



Broad College of Business
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COURSE INFORMATION

SS25 SCM 491-750, Global Supply Chain Management and the Panama Canal

Program Director and Instructor:

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WhatsApp for in country group messaging.

TRAVEL DATES (FIXED):

- Departure-> in country arrival: Saturday, March 1st, 2025*
- Return; Saturday, March 8th, 2025

*early arrival may be accommodated for. Please contact your instructor if you wish to be considered for this.

NOTE: ALL travel arrangements are to be arranged by each student with direct contact with the program director including specific itinerary details and other travel requirements.

Students can expect to be provided advanced notification of any changes to scheduled meeting location via MSU email AT LEAST 24 HOURS prior to the scheduled meeting time. Additional or cancellation of all meetings will be at the discretion of the course instructor.

For additional course details regarding travel, refer to D2L.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a firsthand experience at various logistics operations along the 50 mile stretch of that modern wonder, the Panama Canal. Students will understand the impact the canal has played in the cultural/legal and economic development of the country and visit various logistics operations across the region with particular focus including warehousing, intermodal transportation and third-party, including storage, transportation and other value-added services.

Course Structure

Students will participate **in some pre-travel learning activities** as outlined below including the completion of a pre-departure quiz. Details of these activities will be communicated to students through D2L and electronic communication.

Course Prerequisite(s):

SCM Major preferred BUT NOT REQUIRED (IBUS credit provided upon student request). Previous internship and work experience is beneficial but also not required. Approved application process conducted through VIA Education Abroad portal.

Travel Policies:

Students **MUST HAVE US PASSPORT** (or other proper travel documents) to travel between the two countries. Students must follow any/all health mandates as dictated by the U.S. and Panamanian governments. Students must have US Citizenship documentation (i.e. US Passport) that does not expire within 3 months of return (or appropriate Visa documentation for non-US Citizens) for entry back into the United States. **Refer to the MSU Education Abroad web page for details regarding additional MSU travel policies.**

Much, if not all, of the travel within Panama will take place as a group and may take a significant part of the day however individual free time will be allotted for to allow students the opportunity to explore the immediate proximity of the hotel and other areas of the city. These times will be highlighted in the finalized itinerary provided by Campus B. Note that the hotel we are scheduled to stay at is centrally located in Panama City with numerous restaurants and shopping districts conveniently located within walking distance of the hotel however, local taxis, including Uber, are abundant.

Course Expectations:

In participating in all onsite tours, as well as all interactions with the host operations, , students are expected to be fully engaged and active participants throughout the scheduled events. Students are expected to interact with all presenters, instructors, and other program directors with courtesy and respect and should plan to have multiple opportunities to ask questions as well as to present their own personal observations.

- Students will be expected to participate and engage in all pre departure events and seminars as scheduled.
- Participation grades will be a component of course grading; see graded components in detail in the Graded Course Activities (below).
- Note that throughout the tour, Internet connections (DSL, LAN, or cable connection) as well as cell service may be intermittent or difficult to access.
- Students can bring laptops with them if preferred, however all students should plan to leave their laptops in the hotel room during the daily activities. I personally enjoy having laptop access in my hotel room.
- During the travel portion of the course, students should anticipate some emergencies and/or other extenuating circumstances that might necessitate cash. Access to emergency funds (cash or credit) is the responsibility of the student. Typically, credit cards like Mastercard and Visa are encouraged for international travel as they are both widely accepted as well as provide a low exchange rate for purchase. The US Dollar is the local currency.

Student Expectations:

Students will be expected to work outside of class meeting times to complete any/all assignments or quizzes as necessary. All graded components will be maintained using the D2L Learning Management System. Students are responsible for understanding all requirements for the completion of graded course activities which may be tracked in D2L.

Regular course communication with the instructor and other program directors is assumed.

Students are asked to keep a series of daily journals. These journals should be reflective of their experiences throughout the week. These travel journals will be used to formulate the final impact paper or presentation (see Graded Course Activities).

8–10-page experiential report/paper that highlights the student’s personal revelations and learned insight. The precise details, including due dates, will be provided by the instructor and maintained via D2L.

