

## TRAN 360 The Panama Canal: Its Impact on Global Trade

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TRAVEL: May 20-27, 2017  
TERM: Maymester, May 15-May 31, 2017  
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment before and after the trip. 24/7 while in Panama City.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** Junior standing.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** With the opening of the Panama Canal Expansion in June 2016, global trade will be profoundly impacted in the areas of global logistics, distribution and transportation as well as the real estate development and infrastructure. The study tour will include lectures by global experts as well as on-site visits. The week-long stay in Panama will include visits to both ends of the Canal, as well as international companies that have located in Panama and new real estate developments that are a direct result of the increased trade due to the canal expansion. (3 credits).

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- To help students develop cross cultural understanding of living and working conditions in other parts of the world;
- To increase students' understanding of the pivotal role played by the Panama Canal in facilitating global trade;
- To increase student understanding of the canal's importance to Panama's economy but in addition the world economy, including Charleston and South Carolina.

### **SBE LEARNING GOALS RELEVANT TO THIS COURSE:**

- *Communication Skills:* Students will use both oral and written communication skills. They will each do an introduction of one of the speakers and the company/project that speaker is addressing. They will lead the discussion and are responsible for writing thank you notes. In addition, there is a final paper that will be partially graded on the quality of their writing and their ability to communicate in a professional manner
- *Global and Civic Responsibility:* Students will recognize and examine the global implications of the Panama expansion as well as its impact on business decisions as they relate to their respective disciplines.
- *Synthesis:* Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills in identifying and evaluating problems and opportunities in the business environment and apply analytical techniques to formulate creative solutions utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge. This will be demonstrated in their final project where they are analyzing the Panama Canal from the "Executive of Their Choice" Perspective.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND THE COLLEGE HONOR CODE:** All students are expected to adhere to the College of Charleston Honor Code. Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism

are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

Students should pay particular attention to the rules on plagiarism. Those found in violation of the honor code will receive an F in the course. All written work is to be turned in electronically to the Oaks website by 5:00 pm on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

If there is a student in the class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, please come see one of us as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

**GRADING POLICY and ASSIGNMENTS:**

|  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| • Quiz on Readings                                   | 100 | 20% |
| • Professional Introductions and Thank You Follow-up | 100 | 20% |
| • Daily Journal Sheets (20 points each)              | 100 | 20% |
| • Professional Paper                                 | 125 | 25% |
| • Behavior and participation                         | 25  | 15% |

### **GRADING SCALE:**

Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Final course grades will be determined as follows (percentages of total possible points):

|         |      |         |      |         |      |
|---------|------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 92 +    | = A  | 90-91.9 | = A- |         |      |
| 88-89.9 | = B+ | 82-87.9 | = B  | 80-81.9 | = B- |
| 78-79.9 | = C+ | 72-77.9 | = C  | 70-71.9 | = C- |
| 68-69.9 | = D+ | 62-67.9 | = D  | 60-61.9 | = D- |

Disagreements with the grading on a particular assignment must be made in writing and turned in one week after the assignment was returned.

### **Quiz on the Movie and the Required Readings (20%)**

The quiz will be taken on **May 30, 2017**. It will be available on line at the Oaks site from 9 to midnight. Material covered will include the movie, as well as, all the readings listed on your syllabus. The goal of this quiz is to ensure each student is academically and intellectually prepared for our visit to Panama.

### **Professional Introductions, Q&A Facilitation, Gift Presentation, Thank You Cards (20%)**

Each student will be responsible for the introduction, the Q&A session, gift presentation and thank you for one of the guest speaker/business visits. Assignments will be made once we have the final schedule and students will be responsible for researching the company we are visiting and introducing the speaker(s). The student will then begin the Q&A with his/her own questions and will wrap up the discussion by thanking the speaker and presenting them with a gift. Finally, the student will be responsible for writing a thank you note or email after our visit and cc your professor. Thank you notes are due no later than May 30<sup>th</sup> but we encourage you to complete them the same evening or following day.

