

**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
Department of Economics

EC 391 – Spring 2000  
Transportation Economics

Catherine G. Schneider

This course applies the basic techniques of microeconomic analysis to both freight and passenger transportation issues. Some attention will be given to industry characteristics, but the primary focus will be on economic concepts and public policy issues. If there are specific topics that you would like to cover, please let me know.

Because we will be using the basic tools of microeconomic theory, EC 201 or EC 203 is a prerequisite for the course. Students who wish to take the course concurrently with EC 201 or with only EC 131 should discuss their situation with me.

You are responsible for all the material covered in the required reading and lectures. The required text, *Principles of Transportation Economics* by Kenneth Boyer, is available in the bookstore. Additional readings that are assigned during the semester will be available at the Reserve Desk at O'Neill Library. You should also read the news articles in the "EC391 - Current Events" folder at the Reserve Desk.

Course grades will be based on three mid-term exams, a comprehensive final exam, and class participation. Class participation includes attendance. Exams will be given on February 11 (after Ch. 5), March 3 (after Ch. 8), and March 31 (after Ch. 11). The final will be given on Friday, May 5, at 12:30 PM. The weighting scheme is

mid-terms	--	20% each
final	--	30%
participation	--	10%.

If you are unable to take an exam, or to attend class for a prolonged period, please notify me as soon as possible. Make-up exams will be given only for excused absences, and verification of the excuse may be required. Please read the College of Arts & Sciences policy on class attendance and make-ups found in *The Boston College Bulletin, 1999 - 2000*, p. 35.

The University policy on grading and the College of Arts & Sciences policy on academic honesty, described in the *Bulletin* on p. 28 and pp. 35 - 36, apply.

My office is Carney 144, and the telephone extension is 2-3786. My e-mail address is catherine.schneider@bc.edu. Office hours will be Monday, 1:00 – 2:30 PM; Tuesday, 9:30 - 11:30 AM; Thursday, 1:00-2:30 PM; and by appointment.

SYLLABUS  
(dates are tentative)

- I. Introduction (Jan. 19)  
Boyer, Ch. 1
  
- II. Demand
  - A. General Issues (Jan. 21 – 24)  
Boyer, Ch. 2
  - B. Freight (Jan. 26 – 28)  
Boyer, Ch. 3
  - C. Passenger (Jan. 31 – Feb. 2)  
Boyer, Ch. 4
  
- III. Costs
  - A. General Concepts (Feb. 4 – 9)  
Boyer, Ch. 5
  - B. Infrastructure Costs (Feb. 14 – 16)  
Boyer, Ch. 6
  - C. Vehicle Ownership Costs (Feb. 18 – 23)  
Boyer, Ch. 7
  - D. Operating Costs (Feb. 25 – Mar. 1)  
Boyer, Ch. 8
  
- IV. Investment and Pricing
  - A. Investment (Mar. 13 – 15)  
Boyer, Ch. 9
  - B. Efficient Pricing (Mar. 17 – 22)  
Boyer, Ch. 10
  - C. Pricing Facilities Use (Mar. 24 – 29)  
Boyer, Ch. 11
  
- V. Regulatory Issues
  - A. Market Power (Apr. 3 – 7)  
Boyer, Ch. 12
  - B. Industry Regulation (Apr. 10 – 14)  
Boyer, Ch. 13
  - C. Social Regulation (Apr. 19 – 28)  
Boyer, Ch. 14
  
- VI. Wrap-up (May 1)