



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



**Ramon Llull University, IQS School of Management - Barcelona
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart - Milan
Franklin University Switzerland - Lugano
Forum-Nexus Program
Undergraduate Division**

Course Syllabus

**URB 491-SIS
Public Transportation Policy and Planning
in the European Union**

Course Description

As societies become ever more mobile, the European Union faces challenges to respond to the increased demand for public transportation systems that are fast, efficient, and environmentally friendly. Transportation drives trade and economic growth, contributing to employment and overall prosperity. Europe is a leader in transport innovation, implementing strategies, programs, initiatives, and investments for public transportation system improvements across the EU. Throughout this course, students will explore transport policy and planning in the EU, the organizations involved, and the way that public transportation has evolved in the EU in general and in Spain, France, Italy, and Greece in particular. Students will consider the remaining challenges to transport innovation and the future for systems and policy in the European Union.

This Supervised Independent Study (SIS) course will guide students through the basics of public transportation policy and planning in the European Union, while providing the opportunity for an independent exploration of the subject.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand transportation policies in the European Union and key organizations involved in decision-making, funding, planning, and management of initiatives
2. Identify significant policy landmarks and innovations in transportation
3. Describe the main modes of transportation in the European Union and the successes and shortcomings of each
4. Analyze transportation in the EU in geographical and temporal capacities
5. Articulate the main challenges in transportation innovation in the European Union
6. Identify strengths and failures in the transportation systems in Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Greece
7. Describe the future outlook for innovation in public transportation systems in the European Union

Course Requirements

This course requires independent research, organization, and academic discipline. Students are expected to complete the required and additional readings in pace with their assignments and the course outline. Students will meet with their SIS Coordinator regularly throughout the course for consultation and assistance. There will be an oral presentation, a final exam, and four essay assignments.

Essay #1 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Explain the European Union's transport policy. What is included? How does it work? What does it do for EU member countries?
- What are 3 of the major organizations/agencies involved in public transportation in the European Union? Describe their function and benefit to being involved.
- Describe a recent transport policy innovation and why it was important.

Essay #2 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Describe the public transportation system in Barcelona. Provide a brief history of its development.
- Explain a recent public transportation policy, innovation, or initiative implemented in Barcelona.
- Reflect on your perspective and impression of the public transportation system in Barcelona. What did you like? What didn't you like? What would you suggest to make it better and why?

Essay #3 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Describe the public transportation system in Paris. Provide a brief history of its development.
- Explain a recent public transportation policy, innovation, or initiative implemented in Paris.
- Reflect on your perspective and impression of the public transportation system in Paris. What did you like? What didn't you like? What would you suggest to make it better and why?

Essay #4 (minimum length: 1,000 words)

- Describe the public transportation system in Amsterdam. Provide a brief history of its development.
- Explain a recent public transportation policy, innovation, or initiative implemented in Amsterdam.
- Reflect on your perspective and impression of the public transportation system in Amsterdam. What did you like? What didn't you like? What would you suggest to make it better and why?

Presentation

Deliver a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation summarizing the main findings of your independent study. Required components include:

- Summary of your goals and objectives
- Explain the EU's public transportation policies
- Overview of public transportation in the European Union in general, focusing on Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Greece
- Comparison of the public transportation systems in Barcelona, Paris, and Amsterdam
- Overview of recent and policy changes and initiatives
- Reflection on what you've learned through this course

Required Readings

Common Transport Policy: Overview

European Parliament

Strasbourg, 2022

<https://bit.ly/3Zfxm0B>

The future of the EU transport sector (2021-2024) – four trends

Dr2 Consultants

Brussels, 2023

<https://bit.ly/3VLGOWI>

The EU Explained: Transport

The European Commission, 2014

Available to online: <http://bit.ly/EUTransport>

Transport in the European Union: Current Trends and Issues

The European Commission, March 2019

Available online: <http://bit.ly/EUTrends>

Recommended Readings

Towards a Single and Innovative European Transport System SINTRAS: Barriers Analysis and Action Plans Final Report

European Commission, 2017

Transportation in Europe

by Logan Grant McPherson

2016

Urban Transportation Innovations Worldwide: A Handbook of Best Practices Outside the United States

by Roger L. Kemp and Carl J. Stephani

McFarland & Company, Inc., 2015

EU Railway Policy-Making: On Track?

by H. Dyrhaug

Palgrave Macmillan, 2013

White Paper on Transport: Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a Competitive and Resource-Efficient Transport System

European Commission, 2011

Components of Final Grade

Final exam	20%
Essay #1	15%
Essay #2	15%
Essay #3	15%
Essay #4	15%
Presentation	20%

Grading Scale

93-100 %	A
90-92.9 %	A-
87-89.9 %	B+
83-86.9 %	B
80-82.9 %	B-
77-79.9 %	C+
73-76.9 %	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9 %	D+
63-66.9 %	D
60-62.9 %	D-
Below 60 %	F

Course Outline

Module 1: Understanding the European Transport Policy and EU Institutions

- Why does the EU have a transport policy?
 - Transport history
 - Transport policy landmarks
- How does the EU transport policy work?
 - Legislation
 - Infrastructure
 - Research and innovation
- What EU transport policy does
- EU Institutions and Bodies
 - European Parliament Committee on Transport and Tourism
 - Council of the European Union Transport, Telecommunications, and Energy Council
 - European Commission Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Department
 - European Commission Mobility and Transport Department
 - European Economic and Social Committee Transport, Energy, Infrastructure and Information Society Section
 - EU Agencies:
 - European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
 - European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
 - European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)
 - Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)
 - The European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA)

Module 2: Means of Transport in the EU

- The main means of transport
 - Rail
 - Aviation
 - Road
 - Maritime transport
- Public transportation in cities and metropolitan areas
 - City buses
 - Trolleybuses
 - Trams and light rail
 - Metro systems
 - Suburban passenger trains

- Intercity public transportation
 - Passenger trains
 - High-speed rail networks
 - Coaches
 - Airlines
 - Ferries

Module 3: The Geographical Scope of the Analysis

- The European Union in general
- Special emphasis on:
 - Spain
 - Italy
 - France
 - The Netherlands
 - Greece

Module 4: Temporal Scope of the Analysis

- Main innovations and highlights in the 19th century
- Main innovations and highlights in the 20th century
- Main innovations and highlights in the 21st century

Module 5: Challenges and Solutions

- Major challenges for European public transport
 - Congestion
 - Oil dependency
 - Greenhouse gas emissions and the growing emphasis on sustainability
 - Infrastructure
 - Competition
- Remarkable successes and failures
- Investment and Funding
 - The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
 - Transport infrastructure policy
- Coordination and cooperation among regions and countries
- The role of various levels of government
 - City government
 - Regional governments
 - National governments
 - Supranational entities, like the European Union
- The role of the private sector
 - National firms
 - Multinational companies

Module 6: The Future of Public Transportation in the EU

- The future of EU transport policy
- Salient comparisons with the U.S., Japan, China, and other countries
- Quality of life and viable cities
- The outlook for the next few decades

Schedule of Classes and Visits

The detailed schedule of classes, professional visits, and suggested cultural visits for each session is available online at www.forum-nexus.com/schedules.

Academic Integrity

Ramon Llull University, Franklin University Switzerland, and the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart place a high value on the integrity, good conduct, and academic honesty of all students. Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic integrity at all times. Any instance of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of F for the course.