TRAN 360
The Panama Canal: Its Impact on Global Trade

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TRAVEL: June 9-16, 2018
TERM: Summer 1, June 1-28, 2018
OFFICE HOURS: By Appointment before and after the trip. 24/7 while in Panama City.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Junior standing

COURSE DESCRIPTION: With the Panama Canal Expansion project scheduled for completion in 2017, 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 the existing Canal and the construction site for the expansion 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 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:

- Test 1 on Movie, Powerpoint and First Readings 100 20%
- Test 2 on Second Readings and Trip 100 20%
- Site Visit Research/gift presentation/Thank You note 25 5%
- Daily Journal Sheets (20 points each) 100 20%
- Professional Paper 100 20%
- Behavior/participation/survey/course evaluation 75 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.

Tests on the Movie, Powerpoint and Readings (100 points each)
There will be two tests. The first will be set up before we go to Panama on June 8, 2018. It will be available online at the Oaks site from 9 AM to midnight. Material covered will include the movie, the Jim Newsome PowerPoint as well as selected readings from your syllabus. The goal is to ensure each student is academically and intellectually prepared for our visit to Panama. The second test will be after we return from Panama on June 20, 2018. It will be on the remainder of the readings as well as material covered on the trip itself.

Site Visit Research, Q&A Facilitation, Gift Presentation, Thank You Cards (25 points)
Each student or group of students depending on the site visit will be responsible for sending a short email to the class the evening before our visit to the company or institution that we will be visiting that day. Please send to the entire class so we are all prepared for the upcoming visit. You are also required to ask at least one question during the Q&A session, present the thank you gift to the speaker and write a thank you card to the guest speaker(s). Please cc your professor on the email or take a picture of the written thank you note and post to the OAKS site. Thank you notes are due no later than June 30th but we encourage you to complete them the same evening or following day.

Daily Journal Sheets (100 points)
At the end of each day you are to complete 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 sheet on Oaks. Please complete one each night and upload it on the Dropbox for Oaks by midnight each night. Remember to use these sheets when you are working on your final paper.

Professional Paper: Executive Perspective of the Panama Canal WoExpansion (20% or 100 points)
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 third party logistics firm (3PL), a maritime company, a real estate brokerage house, an investment firm, an advisory firm, a real estate investment trust (REIT), a development company, or a financial institution. This paper is due at exam time on June 28, 2018. Please be sure to follow the rubric that has been provided to you. Points will be deducted if the items are not addressed. Please upload your final paper to Dropbox.
Behavior and participation (15% or 75 points)

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 at least 5:00 pm. each day. Treat this experience like a job. There may be a few days where we could go later in to 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**

**June 1-8, 2018**
Read background materials on the course. And, watch the video. Take the first exam on June 8. Exam will be on OAKS from 9 AM to midnight. You will have 60 minutes to take the exam.

**June 9-16, 2018**
See separate City of Knowledge itinerary. Meetings organized for every day of the trip. Typically, from 9-5 but we have a few earlier and later days. Daily Journal Sheets due every evening by midnight. Please put them in the drop box for this class.

**June 9-16, 2018**
Thank you emails should be sent the evening that you introduced the company/institution. Also, please provide your fellow classmates with a short description via email of the organization we will be visiting. Please cc your professor on the thank you email to the professional. If you choose to write a thank you card, please take a picture of the card and post it on OAKS.

**June 20, 2018**
Second exam for the course will be posted at 9:00 AM and will remain available until midnight. You will have 60 minutes to complete.

**June 28, 2018**
Final Projects Due. Please be sure to follow the rubric that has been provided to you. Points will be deducted if the items are not addressed.
**MOVIE AND PRESENTATIONS:** To be viewed on your own before we leave for Panama.
- *Panama Canal: Gateway to the American Century*, PBS An American Experience. [http://libcat.cofc.edu/record=b2858441~S12](http://libcat.cofc.edu/record=b2858441~S12). Need to log in to Kanopy Streaming video with your college credentials and then you will be able to watch the video.
- Presentation by Jim Newsome, President and CEO of the SC Ports Authority. May 2018. Posted on OAKS

**Articles and Papers**

**Exam 1**
- “The Expansion of the Panama Canal; Implications for Supply Chain Managers,” Kent N. Gourdin, January 2017, 13 pages. PDF in folder on OAKS
- “Isthmus in the World: Elements for an Environmental History of Panama”, Dr. Guermo Castro, Lecturer in Panama. Please be sure to read before the trip.
- *Country Watch, 2018 Panama Report*, pages 1-23 for background and history. Depending on your project you may also want to review Chapters 3, 4, 5 or 6. 22 pages. On OAKS.

**Exam 2**
- “Ports Worldwide are in Growth Mode as Panama Canal Expansion Opens for Business”, A. Bruns, *Site Selection*, July 2016. Posted on OAKS.


