Course: GEH1018 People on the Move: Opportunities and Challenges

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Course Lecturer: Chow Sin Yin Alice (Dept of SSC)

Global elements to be incorporated in the course

- Contemporary issues caused by transport technologies in a mobile world, e.g. global mobility
- Global perspective: Colonization, international trade and globalization enabled by transport technologies
- Case studies of overseas transport development

Teaching Reflection & Sharing

The course GEH1018 People on the Move: Opportunities and Challenges is about transport studies and urban planning that affect the ways people travel in a mobile world. Global issues and case studies of different cities around the world are incorporated in the teaching of basic geographical concepts about transport studies:

1) The first section of the course tries to illustrate the impacts of transport innovations on changing the world development, such as British's rail revolution, space-time compression, the speed up of globalization, containerization and its impacts on international shipping, etc. This section aims to make students understand many transport technologies that originated in one place subsequently change the global and regional systems (e.g. modes of production, modes of transportation, international shipping routes, logistics systems) which has strong influence on our daily life.

2) Another section of the course is about how the invention and reliance on vehicles change our life. Some overseas case studies are used to illustrate the impacts. Contents about Fordism, American dream (suburban middle class and car culture), Atlanta as a typical example of sprawl city are covered in this section. This section aims to make students understand what is happening elsewhere especially in cities that are reliant on cars. This draws a significant cultural difference to Hong Kong as our city is not designed for car reliance.

3) Another global element that covered in this course is aviation. This section illustrates the global aviation network design (hub-and-spoke system), the hypermobility identity (a group of very

frequent flyers that consider flying is not just a matter of travel means but also a matter of social class), environmental impacts of the global increasing flying trends, the strategies of international organization reducing aviation emissions. This section focuses on global movement and global environmental impacts brought by aviation development.

4) Last section of the course is about transport and tourism. In this section, an overseas case study of UK's Snowdonia National Park is used to illustrate how a national park manages transport problems brought by tourism.

Observations about teaching global issues in this course:

This course is designed to deliver knowledge through introduction of transport geographical concepts that illustrated through local and overseas examples. As Hong Kong is quite unique for its transportation development, many overseas examples are cited to illustrate the economic and social structures that related to transportation development, in order to let students understand the perspectives of transport geography discipline in which some ideas may not be highly applicable to Hong Kong situations. Using case studies in other places is necessary for teaching this course. Thus, one challenge is that it may take time to build student's background knowledges and the sensitivity to cultural differences to understand the context of analysis. For example, in the lecture about the relationship between Fordism, American dream among the middle class and the global issue of increasing car reliance, more time is required to teach about Fordism as many students lack relevant knowledge on the nature of Fordism and its significance influence on world history. To facilitate better learning, movie clip of "Modern Times", Ford advertisement of the 1950s and videos of documentary are used to visualize the ideas of Fordism, car culture and car-reliance community.