TRAN 360 The Panama Canal: Its Impact on Global Trade

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TRAVEL: June 15-22, 2019
TERM: Summer I, June 4-July 3, 2019
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 completed and the Charleston Harbor deepening project started, global trade is being 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.

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 11:59 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:

- Exam 1 on Movie, Powerpoint and First Readings 20%
- Exam 2 on Second Readings and Trip 20%
- Site Visit Research/gift presentation/Thank You notes 5%
- Daily Journal Sheets (20 points each) 20%
- Trip Report 20%
- Behavior and participation 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
- 78-79.9 = B-
- 70-71.9 = C+
- 68-69.9 = 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 Video, Powerpoint, and the Required Readings (20%)
There will be two tests. The first will be set up before we go to Panama on June 12, 2019. It will be available on line 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 has a good background on Panama as well as the Panama Canal expansion so we are prepared to ask questions while we are in Panama. The second test will be after we return from Panama on June 21, 2019. 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 (20%)
Each student or group of student 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 an email to the entire class so we are ready the site tours that day. 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 22th 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 by 11:59pm. Remember to use these sheets when you are working on your final paper.

Trip Report (25%)
Each student will be required to submit a trip report after we return. The purpose of this effort is to get your reactions to your time in Panama by summarizing our daily activities and then synthesizing those experiences in order to tell me what you learned both personally and professionally on the trip. I do not want a rehash of the trip. Rather, I want you to thoughtfully use examples from the week to illustrate how you’ve
grown as a result of what you saw, heard, tasted, felt, liked, disliked, etc. Kind of touchy/feely I know, but there you are. Reports should be no less than 5 pages long, so be careful: I am more interested in quality and will grade your work accordingly. The paper is due in the Dropbox July 2.

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

June 4-12, 2019 Read background materials on the course. And, watch the video. Take the first exam on June 12. Exam will be on OAKS from 9 AM to midnight. You will have 75 minutes to take the exam.

June 16-22, 2019 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 17-21, 2019 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 26, 2019 Second exam for the course will be posted at 9:00 AM and will remain available until midnight. You will have 75 minutes to complete.

July 2, 2019 Final Projects Due.
Exam 1 To be watched or read before we go to Panama. Covered on Exam 1.

MOVIE AND PRESENTATIONS: To be viewed on your own before we leave for Panama.
- A Man, A Plan, A Canal, NOVA Public TV shown on June 11, 2014. On reserve at the Addlestone library. You can also check out a copy from Adam Swalley in Beatty 401.
- Presentation by Jim Newsome, President and CEO of the SC Ports Authority. June 2019. Posted on OAKS.

Panama Canal Website, read the Frequently Asked Questions about the Panama Canal, Panama Canal Website, http://micanaldepanama.com/expansion/faq/.

“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. PDF in folder on OAKS

Country Watch, 2018 Panama Report, pages 1-23 for background and history. PDF in folder on OAKS


Ports Worldwide are in Growth Mode as Panama Canal Expansion Opens for Business”, A. Bruns, Site Selection, July 2016. PDF in folder on OAKS.


Exam 2: To be tested on when we return from Panama.


“The Panama Canal Expansion and Its Impact on East–West Liner Shipping Route Selection”, Thi Yen Pham, Ki Young Kim and Gi-Tae YEO, Sustainability, November 2018, https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/12/4353