### **Daily Journal Sheets (20%)**

At the end of each day you will be provided with a daily journal sheet to record your experiences for the day. Entries will briefly describe the daily events, how they might have impacted your chosen "executive" for your final paper and how the activities relate to the learning objectives of the course. **We will post an electronic version of the Journal sheets on Oaks. Please complete one each night and upload it on the Dropbox for Oaks.**

### **Professional Paper: Executive Perspective of the Panama Canal Expansion (25%)**

Choose a field that you may go in to that incorporates the use of the Panama Canal. This can be any field you want but you are the executive and you are examining how the expansion of the Panama Canal will impact your business. Discuss the costs and benefits as well as the risks and rewards from the perspective of your chosen Executive position. You can be working for a logistics company, a major manufacturing corporation, a supplier, a real estate brokerage, investment, advisory or development company, or a financial institution. **This paper is due at exam time on May 31, 2017 and should be submitted via the Dropbox on Oaks. Please note: all papers will be run through Turnitin plagiarism detection software.**

### **Behavior and participation (15%)**

This course is a travel study course where we will be visiting business and interacting with professionals in both the logistics and real estate industry. This trip requires pre-departure study and overseas field experience working with a wide range of people who have different educational, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds. In order for an academic trip to be successful students must:

- be prepared to participate from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm. each day. Treat this experience like a job. There may be a few days where we could go later into the evening.
- present themselves in a professional manner at all times. Dress is business casual and we are expecting you to ask questions and participate in all tours in a meaningful way.
- be respectful of different cultures and norms.
- serve effectively as good will ambassadors of the School of Business, the College of Charleston and the United States.

In addition, the following expectations will apply to this specific trip.

- Any action i.e.: fighting, criminal actions will result in the student departing the program immediately at their expense and will result in an honor board investigation. An "F" grade will be given.
- Drunkenness is not acceptable. Any student who cannot participate due to drunkenness or results of said behavior will be given a written warning that will be part of their permanent college record. If it occurs a second time, the student will be sent home at his/her own expense and the course grade will be an "F".
- A midnight curfew will be enforced to make sure that students are able to meet the 9:00 a.m. meeting time each morning.

There is a substantial amount of your grade that is based on Participation. If you are professional and respectful you will not lose points. On the other hand, if you are rude and disrespectful to our host it can have a very negative impact on your grade. Please act responsibly and professionally.

### **ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS**

Following the School of Business learning goal of effective communications, all written work (including presentations) must be completed in professional style and follow basic principles of effective written communication. As any potential employer would expect, all written work should be neat, well-organized, clearly written, and free from grammatical and/or typographical errors. In other words, grammar, spelling and formatting will count as part of the grade on all assignments (including presentations).

### **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

The use of all PDA devices, including cell phones and laptop computers, pads and pods is expressly forbidden during lectures, tours and class discussions. Texting, receiving or sending messages, cell phone use, or the use of laptop computers during these times will result in a poor participation grade. Students must keep these devices turned off and out of sight during class. It is a violation of this policy to keep such devices on your lap. Of course the use of these devices during team meetings in class to prepare cases or assignments is not prohibited.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| May 15, 2017    | Introduction to the Panama Canal, Logistics and Real Estate<br>2:00-3:00 Introductions/Course Syllabus<br>3:00-4:00 <i>A Man, A Plan, A Canal</i> , NOVA Public TV Production                                  |
| May 20-27, 2017 | Panama City Details Distributed upon arrival at the City of Knowledge. Meetings organized for every week day of the trip. Typically from 9-5. Daily Journal Sheets due every morning via the drop box on Oaks. |
| May 30, 2017    | Quiz on Readings (online)<br>Thank you cards due in the Oaks Drop Box.   |
| May 31, 2017    | Final Projects Due   |

