This class provides an overview of transportation issues, focusing on the impacts of transportation on cities and on Los Angeles in particular. The theme of the course is “Asphalt Alchemy” – that is, the significance of, and transformative potential of, streets. The class will address how modifications to the geometry of street grids, the markings painted on roads, and the regulation, use and perception of streets can trigger changes that extend far beyond traffic patterns. Shifting how we design and use streets can transform how we get around and how we experience the built environment.

The class will be taught through a combination of readings; lectures by prof. Vallianatos and by guest speakers; trips by foot, bike, car, and transit so students can experience, observe and journal about streets; and individual and group projects to study streets in Los Angeles. Students will focus on Eagle Rock Blvd as a site for observing, analyzing and improving streets.

The course is divided into six sections: an introduction to class themes and methods; a mobility section on different forms of transportation; a character of streets section on the form and culture of streets; a shape of the city section on how transportation and streets shape the built environment; a streets and life section on how streets and transportation influence how people live, work, and play; and an asphalt alchemy section on methods for changing streets and transforming cities.

Eagle Rock Blvd. Layers: pedestrian, cycling, transit, driving, landscape, safety, placemaking, buildings, businesses/services

The class is a 4 credit, graded course. Grades will be calculated as follows:
- 10 1-2 page journal entries and maps: 5% each (50% total)
- 2 Eagle Rock blvd entries: data, draft plan: 10% each (20% total)
- Final Eagle Rock blvd plan: 20%
- In class participation: 10%
- Extra credit possible by writing additional journal entries on street events

Attendance Policy. Because participation is central to this class students are expected to attend all classes.
- 2 unexcused absences will result in a grade no higher than a B
- 3 unexcused absences will result in a grade no higher than a C
- 4 or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
Please inform the professor of any upcoming absences (or past absences if an emergency arises). Ask the professor to check what absences count as excused.

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor no later than the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

Texts:
Speck, *Walkable City*
Los Angeles County, *Model Design Manual for Living Streets*
Plus excerpts and articles, see below.

Part I: Introduction

**Thurs Aug 29: Cracks in the pavement**
Walk & Lecture: an introduction to class themes and topics
Description of class methods and syllabus

**Part II: Mobility**

**Tues Sept 3:**
**Walking**
ASSIGNMENT: read Jeff Speck, *Walkable City*, pgs 7-27, 71-72, 163-188;
[http://www.originalgreen.org/blog/walk-appeal.html](http://www.originalgreen.org/blog/walk-appeal.html)
ASSIGNMENT: go for a walk. create a map of your route annotated with notes on what you saw, experienced, thought, felt.

**Wednesday, September 4**, 6:30 p.m.: bike/ped count training
Glassell Senior Citizen Center - 3750 Verdugo Rd., 90065

**Thurs Sept 5:**
ASSIGNMENT: read Loukaitou-Sideris, *Sidewalks*: 15-33, 243-264; *Model Design Manual for Living Streets*: 6-8 to 6-13, 6-19 to 6-27
ASSIGNMENT: turn in journal entry 1- walking

**Tues Sept 10: bike and pedestrian count, street observation**
**No class today**
ASSIGNMENT: sign up for bike/ ped slot [http://vols.pt/b5HDZi](http://vols.pt/b5HDZi); attend training on wednesday, sept 4; conduct count; note down observations of the street/intersection you are counting
Sept 12: Bikes
ASSIGNMENT: read Pulcher and Buehler, *Cycling for sustainable transport* pgs-99-137
ASSIGNMENT: go for a bike ride, create a map of your route annotated with notes on what you saw, experienced, thought, felt.
ASSIGNMENT: come to class with observations from your bike/ ped count

Sept 17: Bike plan
ASSIGNMENT: Read *Los Angeles Bike Plan*
ASSIGNMENT: Turn in journal 2- ped/bike count observations

Sept 19: Transit
ASSIGNMENT: Ride a bus and create a map of your route annotated with notes on what you saw, experienced, thought, felt.
ASSIGNMENT: read Abee, *the bus*, pgs 7-14, 71-75; Walker, *Human Transit*: 5-7, 13-37, 117-134
ASSIGNMENT: turn in/post journal entry 3 (biking)

September 20: parking day

September 24: Transit in LA
ASSIGNMENT: Ride a train and create a map of your route annotated with notes on what you saw, experienced, thought, felt.

