

History of American Transportation
Spring Semester 2012

History 326, Hardin 232
8:00-9:15 a. m., TTH

H. Roger Grant
226 Hardin Hall

Required Readings:

Michael P. Malone, *James J. Hill: Empire Builder of the Northwest* (University of Oklahoma Press)
William Pelfrey, *Bill, Alfred and General Motors: The Story of Two Unique Men, A Legendary Company, and a Remarkable Time in American History (AMACOM)*
Carol Sheriff, *The Artificial River: The Erie Canal and the Paradox of Progress, 1817-1862* (Hill and Wang)

Lecture Topics:

January 12: Introduction
January 17: Transportation in the American Mind
January 19: Early Land Transport
January 24: Waterways during the 18th and 19th Centuries
January 26: Canals: Promotion and Scope
January 31: Canals and Economic Development
February 2: Social Aspects of the Canal Era; Discussion of *The Artificial River*
February 7: **First Hour Examination**
February 9: Railroads: Demonstration Period
February 14: Creation of a National Railroad Network, 1865-1915
February 16: "Workin' on the Railroad"
February 21: America Railroads and Technological Change, 1830-1940
February 23: Railroads: Wars, Depression and Modal Competition
February 28: Railroads and Organized Labor
March 1: "Merger Mania" and the Staggers Act; Discussion of *James J. Hill*
March 6: **Second Hour Examination**
March 8: "Interurban Madness"
March 13: The Interurban Era
March 15: Death and Rebirth of Interurbans
March 20-22: **Spring Break**
March 27: Intercity Buses
March 29: Motor Carriers
April 3: Modern Waterways and the Container Revolution
April 5: The Automobile Age: Origins and Development
April 10: Better Roads
April 12: Discussion of *Billy, Alfred and General Motors*
April 17: Origins and Development of Commercial Aviation
April 19: Modern Aviation

April 24: Review and Reflection; Paper Due
 April 26: Reading Day
 May 1: Take-Home Final Examination Available
 May 3: **Take-Home Final Examination Due by 4:00 p.m.**

Course Rationale and Commentary::

As the catalog title suggests, this course provides an examination of the transportation experience in the United States, although some coverage of events in Canada, Europe and elsewhere is included. Major themes are patterns of historical development, government involvement and public response. Everyone should grasp the impact of various transportation forms on American life and how technological replacements have altered the transport picture. The course will have three examinations, including the final, and each will count 100 points. Tests will consist of two sections: short identifications and essay questions. There will also be a paper, due **April 24** and worth 100 points. This essay should consist of 6-10 pages in which *two* related transportation books will be examined critically. A listing of suggested choices will be provided.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify and explain the principal issues and events in the developing “Transportation Revolution”
2. Assess the nature of economic, political, social/cultural and technological changes in American transportation.
3. Appraise critically secondary literature of American transportation.
4. Organize narrative and arguments in the assigned essay

Office Hours:

I am available in my Hardin Hall office between 9:30 a.m. and noon and 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also I am usually in my office between 9:30 a.m. and noon on Mondays. If you wish to meet at other times, please send an e-mail or call for an appointment: dwain@clemon.edu, 656-5371

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies:

Attendance is expected. Three absences, however, will be accepted. *Two points* will be deducted from the final course grade average for *each* absence over the maximum allowance. The published Clemson University roles for withdrawal will be followed.