### TRAN 360: The Panama Canal: Its Impact on Global Trade Required Reading List for Summer 2017

#### READINGS (Articles and/or links are also Available on Oaks)

- “Distributional Effects of the Panama Canal Expansion,” *Economia*, Fall 2012.  
<http://www.cid.harvard.edu/Economia/papers%20issues/Fall%202012/04%20Bussolo,%20de%20Hoyos,%20Medvedev%20Panama%20Canal.pdf>, pp 98-108.
- *Frequently Asked Questions about the Panama Canal, Panama Canal Website, May 14, 2017*, <http://micanaldepanama.com/expansion/faq/> 3 pages.
- “Lost in Nicaragua, a Chinese Tycoon’s Canal Project,” *Suzanne Daley, April 3, 2016, canal-chinese-tycoon.html*  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/04/world/americas/nicaragua-canal-chinese-tycoon.html>, 6 pages.
- “The Expansion of the Panama Canal; Implications for Supply Chain Managers,” Kent N. Gourdin, January 2017, 13 pages.
- “Panama Canal aims to double big-ship transits with tech aid,” Hugh R. Morley, March 20, 2017, JOC.com, 3 pages.
- “The Impact of the Panama Canal Expansion on Panama’s Maritime Cluster”, *Maritime Policy and Management*, Pagano, Wang, Sanchez, Ungo and Tapiero, 43:2, 164-178
- Isthmus: On the Panama Canal Expansion, Brian Davis, Rob Holmes and Brett Milligan, December 2015,  
<https://placesjournal.org/article/isthmus-panama-canal-expansion/#.VynHSITVTKM.mailto>, 23 pages.

- The Coming Infrastructure Crisis: Is Your Supply Chain Ready?. *Boston Consulting Group*, June 2015, <https://www.bcq.com/documents/file70604.pdf> 17 pages.
- Wide Open: How the Panama Canal Expansion is Redrawing the Logistic Map, Boston Consulting Group, June 18, 2015, <http://panamacanal.salini-impregilo.com/static/upload/bos/bostongrouponpanamajune2015.pdf> 13 pages.
- The Post-Panamax Effect: How the Panama Canal Expansion is Reshaping America's Ports, Daniel Rosen, July 21, 2015, <https://blueprint.cbre.com/the-post-panamax-effect-how-the-panama-canal-expansion-is-reshaping-americas-ports/>, 8 pages.
- The New Panama Canal: A Risky Bet, *New York Times*, Walt Bogdanc, Jacqueline Williams and Ana Graciela Williams, June 22, 2016, [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/06/22/world/americas/panama-canal.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/06/22/world/americas/panama-canal.html?_r=0).
- The \$5 Billion Panama Canal Expansion Opens Sunday, Amidst Shipping Concerns, *National Public Radio*, Carrie Kahn, June 25, 2016 <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/25/483523910/the-5-billion-panama-canal-expansion-opens-sunday-amidst-shipping-concerns>. Also, watch the video 3 minute presentation and about 2 pages of text. As Panama Canal Expands Many Feel Left Out of Its Windfall. Might also want to watch the video, *Video: A New Experience - Transits through Expanded Panama Canal*, website, Accessed May 15, 2017. An 11-minute video. Linked on this article and below.
- In Focus: Why America's Supply Chain Is Shifting East, *Area Development*, KC Conway, Q1 2017. <http://www.areadevelopment.com/logisticsInfrastructure/Q1-2017/why-americas-supply-chain-is-shifting-east-KC-Conway.shtml>
- How Panama Canal Expansion Will Affect US Shipping Sector, *Institutional Investor*, Jeff Ostrowski, January 15, 2016 <http://www.institutionalinvestor.com/article/3521526/banking-and-capital-markets-corporations/how-panama-canal-expansion-will-affect-us-shipping-sector.html?ArticleId=3521526#.WRYLFdLytRY>.