

TRAN 311 Section 1, MW 2:00-3:15  
(Current as of 8/24/21; subject to change)  
Intermodal Transportation  
FALL 2021

Instructor: Dr. Kent Gourdin  
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Office Hours: MW: 11:00-1230  
TR: 11-12  
or by appointment

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(always the best way to reach me)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the primary transportation systems employed in the movement of commodities and people throughout the world. While the focus will be on the operation and management of the various modes of transportation, peripheral issues such as safety, infrastructure, environmental, and national defense concerns will also be discussed. Finally, transportation policy issues will be addressed to examine transportation's role in the attainment of broad social objectives.

### PREREQUISITES

Junior standing, ECON 200 and 201.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. To develop an understanding of the basic operation of each mode of transportation;
- B. To develop an understanding of deregulation and how it effects transportation;
- C. To develop an understanding of the cost/service tradeoffs existing between modes;
- D. To develop an understanding of transportation's role in logistics and supply chain management;
- E. To provide an opportunity for examining transportation's role in the attainment of broad national objectives.

### SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (SB) LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Course objectives are intended to address the school learning goals as discussed below. The SB learning goals are:

- **COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** *Students will demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive*

*manner. **Implementation:** Students actively participate in class discussion and write a term paper on a transportation-related topic. **Demonstration of Achievement:** The quality of written work and class participation will be assessed both during and at the end of the semester.*

- **QUANTITATIVE FLUENCY:** *Students will demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.*
- **GLOBAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY:** *Students will be able to identify and define social, ethical, environmental and economic challenges at local, national and international levels. Students will also be able to integrate knowledge and skills in addressing these issues. **Implementation:** Students will both the importance of the nation's transportation system and the societal challenges that must be addressed to maintain its supremacy. **Demonstration of Achievement:** An issue-based term project will appropriate the challenges noted above as required.*
- **INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY:** *Students will be able to demonstrate their resourcefulness and originality in addressing extemporaneous problems.*
- **SYNTHESIS:** *Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines incorporating learning from both classroom and non-classroom settings in the completion of complex and comprehensive tasks. **Implementation:** Work from prerequisite classes in micro and macroeconomics will be essential to the successful completion of the term project. Many sessions from the professional class will be invaluable as well. **Demonstration of Achievement:** The quality of the final term project report will be a direct reflection of the students' ability to synthesize information from a variety of sources.*

### COURSE TEXTBOOK

Coyle, Novak, and Gibson. *Transportation*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1-337-40664-2; 2019

### EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICY

A. The evaluation of each student is based on performance in the following areas:

1. Each student will take three exams that will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. All exams will be closed book, unless the instructor specifically states otherwise.

2. Each student will be required to submit a term paper dealing with one of the following topics:

- a. The wide-spread availability of Covid 19 vaccines in the United

States led to a surge in consumer and business demand for goods in the first half of 2021 that is straining the nation's ports and intermodal transportation industries. Discuss these impacts, why they are happening, and what, if anything, can be done to remedy them. Are they the result of short-term spikes in demand as the economy recovers or representative of permanent systemic changes in buying behavior? Depending on your answer, what are the implications for the intermodal transportation system?

- b. President Biden's \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill appears to have a very real chance of becoming the law of the land. Pick one component of the intermodal transportation system (freight rail, trucking, or maritime/ports) and discuss (a) the key provisions of the bill impacting your chosen mode, and (b) possible impediments to their successful implementation.
- c. The Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railroads are presently engaged in a bidding war to purchase Kansas City Southern, the smallest US Class I railroad. Why are they so eager to buy it? What are the pros and cons of merger approval by the U.S. government? Should the purchase be allowed? Why or why not?
- d. The proposed Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021, if enacted, will have a significant impact on global supply chains, most notably the ocean carriers, and is already generating mixed reviews. What are the implications for the intermodal transportation system if the legislation is passed? Should it be passed? Why or why not?

Each **paper** will automatically be entered into a Best Paper competition sponsored by the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA). I will select the five finalist papers, which I will then ask three other faculty to blind review and rank in order from one (best) to five. Prizes are:

Grand Prize	\$2500
First Runner-up:	\$1500
Second Runner-up:	\$ 500

Papers will be NO LESS THAN 10 pages, double-spaced, and will be submitted to the Dropbox on or before **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. If you chose, you may do your project with a (i.e. **one**) partner. Both will receive the same grade. I want either an outline or a two-page summary of your intended project to include at least five references that you will use in your paper placed into the Dropbox by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will review your submission and return it to you with my comments. You will then need to complete your work in time to submit it to the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning for their evaluation and have it returned to you to make their

corrections and submit the final paper, along with their comments on your draft, on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

B. These efforts are worth the following percentages of the final course grade:

First Exam	20%
Second Exam	20%
Third Exam	20%
Term Project	20%
Initial Draft	5%
Writing Lab Comments	5%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

C. There are no predetermined cutoff points for letter grades and no predetermined percentages of various grades to be given to the class.