September 26: cars and freeways
ASSIGNMENT: Go on a car ride. create a map of your route annotated with notes on what you saw, experienced, thought, felt.
ASSIGNMENT: Turn in/post journal entry 4 (bus)

October 1: cars and freeways in LA

**ASSIGNMENT:** Turn in/post journal entry 5 (train)

**October 3:** Guest talks by Deborah Murphy, Jeff Jacobsberger, Josef Bray-Ali on street changing
[http://fig4all.org/](http://fig4all.org/)

**October 5:** Eagle Rock Music Festival

**October 6:** Ciclavia
**ASSIGNMENT:** attend Ciclavia, write notes on what you did, saw, felt

**Part III: the character of streets**

**Oct 8:** Rules that shape streets
**ASSIGNMENT:** Walkable City, 75-103; *Model Design Manual for Living Streets*, 1-1 to 1-15; City of Los Angeles 1970 street design manual [http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/streets/index.htm](http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/streets/index.htm)

**P E200 pgs 3-7**
**P standard street dimensions:** [http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/streets/figures/e100/e113.pdf](http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/streets/figures/e100/e113.pdf)
**ASSIGNMENT:** Turn in journal 6 (car)

**Oct 10:** Eagle Rock Blvd
**Walk and observation**
**ASSIGNMENT:** bring map to fill in features

**Oct 15:** Fall break- no class

**Oct 17:** the character of streets
Celik, Streets: critical perspectives on public space, 23-46
Fleming: secret stairs: a walking guide to the historic staircases of los angeles, 7-9, 16-23
Jacobs, Great Streets: 35-60
Hawthorne in LA Times:
**ASSIGNMENT:** turn in journal 7 (ciclavia)
Part IV: shape of the city

Oct 22: Shape of the city: sprawl & scale
ASSIGNMENT: Read Engels, “the great towns” in City Reader, pgs 50-58; Le Corbusier, “A contemporary city” in City Reader, pgs 322-330; Greg Hise, Magnetic Los Angeles 186-214

Oct 24: streets & buildings
ASSIGNMENT: Read Talen, City Rules, 1-9; Caliandro, “street form and use” in On Streets pgs 151-182; Manville and Shoup, “Parking, people, and cities”
http://shoup.bol.ucla.edu/People_Parking_Cities.pdf
ASSIGNMENT: Turn in journal 8 - map of your blocks of eagle rock showing street layout, sidewalk and sidewalk features, buildings
ASSIGNMENT: Count the curb cuts & parking spots on your blocks (on street and off street), find age and square footage of buildings (assessor info at HTTP://ZIMAS.LACITY.ORG/ ); zoning info for lots (planning and zoning at http://zimas.lacity.org/ ); accidents on your blocks since 2001 (http://tims.berkeley.edu/ )

Oct 29: land use & mobility

Oct 31: Shape of the city: the fabric of urban life

Part V: Streets and life
Nov 5: food & art
ASSIGNMENT: Read http://departments.oxy.edu/uepi/publications/foodandtransportation.pdf
ASSIGNMENT: Turn in/post journal entry 9 (eagle rock data)
ASSIGNMENT: buy and eat some street food. Make a map with notes on what you bought, what kind of vehicle or stand you bought from, what the experience was like
ASSIGNMENT: find, map, and photograph a piece of street art and write a short reflection on the piece

Nov 7: health & sustainability

Part VI: asphalt alchemy

Nov 12: better places
ASSIGNMENT: Read Gehl, Cities for people, pgs. 2-29, 55-59, 62-89; 194-197 Gehl

ASSIGNMENT: begin drafting/mapping street and building improvements that would improve your blocks (and mobility along the whole street) ( can use http://streetmix.net/ plus overhead street maps and text )
ASSIGNMENT: Turn in/post journal entry 10 (street food)

Nov 14: Using existing streets better: Latino urbanism & tactical urbanism
ASSIGNMENT: turn in journal 11- street art

Nov 19: Better streets
ASSIGNMENT: bring your draft place journal/ map/ drawing to class to work on

Nov 21: Eagle rock blvd
ASSIGNMENT: turn in journal 12- draft eagle rock improvements
In class eagle rock improvement discussion

**Nov 28: Thanksgiving, no class**

**Dec 3: final class**
Lecture on urban mobility alternatives past and future
Evaluation
**ASSIGNMENT:** turn in journal 13- final eagle rock improvements