



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Transport Economics - 49824

Last update 03-09-2020

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Urban & Regional Studies - Specialization

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Ms. Ruth Amir

Coordinator Email: mail.ruti.amir@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday between 12:00-13:00

Teaching Staff:

Ms. Ruth Amir

Course/Module description:

A basic course in transportation economics that will focus on the following issues: transportation demand and supply, assessment of transport projects, subsidies and monopolies, public transport fare policy, congestion, congestion fees and sustainable transport.

Course/Module aims:

Learn basic concepts in transportation economics. Understand the complex relationship between the transport system and various economic characteristics. Comprehend the different economic tools in transportation planning. Analyze the transportation market in Israel and around the world, based on an understanding of the underlying economic theory. Investigate the process of planning, decision making and management of the transport field. Study major issues in the transport economy, through analysis of current cases. Ascertain the economic theory, which serves as a basis for transportation planning and market actuality. At the beginning of each class, a pair of students will be asked to present a case study from the field of transportation economics based on an article published in the press or a topic discussed in various social media. At the end of the course the students will be asked to submit a course completion work. The work can be done in pairs.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Basic recognition of key economic theories and their role in transport planning.
2. Knowledge of basic concepts in transport economics (such as cost-benefit tests, demand flexibility, monopolies and subsidies, externalities, demand management and more).
3. Understand the economic basis of transportation planning and decision-making processes and recognize the actual use of economic tools in these processes.
4. Ability to understand current issues in transport economics in light of the basic concepts learned.
5. Ability to present and analyze these issues.

Attendance requirements(%):

- Active participation in the course (10% of the course score). Attending at least 10 lessons is required to receive the full score. Attending less than four classes equals 0 points. Notice, attending the class means attending the entire class.
- Presentation of a case study in class (10% of course score).

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- Presentation of the course completion work (15% of the course score).
 - Course completion work grade (65% of the course score).
 - The completion work can be done in pairs. Work topics will be given during the first half of the course. The work will be up to 10 pages long and will include current topics in transportation, using the economic tools learned in the course. Preparation of the work should be based on articles and research on the subject. The aim is not to summarize the articles but to present the topic and hold a discussion.
 - The submission date is a month after the end of the course.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal

Course/Module Content:

Course Plan

October 21

Lesson 1- Introduction to Transportation Economics and about investment in transportation infrastructure as a tool for economic development

Reading:

The state of Israel 1999, Overall design of the inland transportation system – Position Paper, the Israel Democracy Institute

October 28

Lesson 2- Transportation supply and demand, equilibrium, Transportation as a derived demand

Reading:

Gronau R. 1997, Intervention and Competition in the Motor Transport Market – i. The Motor Transport Branch: A tale of market Failure, The Maurice Falk Institute, Article for discussion 97.03, pages 1-32 (Hebrew)

November 4

Lesson 3- Transport demand elasticity

Transportation as a derived demand

Reading:

Sergio R. Jara-Diaz 1986, On the relation between users' benefits and the economic effects of transportation activities, Journal of regional science, Vol.26 No.2, 1986 Pages 379-383

November 11

Lesson 4- Forecast transport demand models

November 18

Lesson 5 - Introduction to economic evaluation of transport projects

November 25

Lesson 5- Economic evaluation of transport projects – the world experience

Reading:

Shiftan Y., Ben-Akiva M., De Jong G. et al 2002, Evaluation of Externalities in Transport Projects, European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research, 2(3/4). pp. 285-304

December 2

Lesson 7- Economic evaluation of transport projects – the Israeli experience

Evaluation of safety and environmental effects

Reading:

The state of Israel 2012, Procedure for transportation Projects (Hebrew)

December 9

Lesson 8- Sustainable Transport

Transport Subsidies

Reading:

Gronau R. 1997, Intervention and Competition in the Motor Transport Market – iii. The Subsidization of Public Transportation and Intervention in the Taxi cab Market, The Maurice Falk Institute, Article for discussion 97.03, pages 34-38 (Hebrew)

December 16

Lesson 9- Monopolies and effects of the competition in public transport

Reading:

Shiftan Y. and Sharaby N. 2006, Competition in bus public transport in Israel, TRB

December 23

Lesson 10- Fare policy in public transport

Reading:

Cats O., Susilo Y.O. and Reimal T., 2017 The Prospects of Fare-Free Public Transport: Evidence from Tallinn. Transportation. 44 (5), 1083-1104

December 30

Lesson 11- Economic, social and technological trends in transportation

January 6

Lesson 12- Congestion and congestion fees

Reading:

Rom Traffic Engineering Ltd. 2008, Congestion Fees in the Tel Aviv Metropolitan Area- Summery Report

Gronau R. 2010, Intervention and Competition in the Motor Transport Market - iv The Israeli Railroad: Road Jam Panacea? The Maurice Falk Institute, Article for discussion 10.07, pages 60-64

January 13

Lesson 13- Students present course completion works

January 20

Lesson 14- Students present course completion works

Required Reading:

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*Lesson 7- Economic evaluation of transport projects – the Israeli experience
Evaluation of safety and environmental effects*

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Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 100 %

see additional information

Additional information:

Percent of Final Grade

10% Exercises

15% Presentation of the course completion work in class

75% Course completion work grade