D. Class attendance is strongly encouraged. That said, these are very uncertain times. What I would ask is that you let me know if you're not going to be "in" class. I'm not concerned with the reason, I just want to ensure everyone is doing OK.

E. College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity

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, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, 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 an XXF 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 XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. 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>

F. Disability Statement: Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged. For more information, visit the disability services website:

<http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/>

G. Center for Student Learning: The Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services provide assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing skills, and course content. Services include tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843) 953-5635.

I especially encourage you to take advantage of the Writing Lab. Trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. The Writing Lab is available Monday-Thursday 10-9; Friday 10-12 noon; and Sunday 4-9 beginning Monday, Sept. 7, 2020. For more information, please visit <http://csl.cofc.edu/labs/writing-lab/>.

H. Mental & Physical Wellbeing: At the college, we take every student's mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to Student Health Services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at <http://counseling.cofc.edu> or 843.953.5640 3<sup>rd</sup> Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit <http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php>, or meet with them in person 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

I. Food & Housing Resources: Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php>). Also, you can go to <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php> to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need. Please also consider reaching out to me if you are comfortable in doing so.

J. Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction: If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

K. OAKS (for all instructional modalities), including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

L. Continuity of Learning (for hybrid classes with face-to-face meetings): Due to social distancing requirements, this class will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to reinforce continuity of learning for all enrolled students. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstances. During the semester, in response to the development of COVID-19, or a weather-related campus evacuation is initiated, the class delivery mode could be switched among face-to-face, online, or hybrid. Students need to make sure that their study will not be interrupted by a change of delivery mode.

M. Other items

For other matters not specified in this syllabus, we comply with the common policy of the College. Of particular note are the following:

1. No major test or final examination may be given during the last week of classes (seven days prior to the designated last day of classes). A major test is defined as an examination worth 20% or more of the final course grade. No test, exam, or other assignment of any weight may be given on or due on Reading Day. Other assignments, such as semester-long projects, quizzes, homework and papers may be due during the last week of classes or during the regularly scheduled final exam period.

a. This policy does not apply to final laboratory examinations, oral examinations, portfolio or exhibition critiques, individual or group in-class presentations, performance courses, activity classes, bachelor's essays, tutorials, and/or independent study projects. In exceptional circumstances, the Provost (or Provost's designee) may waive these restrictions.

**2. Email is the official means of communication at the College. You should be reading all email you receive from the school, most especially if it is from me.**

## Class Schedule

Meeting	Topic	Assignments
25-Aug	Course Introduction/Overview	
30-Aug	Overview-continued	
1-Sep	Transportation & the Supply Chain	Ch. 1
6-Sep	Transportation & the Economy	Ch. 2
8-Sep	Motor Carriers	Ch. 5
<b>13-Sep</b>	<b>No Class</b>	
15-Sep	Railroads	Ch. 6
20-Sep	Air Carriers	Ch. 7
22-Sep	Water Carriers	Ch. 8
<b>27-Sep</b>	Pipelines	Ch. 8
29-Sep	<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Chs. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and notes</b>
4-Oct	Pipelines-continued	
<b>6-Oct</b>	Risk Management	Ch. 10
11-Oct	<b>Term Project Topics Due in Dropbox</b>	
13-Oct	Economic Regulation	Ch. 12
18-Oct	<b>Fall Break-No Class</b>	
20-Oct	Economic Regulation-continued	
25 Oct	Economic Deregulation	
27-Oct	(Continued)/Defense Transportation	
1-Nov	Pricing	Ch. 4 Ch. 11/ <b>Paper</b>
3Nov	Global Transportation	<b>outline/summary due</b>
8-Nov	<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>Ch. 4, 8, 10, 12, and notes</b>
10-Nov	Global Transportation (Continued)	
15-Nov	Private Transportation	
17-Nov	Transportation Issues & Challenges	Ch. 13
22-Nov	Transportation Service Quality	
29-Nov	Third-Party Service Providers	Ch. 9
1-Dec	Shipper/Carrier Strategies	
	Technology and Systems	
6-Dec	<b>Term Projects Due in Dropbox by 11:59 PM</b>	Ch. 3
<b>11-Dec</b>	<b>Exam 3, 2:30-4:30</b>	<b>Ch. 3, 9, 11, 13 and notes</b>