TRAN 360
The Panama Canal and Its Impact on Global Trade
Spring 2021 (Asynchronous Online)

Instructor: Dr. Kent Gourdin
Office: My Dining Room Table
Office Phone: 843-452-2192
Email: gourdink@cofc.edu
Office Hours: anytime; email to arrange a Zoom appointment

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
As of now, and unless we or the College decide differently, the class will meet asynchronously online, which means there are no scheduled meetings. Rather, we will meet as necessary via Zoom. Because class attendance is crucial for any course, students are expected to attend all classes in which they enroll. These expectations apply to both in-person and online classes. I do not plan to make Zoom recordings of the lectures routinely available. Whenever we do meet online as a class, I expect all cameras to be on. Please review the College policy statements at the end of the syllabus concerning safety requirements for all campus members: students, faculty, staff and visitors.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The Isthmus of Panama is the narrowest land connection between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and has been used as a transit route between the two coasts for centuries. This course will briefly examine that role during years leading up to the unsuccessful French attempt to construct a canal. The US effort will then be discussed, before looking at the importance of the canal to Panama’s place in the world today. The opening of the Panama Canal Expansion in June 2016 profoundly impacted the areas of global logistics, distribution and transportation as well as real estate and infrastructure development. (3 credits).

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• To increase student understanding of the pivotal role played by the Panama Canal in facilitating global trade;
• To increase student understanding of the complexities that must be overcome to successfully complete a major transportation infrastructure project;
• To increase student understanding of the canal’s importance to Panama, the United States, and the world.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (SB) LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Course objectives are intended to address school learning goals as discussed below. The SB learning goals are:

  ◦ Effective Communications: Students will write professional documents that are technically correct and concise and make effective presentations utilizing technological tools and ability utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.
- **Ethical Awareness:** Students will recognize and be able to appraise ethical dilemmas involved in business decisions and competently engage in discourse aimed at resolution of these dilemmas utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.

- **Global Awareness:** Students will recognize and examine the global implications of business decisions while evaluating and integrating innovative applications of these implications utilizing relevant discipline specific knowledge.

- **Problem Solving Ability:** 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.

**COURSE TEXTBOOK**
McCullough, David. *The Path Between the Seas* (Simon and Schuster Paperbacks, 1977). ISBN: 978130671244095. Available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, just to name a few outlets. Paperback or ebook. Don’t be put off by the size (it’s almost 700 pages). I just purchased the paperback and it was a little over $20.00.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICY**
A. The evaluation of each student is based on performance in the following areas:

1. Students will take three quizzes covering the material in *The Path Between the Seas*, and one quiz on the recorded lectures and Current Events Readings. All exams will be administered online via OAKS.

2. Students will watch two videos, “The Path Between the Seas,” and “Prized Possession,” completing a questionnaire on each (available on Oaks). Responses will be submitted into the Dropbox provided.

3. Make-up exams/late assignments will only be allowed with the prior permission of the instructor.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions on videos</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

D. There is NO provision for individual or late work; all assignments are due no later than Friday of the week specified.
COLLEGE OF CHALESTON 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 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

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/

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/.

MENTAL AND 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 3rd 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 3rd 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.

FOOD AND HOUSING RESOURCES: Many CoC 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER, PANDEMIC, OR SUBSTANTIAL INTERRUPTION OF INSTRUCTION: 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.

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.

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING: 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 course of class, in response to the development of COVID-
19, the course 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 the change of the delivery mode.

RECORDING OF CLASSES (via ZOOM): Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the

OTHER ITEMS: For other matters not specified in this syllabus, we comply with the common policy of the College. Of 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

### Class Schedule (Week of...)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 Jan</td>
<td>Class Introduction &amp; Video: “The Path Between the Seas”</td>
<td>Questions on video ( Starts 3 min 5 secs in)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Jan</td>
<td><em>The Path Between the Seas: Book 1</em></td>
<td>Preface, Ch. 1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Jan</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td>Ch. 4, 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td>Ch. 7, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video: “Prized Possession”</td>
<td>Questions on video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Feb</td>
<td><strong>Quiz on Book 1</strong>; Maritime 101¹</td>
<td>Readings #1,3,8,13,18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Feb</td>
<td><em>The Path Between the Seas: Book 2</em></td>
<td>Ch. 9, 10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Feb</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td>Ch. 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mar</td>
<td><strong>Quiz on Book 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vessel Flagging/Panama Maritime Authority¹</td>
<td>Readings: 12, 16, 17, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mar</td>
<td>Spring Break-No Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Mar</td>
<td><em>The Path Between the Seas: Book 3</em></td>
<td>Ch. 15, 16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Mar</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td>Ch. 18, 19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Mar</td>
<td>(continued)</td>
<td>Ch. 21, Afterward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Apr</td>
<td><strong>Quiz on Book 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canal Expansion/Transiting the Canal¹</td>
<td>Readings: 2, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Apr</td>
<td>Impact of the Global Pandemic¹</td>
<td>Readings: 6, 7, 9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Future Issues¹</td>
<td>Readings: 4, 5, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Apr</td>
<td><strong>Quiz on recorded lectures and current events readings</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Recorded lecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Events Readings

1. “The Tumultuous World of Maritime Transportation”
2. Frequently Asked Questions About the Panama Canal Expansion
3. “In Focus: Why American’s Supply Chain is Shifting East”
4. “Mega-canals Could Slice Through Continents for Giant Ships”
5. “Additional Fees for Water Shortage”
6. “Panama Canal Changes Reservation Fee Requirements to Help Customers During the COVID-19 Pandemic”
7. “COVID 19 Readjusts “sweet-spot” of container ship sizes”
8. “Panama Canal’s record cargo paying dividends for Port of Charleston”
9. “Panama Canal Makes Temporary Changes to Help Clients During the Pandemic”
10. “Suez and Panama Canals cut owners breaks to keep ships transiting”
11. “Shipping industry faces $370 million hit from new Panama Canal charge”
12. “Why so many shipowners find Panama’s flag convenient”
15. “Working with the United States: A View from Panama”
17. “Iran’s Tanker Seizure: What’s So Important About a Ship’s Flag”
18. “The governance of intermediacy: The insertion of Panama in the global liner shipping network”