Around 1860 bicycles opened the wonderful world of distance and speed. Since then, motorized transport revolutionized everyday lives and changed geographies on a global scale.

The course will take a broad view of transportation throughout history, from Bronze age wheels to the railway age. We will try to undo the knot in which technological change, policy decisions, economic interests, urban geography, public health, sustainability, and social status are interconnected. We will train our eyes on the conflicts hidden in the changing transportation landscape.

Which policies have advanced certain forms of transport? Why do we have traffic in Los Angeles? How did the street itself morph from a space of community into a pure medium of mechanical transportation? How did humans become pedestrians?
Today, the car system dominates all aspects of our life. Motoring structures our geographies, windshields dominate our experience. Cars promise freedom and liberation (and love, according to Subaru), but automobility also chains us into a dense network of rules, expenses and constraints.

Lectures will be accompanied by assigned readings and short discussions. The lecture slides will be posted on the course website following each lecture.

Readings: The main text for this course is *Down the Asphalt Path*. You are responsible for acquiring your own copy. Please bring your copy to the first session. The book will be the basis for the midterm and the final paper. Parallel to the book, I will assign essays and primary sources each week. They will be available on the course website. You will be reading prose of different levels of complexity. Some texts are pretty hard to chew, others go down easily, still others are strikingly beautiful and a very enjoyable read. Please make time for all of them. They will be the basis of a series of short written assignments which contribute to your grade.

Objectives: 1) to understand the complex nature of transportation in history; 2) to become familiar with a wide variety of primary sources, and to appreciate the nature and limits of historical interpretation; 3) to develop a sense for the intersection of power and experience in the domain of mobility; 4) to train your writing skills through assignments; 5) to engage in a respectful dialogue about the course readings.

Requirements: I expect you to attend class regularly and to participate in the class discussions. Doing so is essential for success in the class. I reserve the right to reduce your final grade for repeated absences. You will be expected to have all the readings done for each topic in advance of the assigned day. It is a good idea to bring to class a copy (printed or electronic) of the readings. Be prepared to share your reading with the class. To facilitate interaction in the lecture room, I will encourage you to try out different chairs and move around in the room. For your consistent effort to participate in class discussions I will raise your final grade by ½ (a B would become a B+). Your written submissions will be graded mostly on the quality of your writing. Papers that are poorly written will be marked down. Please make use of the services provided by the Writing Center. [http://www.history.ucla.edu/academics/undergraduate/history-writing-center](http://www.history.ucla.edu/academics/undergraduate/history-writing-center). You may forget all about transportation in a few years (I hope not!), but the writing skills I want you to work on will always remain an asset.

Office Hours are after class on Wednesdays, or by appointment. Please come and see me to discuss anything about the class. If you are having trouble understanding the course material, it is imperative that you see me during office hours to get help.

Assignments/Grading:
1. Short written assignments 30%
2. Midterm 30%
3. Final Paper 40%
4. In-Class participation (1/2 letter grade bonus)

Assignments are due (turn it in) at 7pm on the Friday of any week. Specifications for assignments are available on the class website and per email to the class.

The midterm will be an essay based on the book. It will be a take-home midterm essay. The prompt will be shared one week before the due date. You must have read the whole book well before the midterm. You may find it useful to read with pencil in hand. I will ask you to show me your book with your markings. I may also invite you to comment about your reading experience in class. What is missing when we tell the history of automobility as a history of engineering solutions?

The final will also be a take-home exam. It will again be based on the book but also draw on the content of the lectures and range more widely. The feedback received for the midterm will be helpful for the final.

Late Assignments: No extensions on any of the assignments will be granted except for medical reasons. Late assignments will be reduced by ½ a letter grade per day (an A becomes an A-).

Plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty violate the UCLA Student Conduct Code. I will not hesitate to punish these violations with an F as well as report perpetrators to the Dean of Students. Here is a link with information about academic integrity: http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/students/integrity

Lectures and Readings

Week 1: Archaeology, Antiquity, Mobility, Peak Car
The social complexity of movement from (pre)historical evidence. What is Mobility?

January 8th Prehistoric Transport, Animals
Readings: Cresswell: On the Move; Imperial Dictionary

Readings: Coles: Oldest Road (5); Circumambulation (3) Rodrigue: Historical Geography of Transportation
Assignment: Auto-Biography 500 words
Week 2: Waterways in History / Postal Matters
Rolling Resistance: The history of moving information
January 15th MLK Day
Readings: McShane
January 17th Why are there rivers where cities end up being? Intermodal integration. Waterways in History, Canals, East India Company, Suez, Panama Canal, Postal Systems, Thurn & Taxis, Communication & Empire, Reuters Speed, Mail Order - Free Rural Delivery, Sears Catalogue 1900, Report of the Postmaster-General 1899 (29), Postoffice created America
Assignment: T2M.ORG excursion report

