

Trains & Boats & Planes

Course Description

This class will present an overview of the history and evolution of the passengers' experience while traveling by rail, sea, and air from the early 20th century until today. We will discuss how technology, world events and social change impacted travel patterns. The class will examine life on board each mode of travel, focusing on speed, passenger accommodations and service.

Weekly Layout:

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Course Outline:

Introduction and Overview: 20th Century Transportation History

Rail Travel

From Pullman to Amtrak: The rise and fall of American passenger railroads. (2 classes)

Famous International Trains: From the Flying Scotsman to the Shinkansen

Legendary Rail Journeys: Through mountains and across continents by train.

Sea Travel

Immigrants and Aristocrats: The largest moving objects in the world.

The Great Liners: Speed and luxury when "getting there was half the fun."

The Evolution of Cruising: From "Love Boats" and "Fun Ships" to floating resorts. (2 classes)

Air Travel

Below the Clouds: 1919 – 1940. The early days of air travel.

Shrinking the World: 1946 – 1958. The age of the long distance propeller plane.

Up, Up and Away: 1958 -1970. The dawn of the Jet Age.

Bigger is Better: 1970 – 2007. The era of the wide bodied airplane