideas to illuminate the challenge of bicycle advocacy in specific places.
- Have a working knowledge of the state-of-the-art in bicycle transportation planning, including best practices and exemplary locales.
- Understand the importance of peer-reviewed research for illuminating complex social issues, accessing and incorporating this research literature into your own analysis.
- Demonstrate the fundamentals of bicycle use, including traffic rules, strategies for safe riding, and basic bicycle maintenance.

Some details on course requirements

We will form four groups to help with the course logistics:

1. Advanced riders

Students with a great deal of biking experience are needed to take the positions of ride leaders and anchors, to help students as they fix flats, and generally to assist in ensuring a safe riding experience. We will not 'saddle' this group with stopping for every flat, but will look to them for leadership and guidance.

2. Data and information management

This group will take responsibility for the design and maintenance of the course website; archiving and backing up film footage; advice and guidance on database management, in cases where we are working with data sets; and helping to problem solve with any new software used in the course.

3. Film crew

This group will take responsibility for assisting the producers and media studies students with filming and sound. No prior experience is necessary, but students must be willing to undergo training with the producers.

4. Banquet organizers

Coordinating with HMC staff, this group will handle logistics for the end-of-semester banquet, including room reservation, food, invitations, media setup, poster printing, media relations, and other details.

Readings will be discussed online, through blog posts and short video recordings of students summarizing additional readings. Details are provided in a separate document on Sakai.

Additional logistics

- This course will involve riding bicycles in urban settings. Bicycling is an activity that carries the risk of serious injury or death. Students must always wear helmets when riding, as well as front and back lights at night. Students must pass the safety quiz and sign a liability waiver.
- Students must purchase their own helmets, in order to develop a lifelong habit of riding with a helmet. All other equipment will be made available for check-out at the Linde Activities Center. Under no circumstances may equipment be lent to non-enrolled riders without advance approval from the instructor.
- Students will be liable for the full replacement cost of any equipment (bikes, jerseys, lights, locks, cameras) lost, stolen or damaged beyond normal wear and tear due to negligence, to be paid in full within two weeks of the loss. Negligence includes improper locking of a bike; leaving a bike outside overnight; misplacing equipment; or permanently staining jerseys.
- Students will film, and be filmed, for a documentary that will be distributed publicly. Students will sign a waiver allowing for the distribution of this material and assigning the film rights to the producers.

- Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Contact the instructor well in advance to discuss arrangements.
- If, after the course is underway, a student has a documented illness or injury that prevents him/her from joining the rides, we will work together to make sure that the student can complete the course for credit.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Jan 22

Ride: Visit the Pitzer Green Bikes program. Maintenance training led by Sanford Glickman. Safety training led by Thomas Shelley.

Quiz #1: Safety (based on the online videos).

Quiz #2: Fix a flat in less than 20 minutes.

Readings:

Videos on bicycle safety and maintenance.

Bike Battles, chapters 1, 2, 3 (pp. 80-106), 5, and 6.

Week 2 – Jan 29

Ride: Claremont City Hall; the Claremont Senior Bicycle Group; and the Citrus Bikeway.

Readings:

Claire Cain Miller, Where Young College Graduates Are Choosing to Live, *New York Times*, October 20, 2014.

Deb Greco, The Well-Tempered Cyclist, chapter 29 in Amy Walker (ed.), *On Bicycles*, 2011.

Carolyn Szczepanski, What Do Mayors Really Think? A Report from the National Bike Summit, March 4, 2014 (online resource).

League of American Wheelmen, *Bicycle Friendly America: The Blueprint*, 2011. Pages 16-68 only. [A great overview of best practices. Lots of information here, so take your time and take notes.]

(Readings continue on next page.)

Alliance for Biking & Walking, *Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2014 Benchmarking Report*, Chapter 2 (pp. 34-63 only), Washington DC, 2014.

** Record and upload onto YuJa a 1-2 minute video summary of key points from the above Benchmarking Report. Present the information as if you are talking to an influential citizen or decision-maker who has no background in biking.

Optional:

Contested Streets (film, 56 minutes). <https://vimeo.com/26396887>

Week 3 – Feb 5

Ride: City of La Verne, led by Doug Strange of Cycling Around La Verne

Readings:

TED talk (search Google): James Howard Kunstler, *The Ghastly Tragedy of the Suburbs*, 2004.

Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, The Neighborhood, the District, and the Corridor, in Katz and Scully (eds.), *The New Urbanism: Toward an Architecture of Community*, 1993.