Textbook & Other Materials

All course materials (PDF’s, PowerPoint slides, quizzes, and/or other assignments) will be distributed and made available to students via D2L. Additional articles or assignments may be assigned throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor. There is no textbook for this course.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Semester Begins	1/13/25
Pre-Departure Meeting(s)	1/30/25 2/20/25
Departure for Panama City	3/1/25
Return to Michigan	3/8/25
Post Departure Meeting(s)	3/27/25
Final Papers/Videos DUE	4/2/25
Final Grades Due	5/1/25

Graded Course Activities:

1. **Pre-Departure Orientation Sessions (20 points total)**
 - a. Student Intro
 - b. Overview of the course expectations with Campus B
 - c. Other Activities?
2. **Participation in all site visits (100 points)**
 - a. Attendance/Participation to all site visits, tours and lectures will be mandatory whereby students will be marked present. Additional points may be added/deducted based on students’ behavior and interactions.
 - b. Students are expected to be observant and active participants in all site visits throughout the program. Questions and clarifications are to be expected and students should feel free to ask questions and share their thoughts and observations throughout the program.

- c. Students will be expected to behave in a manner consistent with that of gracious guests always maintaining a high degree of professionalism and courtesy.

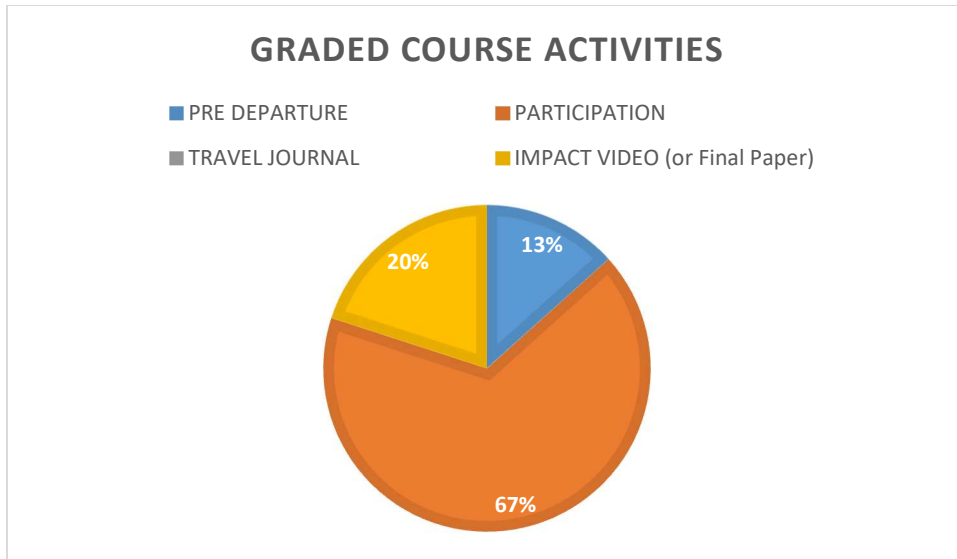
3. Travel Journal (20 points total)

- a. Daily tour journals (5) and other notes/observations from site visits should be anticipated and prepared for submission upon return (see D2L for precise due date).
- b. Students should capture their thoughts and other pertinent information from the day's events. What were your thoughts and observations?
- c. Journals can focus on any aspect, however, should include some focus on a LOGISTICAL QUESTION they learned/encountered during the day's tour.

4. Impact Video/Paper (30 points total)

Upon return to MSU, students will either -

- a. Record an impact video as it relates to their experience in Panama.
 - a. This video can address any or all aspects of the experiential. Students should plan to record themselves presenting in this recording and utilizing any form of multimedia at their disposal.
 - b. Students might consider preparing a slideshow or other presentation format that focuses on a particular aspect of the experience, including 1 or more site visits to support their statements. Suggested questions may include but are not limited to:
 - i. What is the role of Panama in the context of the global supply chain? What did you observe or learn to support your rationale?
 - ii. What is the state of the Panamanian infrastructure? What did you observe that was done correctly? Where did you see improvements (investments?) that could be made to encourage improved logistical capabilities?
 - iii. What did you observe in terms of "culture" throughout the week? What are your thoughts/observations/impressions?
 - c. This video should be between 4-8 minutes in length but there is no formal time requirement.
- b. Note that in lieu of a video, students may also elect to put their thoughts on a written paper (8-10 pages in length with additional bibliography and endnotes as necessary) similar in scope to the impact video noted above. The paper can and should go above and beyond the previously noted travel journals and coherently synthesize the events and nature of experience as it relates to the topics of logistics and/or supply chain management.



