

GEOG3402 Port and Airport Development (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Dr James J Wang

Objectives

This course aims at providing students with a fundamental understanding of port and airport from a transport system perspective and a regional development perspective.

Course Synopsis

Port and airport are regarded in transport geography as two nodal development forms in multi-modal transport systems. Through a series of seminar-like discussions, this course provides an understanding of port and airport operations, and how these two forms of nodal transport infrastructure interact with other transport components and with urban and regional development. Examples drawn from different parts of the world will be discussed in detail and students are required to examine the local cases through field trips.

Lecture Topics

- Ports and airports as nodes of transportation networks: Introduction and frameworks
- Development of ports: Port and city, hinterland, foreland, and shipping organization
- Case studies of port development
- Development of airport: Determinant factors, institutional environment, and choices
- Case studies of airport development
- Future trends

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 60%; coursework 40% (students are required to form 2-person teams to write an essay and conduct a class presentation).

Field Trip

A compulsory field trip to a container terminal/airport will be arranged in the first day of the reading week.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Understanding of the role of ports and airports in both global and local economies
- Comprehension of ports and airports as elements in regional transport networks
- The relationship between urban development and nodal transport facilities

Skills:

- Analytical capacity of case studies
- Ability to identify major factors affecting the specific port/airport role in a region
- Ability to apply a conceptual framework in transport geography to real transport issues

Recommended Reading List

1. Graham, B.J. (1995) *Geography and Air Transport*. New York: John Wiley & Sons.
2. Hoyles, B.S. & R. Knowles (eds.) (1998) *Modern Transport Geography*. London: Belhaven.