Week 3: The Railroads: Politics and the Law
Capital and Politics in Transport: Barons. The Power of the System
January 22nd Railroad Revolution: politics, finance, territory, Railroad time, timetables, nationality, 19th Century Engineering, large industrial complex, Grand Central Station, Imperial and territorial effort.
Readings: Friedrich List (1841), Board of Railroad Commissioners 1907 (8), Fleming: Toronto Trolley Takes Command (10)
January 24th Land Grants, Rules, Regulations, Laws, Amtrak, Interstate Commerce Shivelbusch: Railway Journey: Time and Space; Baldocke Act 1622; Philadelphia Street Law Broadside (3x) 1795; compartment & excitement, Sydney Smith: Locking in
Assignment: Smith howling: The railway promises liberty and delivers a roasting cage

Week 4: Transport Technology & Urban Form:
Coaches, Horses, Wheels, Transit, the Interstate Highway at home, mobility opportunities and mobility “load”,
January 29th For instance Los Angeles
Film: LA Spring Street 1898 / SF Market Street 1905 / Post: Urban Railway Redivivus, Koeppel: DIY, The Structure of the City & Streets, Land Use, Development, Suburbs, social integration and segregation, leisure driving, Roger Rabbit & fantasy railroading and transport policy, Redline and Red-lining, LOS or VMT
Readings: Jane Jacobs
January 31st The Interstate Highway System Roadways as Military Infrastructure, Interstate Defence Highway, Financing Roads: Fuel Tax and General Funds, Roads as economic stimulus, Geometry of the city, Freeway & Freedom
Readings: Post: Urban Railway Redivivus
Assignment: The Red Line: Romance and politics in transport (Urban Railway Redivivus) / Jane Jacobs

Week 5: National Differences and Issues in Transportation
The American way with cars. Experiences overseas. How have other nations dealt with the machine?

February 5th Technological Alternatives & National Differences
The American Experience of Speed & Freedom (preparing the Midterm)
Structural subsidies or Subaru Love
Reading: McShane: Motorphobia Review

February 7th The Americans and their Airlines:
1934 Air Mail Scandal, Airline fuel tax, The lure of speed: Why is technology sexy?
Assignment: Midterm (Due 10 Feb)

Week 6: History of Technology: Bicycles
The What If of Bicycles, Is the bike an actor or a stage?

February 12th Cyclists on the ground
The League of American Wheelmen,
The gender of sport, racing, the club, Pasadena Cycleway (1900), Engineering and industry: Patents, Scientific American, industrialisation of bicycles,
1930ies rear light controversy / Helmet controversy / Vehicular cycling /
#CrashNotAccident

February 14th Cyclists in the Air: Samothrace to PAL
English Bloomers and French Flying Goddess. Rational dress movement, Legwear or none
The Anthropology of Speed: Hair in the Air, Futurism
Readings: Frances Willard: How I learned to Ride the Bicycle (1895)
Marinetti: Futurist Manifesto
Assignment: Outline of the elements that make up the mobility system of the bicycle

Week 7: Driving into History
February 19th President's Day
History of Technology, Motorization as Progress
Readings: McShane: Museo dell'Automobile Carlo Biscaretti di Ruffia
Armitage: Why Politicians need Historians

Week 8: The Self on the Road: Transport as Progress or as Barbarism
February 26th Culture, Advocacy, Advertising, Politics.
The Grand Enthusiasm: Transportation as Civilisation: The Columbian Exhibit 1893
Advocacy & Politics, Car Advertising, GM Reality Sucks Advert
LAW: Good Roads, AAA: Creating the Driving Public, The Invention of Jaywalking
Auto B Good meets Jane Jacobs
Readings:
February 28th Los Angeles again (Guest Lecture tbc)
The Century Freeway, West LA veloway, Westwood Blvd, UCLA
Assignment: Discuss access to UCLA and suggest improvements in a manner that reflects the complexity of the transportation system

Week 9: Energy & Health
March 5th Health & Transport: System breakdown:
Railroad Fatalities, Airline Crashes, Invisible road fatalities, blaming victims, # Vision Zero,
The social cost of transport: PLL (Premature Lives Lost)
NL: Stop de Kindermoord, Environmental Justice
March 7th Speed, Energy and Equity
Cycling as a political utopia, The history of space and the history of speed

Week 10: Intelligent Networks
March 12th Waze, GIS & Complete Streets
Outlook: California Car Culture 2020 & its contradictions, effects of Uber & Lyft, Self-driving Cars Cars without moral drivers, houses without parking, Freedom & surveillance, Cars & Car Radio, Waze & space, Me in Control (Autonomy) vs autonomous vehicle, the decline of control, How to be anywhere: The history and the future of the pedestrian: Pilgrimage, loitering and airing the body.
Readings: Rebecca Solnit: Wanderlust, Certeau: Walking
March 14th Recap, Final Assignment
Assignment: Final Essay