Course Title:
Seminar in Economic Geography: A Survey of Global Transportation Systems

Course Number:
GEOG 6230-224

Course Description:
A review, by mode, of the development and operation of the world’s transportation systems.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: December 7-11, 2011
Location: Stuttgart, Germany. See site director for class room location.
Hours: Wed-Fri 5:40-10:00pm.; Sat-Sun 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: November 8, 2011

Site Director:
Jennifer Schumaker. Stuttgart Army Education Center. DSN: 431-3304; FAX 431-2571 or CIV 07031-15-2580; FAX 07031-15-2571. E-mail: apstuttgart@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Bret Wallach
Mailing Address: Geography Department, Sarkeys Energy Center, Norman OK
Telephone Number: (405) 325-5325
Fax Number: (405) 325-6090
E-mail Address: bwallach@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
1. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance. See course outline below.

Course Objectives:
It’s too much to say that someone who understands the world’s transportation systems necessarily understands the world’s economic systems, but it’s probably fair to say that there are few better introductions to those systems that looking at the ways in which raw materials and finished products move across the world’s transportation networks. (One better way might be to follow the money, but that’s very tough to do—next to impossible.) A survey of transportation networks therefore provides not only an overview of an important part of the world economy but also a powerful reminder of the scope of the entire economic system. That’s the premise and justification of this course.
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

This course rests on a set of WORD-files that will be placed on D2L by September 1, 2011. There will be one file for each class meeting except the last. Each class will begin with a short (10 point) quiz on the file for that day. Because this is a graduate seminar, you will also prepare a brief oral presentation (3-5 minutes, depending on the class size) in which you expand, with independent research, on a topic mentioned in that class period’s text. (I suggest that before you undertake these small projects you e-mail me with a topic that you propose to investigate. Just so we’re sure you’re on the right page.) Sunday afternoon there will be an exam worth 40 points and covering material in the student presentations of the previous days.

- Wednesday: Shipping
- Thursday: Railroads
- Friday: Roads
- Saturday 1: Airlines
- Saturday 2: Communications
- Sunday 1: Manufacturing of Selected Transport Equipment (Ships, Motor Vehicles, Aircraft)
- Sunday 2: Examination

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Bret Wallach, Ph.D.

Education

Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley

Current Positions

• Advanced Programs Professor since 1999
• Professor, Department of Geography, University of Oklahoma

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

World and Regional Geography, especially of Asia and the Middle East

Representative Publications and Presentations

Publications: see the instructor’s webpage at http://ags.ou.edu/~bwallach