**ECON 3328-001 - Transportation Economics**



**Maymester 2014**

**Instructor:** Roger Wehr

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**Office Telephone Number:** (817) 272-3287

Messages may be made via e-mail, fax, and at the voice message service listed below.

**Fax Telephone Number:** (817) 272-3145

**Emergency Telephone Number & Voice Message Service:** (817) 861-5001

**Inclement Weather Information:** (972) 601-2049 - OR - Arlington’s TCI Channel 98

**Email Address:** wehr@uta.edu

**Faculty Profile:** <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/view/id/526/category/1>

**Office Hours:** Available Upon Request

**Section Information:** ECON 3328 Section 001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Business Building, classroom number 239, M/T/W/Th/F 8:00 – 11:45 a.m.

**Description of Course Content:** Transportation economics is a branch of economics - a social science - that deals with the impacts of freight and passenger transport upon individual, business, and governmental decision-making in an evolving, competitive world economy.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**  The student of Transportation Economics should be able to analyze the transportation industry using principles and theories of economics. At the onset of the course, the student should be aware that in-class participation and independent readings / exercises outside of the classroom setting will facilitate this learning objective. The student should be able to demonstrate the acquired knowledge in a testing situation utilizing both multiple choice and essay questions. Tests and any written assignments collected will be used to assess the student’s performance.

**Other Course Objectives and Format:**  In various ways, the course will incorporate use of the basic intellectual competencies, i.e. – reading, writing and expression, speaking, listening and absorption of ideas, and critical thinking. Additionally, on a smaller scale, some computer literacy may be beneficial in the research and acquisition of additional information for topic areas appealing to the student or assigned by the instructor.

**Requirements:** Although ECON 2305 and ECON 2306 are suggested, there is no required course prerequisite. The class will meet on all regular class meetings. There is no attendance requirement that goes beyond regular class meetings and the scheduled meeting for the final exam.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials: 1)** assigned *Wall Street Journal* articles AND

**2)** Transportation Economics by Great River Technologies

Students can purchase the customized electronic text at the bookstore or at the following **website**:

**http://webcom8.grtxle.com/transportation**

The access code to the electronic text is registered at the above website.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: The bookstore AND/OR electronic publisher will NOT issue a refund after the access code to the textbook has been registered.**

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:** Three exams and one optional writing assignment.

**Attendance:** Roll may be taken at each class. Students are expected to attend class. A seating chart may be utilized during the semester. If you are absent, **you should arrange to get notes from a classmate**. If you regularly miss classes, then my assumption will be that this course is not important to you.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend approximately nine hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Other Requirements:** None.

**Grading Methods:**

The following methods are used to calculate the grade:

**OPTION #1 TEST ONLY OPTION:**

Test #1 33.33% Monday May 19

Test #2 33.33% Thursday May 22

Test #3 (Final) 33.34% Friday May 30 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

A = 90-100% B = 80-89.999% C = 70-79.999% D = 60-69.999% F = Below 60

**OPTION #2 TEST & RESEARCH PAPER OPTION:**

Research Paper 10% Friday May 30 8:00 a.m.

Test #1 30% Monday May 19

Test #2 30% Thursday May 22

Test #3 (Final) 30% Friday May 30 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

A = 90-100% B = 80-89.999% C = 70-79.999% D = 60-69.999% F = Below 60

NOTE: If the research paper is not received in hard copy form by **8:00 a.m. Friday May 30th**, then **OPTION #1** (ABOVE) will be used to calculate the student’s overall grade.

**Make-up Exams**: All students are expected to take the tests at the assigned time (**not early or late**). If for some reason you must miss a test, **you should notify me beforehand**. Make-up tests are for extenuating circumstances only. If a make-up is approved by the instructor, it will be given **at the end of the semester during the week of final exams.**

**Grade Grievances**: You have one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate any grievance. The normal academic channels are department chair, academic dean, and the Provost.