Jeff Mapes, Davis: Creating an American Bike City, in *Pedaling Revolution: How Cyclists Are Changing American Cities*, Oregon State University Press, 2009.

Kathryn Quick and Zhirong Zhao, Suggested Design and Management Techniques for Enhancing Public Engagement in Transportation Policymaking, University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies, 2011.

Additional readings:

Catherine R. Emond, Wei Tang, and Susan L. Handy (2009) Explaining Gender Difference in Bicycling Behavior, *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board* 2125(1): 16-25.

Sue Macy, *Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)*, National Geographic Books, 2011. Chapters to be announced.

Robert Fishman, Beyond Suburbia: The Rise of the Technoburb, in *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia*, 1987.

John Pucher, Jennifer Dill and Susan Handy (2010) Infrastructure, Programs, and Policies to Increase Bicycling: An International Review, *Preventative Medicine* 50: S106-S125.

Week 4 – Feb 12

Team exercise: Analyze crash data from surrounding cities and present the results in a visually compelling format for local decision-makers.

Week 5 – Feb 19

Ride: City of Pomona. Led by the Pomona Valley Bicycle Coalition

Readings:

Andrew Keatts and The Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Most Cyclists Are Working-Class Immigrants, Not Hipsters, *Governing*, October 26, 2015.

John Pucher and Ralph Buehler (2009) Cycling for a Few or for Everyone: The Importance of Social Justice in Cycling Policy, *World Transport Policy & Practice* 15(1):57–64.

Kristen “Herbie” Huff and Cullen McCormick, Low-Income Latino Cyclists in Los Angeles County: A Socioeconomic Spatial Analysis, unpublished manuscript, 2011.

Benjamin J. Newman, Joshua Johnson, and Patrick L. Lown (2013) The “Daily Grind”: Work, Commuting, and Their Impact on Political Participation, *American Politics Research* 20(10):1–30.

Additional Readings:

Anthony Downs (2005) Smart Growth: Why We Discuss It More Than We Do It, *Journal of the American Planning Association* 71(4): 367-378.

Daniel J. Hopkins and Thad Williamson (2012) Inactive by Design? Neighborhood Design and Political Participation, *Political Behavior* 34(1): 79-101.

Penny Gordon-Larsen et al. (2006) Inequality in the Built Environment Underlies Key Health Disparities in Physical Activity and Obesity, *Pediatrics* 117(2): 417-424.

John Pucher et al. (2010) Walking and Cycling to Health: Recent Evidence from City, State, and International Comparisons, *American Journal of Public Health* 100(10): 391–414.

Week 6 – Feb 26

Ride: San Dimas City Hall

Readings:

Mark H. Rose (2003) Reframing American Highway Politics, 1956-1995, *Journal of Planning History* 2(3): 212–36.

John Forester (1987) Planning in the Face of Conflict: Negotiation and Mediation Strategies in Local Land Use Regulation, *Journal of the American Planning Association* 53(3): 303–14.

Steven P. Erie (1992) How the Urban West Was Won: The Local State and Economic Growth in Los Angeles, 1880-1932, *Urban Affairs Review* 27(4): 519-554.

NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. Selections to be announced.

Additional Readings:

Craig M. Wheeland, Christine Kelleher Palus, and Curtis Wood (2014) A Century of Municipal Reform in the United States: A Legacy of Success, Adaptation, and the Impulse to Improve, *The American Review of Public Administration*: 1-18.

Karen Trapenberg Frick, David Weinzimmer, and Paul Waddell (2015) The Politics of Sustainable Development Opposition: State Legislative Efforts to Stop the United Nation's Agenda 21 in the United States, *Urban Studies* 52(2): 209–32.

Brian McKenzie, *Modes Less Traveled—Bicycling and Walking to Work in the United States: 2008–2012*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2014.

Week 7 – March 5 (Saturday)

Saturday Ride: Beach citiesReadings:

Edward Soja, Taking Los Angeles Apart: Towards a Postmodern Geography, in *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory*, Verso, 1989.

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage, 1961. Selections to be announced.

Long Beach Bicycle-Friendly Business Districts (online resource).

(Readings continue next page.)

Barry Rabe and Philip Mundo, Business Influence in State Environmental Policy, in Michael E. Kraft and Sheldon Kamieniecki, eds., *Business and Environmental Policy: Corporate Interests in the American Political System*, MIT Press, 2007.

LA County Bicycle Master Plan - Atlas of Proposed Bikeways, 2012.

Additional readings:

Chris Tausanovitch and Christopher Warshaw (2014) Representation in Municipal Government, *American Political Science Review* 108(3): 605-641.