Letter Grade Assignment Scale

Numeric Range (%)	Course Grade
90-100%	4.0
85-89.99	3.5
80-84.99	3.0
75-79.99	2.5
70-74.99	2.0
65-69.99	1.5
60-64.99	1.0

Final course grades will be available for approximately one week via D2L prior to final submission to the Registrar's Office

Technology and Media

Cellphone Usage:

It will be at the student's discretion cell phone usage/data requirements. Students should understand how to properly be in contact with the program director/instructor as needed (WhatsApp)

Note that different cellular/data providers handle international charges differently. Most regions will have access to Data Services from major providers however coverage may be "spotty". Most hotels and major points of interest will have Wi-Fi available, but this can also be slower at times. I would note that I have T-Mobile and have not had any issue with accessing any/all phone applications.

Laptop Usage:

Students should plan to have regular access to a personal laptop throughout the program (leaving it in the hotel room during daily excursions). **Students should notify the instructor immediately should anything prevent the student from being able to maintain this expectation.**

Intellectual Property and Social Media Use:

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

- 1. Students may not record lectures or other classroom activities and use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.*
- 2. Students may not share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class. Sharing is limited to using the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.*
- 3. Students may not post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.*
- 4. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions.*

I would encourage you to share your experiences during this course to the utmost degree. It will be our goal to present materials that may be shared and disseminated between our hosts to highlight the educational mission that we will be undertaking.

Other Course Policies

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all class sessions, especially on lab days. Participation will be essential to success in this course. Students who have a conflict of interest are expected to contact the instructor PRIOR TO the date of activity/absence and will be provided with a grade exemption. Absence(s) without prior notification for graded participation activities will be considered unexcused and will result in a graded penalty of 0.

Assignment Submission Guidelines: All assignments detailed in the course outline above will also listed on D2L. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all course deadlines are met and to question the instruction for any assignment clarity.

Late Work Policy: any/all assignments will be subject to an immediate 20% deduction for late assignments as determined by the instructor.

GRADING: Grades will be tracked using the D2L course website. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure proper and accurate grade scoring for all assignments and quizzes. Any questions or concerns regarding grades or scoring should be addressed to the instructor either during office hours or via email and within two (2) weeks of any associated GRADE POSTING

The All-University Policy on Integrity Of Scholarship and Grades:

All participants in this class are held to the standard set by MSU's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades. The policy can be read in full at the MSU Ombudsperson's website [MSU Ombudsperson's website](#)

Eli Broad College of Business Honor Code:

In addition to MSU policies, all students are expected to comply with the Broad College Undergraduate Honor Code (see the code on the Broad College honor code website [Broad College honor code website](#) or the FT MBA Honor Code (see the [MBA honor code website](#)

Spartan Code of Honor:

On March 22, 2016, The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) adopted the following Spartan Code of Honor:

“As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.”

Disability Access:

Students must inform the instructor of any accommodations needed. Information related to disability access is available on the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) website. Students: to make an appointment with a specialist, call: (517) 353-9642 Or TTY: (517) 355-1293 or visit the RCPD website. Note that travel between site visits will be in somewhat close quarters and will require the ability to walk on/off buses and sometimes through security gates and metal detectors. Students should anticipate standing and walking for extended periods of time.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations:

“Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation (“VISA”) form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc). Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.”

Professionalism Policy: All students are expected to treat the instructor as well as their fellow students with a high degree of professionalism with courtesy and respect. Comportment during travel will be assessed and considered in grading.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Students have a range of support and information options available to them to discuss actions or activities related to their academic, personal or professional lives at MSU. These rights and resources are detailed on the [ombudsperson's website](https://ombud.msu.edu/index.html) here: <https://ombud.msu.edu/index.html>

Grief Absences: If a student experiences death of a family member or emotional distress from a similar tragedy, refer to MSU's grief policy set forth here: <https://reg.msu.edu/roinfo/notices/griefabsence.aspx>

Religious Observances: Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the [office of inclusion and intercultural initiatives](#).