**Drop Policy:**  **THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO DROPS AFTER THE OFFICIAL LAST DAY TO DROP.** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or visiting [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:**  UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:**  At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Final Review Week:**  A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which may be located on the west side of the Business Building. **When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells**. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Librarian to Contact:**  Carol Byrne (817) 272-7437; [cbyrne@uta.edu](mailto:cbyrne@uta.edu)

**Course Schedule.**

**May 14 – First Day of Class;** Review Syllabus & Class Roll; Pop Quiz; Modes of Transportation & The Demand for Transportation as a Derived Demand; Elasticity & Mass Transit

**May 15 – Census Date;** Elasticity; Price Discrimination; ad valorem taxes; Risk & Probability

**May 16 –** Probability; Expected Return; Variance; Standard Deviation;

**May 19 – Test #1; Review Test #1;** Market Structures & Game Theory

**May 20 –** Output Markets; Market Structure & Market Power; Severin Borenstein Study

**May 21 –** Input Markets & Labor Unions

**May 22 – Test #2; Last Day to Drop Class (Submit requests to advisor prior to 4:00 PM);**

**May 23 –** Regulation & Deregulation; Public Choice Theory

**May 26 – Memorial Day Holiday – No class lecture**

**May 27 –** Government Failure & Market Failure

**May 28 –** Model Building & Case Studies;

**May 29 –** Econometrics; Econometric Problems; Prepare for Test #3

**May 30 – Test #3; Optional Papers are Due Before the Final Exam!**

“*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Roger E. Wehr.”*

**Additional information specific to the College of Business Administration:**

**College Policy:** Students who have not paid by the census date and are dropped for non-payment cannot receive a grade for the course in any circumstances. Therefore, a student dropped for non-payment who continues to attend the course will not receive a grade for the course. Emergency loans are available to help students pay tuition and fees. Students can apply for emergency loans by going to the Emergency Tuition Loan Distribution Center at E.H. Hereford University Center (near the southwest entrance).

**Food and Drink in Classrooms:** College policy prohibits food and/or drinks in classrooms and labs. Anyone bringing food and/or drinks into a classroom or lab will be required to remove such items, as directed by the class instructor or lab supervisor.

**Bomb Threats:**  If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties.  Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations/tests caused by bomb threats.  Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes.  Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.

**Evacuation Procedure:** In the event of an evacuation of the College of Business Building, when the fire alarm sounds, everyone must leave the building by the stairs. With the fire alarm system we now have, the elevators will all go to the first floor and stay there until the system is turned off.

**Evacuation Procedure for DISABLED PERSONS:** Please go to the Northeast fire stairs.  An evacu track chair is located on the 6th floor stairwell.  Employees trained in the use of this chair will go to the 6th floor and bring the chair to any lower floor stairwell to assist disabled persons.

**Additional information specific to the Economics Department:**

**Returning of Test Booklets & Test Materials:** Following the review of a test, all test materials (i.e., test booklets, essays, and scantron sheets) must be returned to your instructor. These test materials must be held for one year after the course grade is recorded. Any test materials not returned to your instructor may result in a failing test grade (i.e., a grade of zero.)

**Additional information specific to Your Instructor:**

**Important Dates:**

**May 14 – First Day of Class**

**May 15 – Census Date**

**May 19 – Test #1**

**May 22 – Test #2**

**May 26 – Memorial Day Holiday – No class lecture**

**May 30 – Test #3; Optional Papers are Due Before the Final Exam!**

**Exams:** Test format may include multiple choice questions and some short / long essay questions. Scantron sheets will be required (Form 882-E). Students will be required to procure these scantron sheets as well as #2 pencils. (Simple calculators and watches are also suggested.)

**Simple Calculators Only**! Text-capable devices (e.g., pagers, cell phones, and/or any other electronic devices with text capability) may **not** be used during the tests for any purpose.

**Extra Credit:** Generally there is no formal extra credit. On occasion I might give a pure extra credit quiz. The optional insurance assignment is the best way to earn additional points on the Final Exam (a.k.a. Test #3.)

**Amending the Syllabus by the Instructor:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, I reserve the right to amend this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to stay informed of all changes to this syllabus.