Scott Allard, Nancy Burns, and Gerald Gamm (1998) Representing Urban Interests: The Local Politics of State Legislatures, *Studies in American Political Development* 12: 267–302.

City of Los Angeles, Types of Zoning Code (online resource), January 21, 2014.
<http://recode.la/updates/news/types-zoning-codes>

Week 8 – March 11

Take-home midterm (3 hours)

No ride this week. Meet with professor to discuss final projects

Week 9 – March 18 – No class. Spring Break

Week 10 – March 25 – Cesar Chavez Day, so:

Saturday Ride: Metrolink + El Monte tour with San Gabriel Bicycle Coalition + Hondo/San Gabriel/Legg Lake circuit

Readings:

San Gabriel Valley Bicycle Master Plan

Peter Dreier (1996) Community Empowerment Strategies: The Limits and Potential of Community Organizing in Urban Neighborhoods, *Cityscape* 2(2): 121–59.

Emily Badger, There is No Such Thing as a City that has Run Out of Room, *Washington Post*, October 6, 2015.

(More readings next page.)

Stephen D. Parkes et al (2013) Understanding the Diffusion of Public Bikes Sharing Systems: Evidence from Europe and North America, *Journal of Transport Geography* 31: 94-103.

Additional Readings:

John Stehlin (2015) Cycles of Investment: Bicycle infrastructure, Gentrification, and the Restructuring of the San Francisco Bay Area, *Environment and Planning A* 47(1): 121 – 137.

Rachel Aldred (2012) The Role of Advocacy and Activism, pp.83 – 108 in John Parkin (ed.) *Cycling and Sustainability* (Transport and Sustainability, Volume 1), Emerald Group Publ., 2012.

Rachel M. Krause (2013) The Motivations Behind Municipal Climate Engagement: An Empirical Assessment of How Local Objectives Shape the Production of a Public Good, *Cityscape* 15 (1): 125–41.

Week 11 – April 1

Ride: Night ride this week with the Claremont Cycling Club.

Readings:

Ruth Oldenziel and Adri Albert de la Bruhèze (2011) Contested Spaces: Bicycle Lanes in Urban Europe, 1900–1995, *Transfers* 1(2): 29-49.

Jeff Mapes, Learning from Amsterdam, in *Pedaling Revolution: How Cyclists Are Changing American Cities*, Oregon State University Press, 2009.

Dutch Campaigners Explain Why the Netherlands is Now So Cycle-friendly, *London Cycling Campaign* (online resource).

Watch online video *How the Dutch Got Their Cycle Paths*

Additional Readings:

Sonia Hirt (2012) Mixed Use by Default: How the Europeans (Don't) Zone, *Journal of Planning Literature* 27(4): 375–93.

Additional students read and report on a research article of their choice that compares one or more non-US cases, using the keyword search in Google Scholar <comparative bicycle policy>

Week 12 – April 8

Ride: Ontario

Readings:

Alexander von Hoff, The Past, Present, and Future of Community Development in the United States, in *Investing in What Works for America's Communities*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, 2012.

Megan Mullin, Gillian Peele, and Bruce E. Cain (2004) City Caesars? Institutional Structure and Mayoral Success in Three California Cities, *Urban Affairs Review* 40(1): 19–43.

San Bernardino County Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, March 2011, Revised May 7, 2014.

Additional readings:

Katherine Levine Einstein and Vladimir Kogan (2016) Pushing the City Limits: Policy Responsiveness in Municipal Government, *Urban Affairs Review* 52(1):3–32.

J. Eric Oliver and Shang E. Ha (2007) Vote Choice in Suburban Elections, *The American Political Science Review* 101(3): 393–408.

Lake Sagaris (2014) Citizen Participation for Sustainable Transport: The case of “Living City” in Santiago, Chile (1997–2012), *Journal of Transport Geography* 41: 74–83.

Week 13 – April 15

Work session + present drafts of final projects

No readings this week.

Week 14 – April 22 (Earth Day)

Present final projects at on-campus networking event for local stakeholders.

No readings this week.

Week 15 – April 29

Ride: Mountain bike ride in Chino Hills State Park

Readings:

Sarah Jaquette Ray (2009) Risking Bodies in the Wild: The “Corporeal Unconscious” of American Adventure Culture, *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* 33(3): 257–84.

Richard Cunningham, Opinion: A Secret Trail and an Argument Against E-Bikes, online post, pinkbike.com, Jul 25, 2014. (Browse the comments as well.)

Wrap-up and evaluation at end-of-semester party.