SUBWAY INSURANCE POLICY

HONORS 401

SPRING 2018

Gotham’s subway nightmare continues.  And that new urban reality puts professors who care about having you in their class in an unprecedented bind.  On the one hand, if I say “Everyone can be 40 minutes late” then, well, many of you will be forty minutes late routinely and so miss our weekly discussions of commas, crack, and condoms.  On the other hand, if I keep John Jay’s traditional policy that 15 minutes late constitutes an absence (and, btw, that policy has also applied to professors: if your instructor is 15 minutes late, you are free to leave a class) someone on a particularly cursed line—like my own—could fail the class through no fault of their own.  Even worse, if I were to decide on a case-by-case basis, eventually someone will feel that I have slighted them.

So, what to do?  No policy solution here is going to perfect, but we can improve upon what we have.

I get real-time text updates from the NYPD and MTA about “events” in the city, including major subway delays.  So, I’m going to use that data, combined with information from you, to create subway-line “insurance policies” specific to individual students.  If you’d like such an insurance policy to apply to you, here’s what you need to:

A)   By Saturday 2/03/18 at 9 AM, upload to Blackboard (there will be an obvious link) an ms-word description of your commute.  That is, specify what time in the morning you get on which bus/train and the route you follow.   Follow this naming convention:  Einsten\_al\_commute\_1

B)   You can also specify in this document up to two “alternate routes” if you have multiple domiciles; if you want your insurance policy to apply to one of your alternate routes, you must text me by 1:00 AM on Thursday that you will be commuting on your alternate route.  Label these alternate routes “A” and “B” so that your text to me can just contain that letter (e.g. “Prof, taking alternate B today”)

Once I have this data, you will be “insured” against major subway delays on your route(s) as I will get updates from the city about major problems on students’ individual routes.  Now, this insurance isn’t intended to and can’t cover smaller delays.  So, you should still build into your commute schedule a 30% or so buffer (that is, if the longest you commute once was 90 minutes, set aside 30 minutes or so of commuting time).  Again, the insurance policy only covers major delays on subways as that’s where the problems emerge. It won’t, for example, cover bus routes or car commutes because the city isn’t, yet, suffering from major problems with those routes. It will, however, cover major LIRR delays if those become a problem again.

Contact me if you have questions.