COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan Subject: TMGT 7300 Welcome and Course Objectives

This course focuses on the strategic principles necessary for the successful management of motor freight, ocean, railroad, and intermodal transportation firms.

The purpose of this course is for you to develop skills in and knowledge of transportation management in the following areas:

- 1. Issues. Issues are essential points associated with the subject that need to be discussed, understood and analyzed, and resolved.
- 2. Players (i.e., companies, firms, associations, regulatory authorities) and their roles.
- 3. Essential transportation management processes.
- 4. Shipment and information flows
- 5. Infrastructure and equipment.

You should be aiming to develop breadth of skill - about transportation modes, about the global marketplace and its myriad of cultures, about the strategic issues to which transportation must respond.

At the conclusion of this course you should have skills and knowledge sufficient to discuss these topics at a high level with other interested parties (e.g., executives in transportation management firms). The intent of the discussion is for the other party to see you as someone who can make valuable contributions to the management of the transportation firms of today and the future.

Transportation and its management is a field undergoing significant, rapid change. The course will be contemporary.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

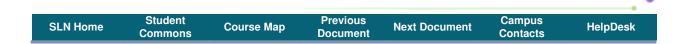
Subject: TMGT 7300 Is Distance Learning Right for You?

Distance learning is dramatically different from other learning experiences such as the classroom or self-study texts.

You really ought to be sure that distance learning is right for you.

To that end I would ask you to go to SUNY Learning Network - Are you ready?, read and think about the three different perspectives presented there, then draw your own conclusions as to what is right for you.

Please contact the instructor (see TMGT 7300 Contact Information) if you have any questions.



| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
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COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan **Subject:** TMGT 7300 Registration vs. Access

The fact that you are "here" does not necessarily mean that you are officially registered for this course through the Maritime Registrar. Through SLN you secure a password that gives you access to enter this on-line classroom. You can do this without registering for the course. However, if you have not registered and paid tuition through Maritime, you will be blocked from the course, and more importantly, you will not get credit for the course.

If you are not sure that you are registered for this course, check now! How do you do that? YOU MUST CONTACT THE MARITIME REGISTRAR DIRECTLY.

Ms. Carol Roth or Registrar's Staff (718) 409-7266 croth@sunymaritime.edu

You will need to have your student ID, along with the course code and title when you speak to your campus contact to confirm your registration.

If you know you have completed the official Maritime registration and payment process you can proceed with reading the rest of the Course Information documents.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan **Subject:** TMGT 7300 Contact Information

Contact Information

| Instructor: | James Drogan |
|------------------|--|
| Course Number: | TMGT 7300 |
| Semester: | Spring 2006 |
| Mailing Address: | Department of Global Business and Transportation Maritime College State University of New York |

| | 6 Pennyfield Avenue, Fort Schuyler Bronx, NY 10465-4198 |
|------------------|--|
| Email Address: | James_Drogan@sln.suny.edu |
| Phone: | (718) 409-7289 or (203) 829-3172 |
| Fax: | (718) 409-7359 |
| Logon Schedule: | l will logon several times per week. |
| Office Schedule: | Please contact me to arrange times to talk. You may either post a message in your Private Folder, send me an e-mail, or call at the above numbers. |

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Approach

Learning in this course is in the form of a moderated on-line discussion. All students are expected to participate. The schedule for discussion topics can be found in the Course Schedule and may be adjusted by your interest and knowledge as well as by current developments in the field. Readings are assigned. You are expected to have completed the readings and to be prepared to discuss the topics.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Textbook and Other Course Materials

The text assigned for this course is J. J. Coyle, E. J. Bardi and R. A. Novack, <u>Transportation, 6e</u>, Sixth, Thomson Southwestern (2006), 0-324-20214-8.. This book is available at the Maritime bookstore. A copy will be on reserve at the Maritime Luce Library.

All other material will be distributed through CourseSpace.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Grading

The basis for grading is your knowledge of and ability to discuss the course material.

This is demonstrated and judged on the basis of the quality of your work on the course project and the quality (and to a lesser extent, quantity) of your participation in on-line discussions.

You will be graded on the basis of your demonstrated ability to single out key issues, think critically about them, and express cogent and complete fact-based arguments emphasizing analysis, conclusion and recommendation.

Please see Some Further Words Regarding Communication for additional advice on communication.

Please see grading and grade point average on the Maritime College website.

Basis for Grading

Grading is done on the basis of:

- 1. On-line Discussions: 56 maximum points (8 weeks x 7 points per week)
- 2. Final Written Report on Class Project: 56 maximum points
- 3. Team Participation on Class Project: 12 maximum points

Maximum points that one can attain in the course is 124. The actual points attained will be divided by 124 and the resulting percentage translated into a letter grade according to the following table.

| % | GPA | Grade |
|-------|-----|-------|
| 1.000 | 4.0 | А |
| 0.930 | 4.0 | А |
| 0.900 | 3.7 | A- |
| 0.871 | 3.3 | B+ |
| 0.830 | 3.0 | В |
| 0.800 | 2.7 | B- |
| 0.771 | 2.3 | C+ |
| 0.730 | 2.0 | С |
| 0.700 | 1.7 | C- |
| 0.000 | 0 | F |

For example:

- 1. 93 percent gives a letter grade of A.
- 2. 78 percent gives a letter grade of C+.

The mathematics guides me in the assignment of the final grade . What this means is that the final grade I assign may be different from the mathematical grade . In assigning the final grade I take into account your consideration, respect, and encouragement of others; your desire for learning and discipline in completing the assignments; your ability to bring relevant issues to the attention of the class.

On-Line Discussions

Your participation in discussions is the most significant component of your final grade .

Strive for high-quality discussions.

Quality discussions of the issues raised by all of us in the context of this course represent the critical success factor for learning. You should not wait for me to start a discussion. If you have something you think is important that needs to be discussed, start the discussion.

From my point of view discussion quality is critical because it is, in my experience, the basis for quality decisions and actions.

Do a good job of maintaining quality in the discussions. Lead by example. Use good grammar. Be considerate of others. Encourage others to participate.

Your contributions in the discussions should be thoughtfully developed and carefully worded .

They should address issues and/or concepts you find particularly important.

I will use the following criteria to evaluate your contribution to the discussions:

- 1. Relevance your contribution is relevant to the material in the unit of study.
- 2. Importance your contribution addresses a significant issue in the module.
- 3. Thought-provoking your contribution requires high-level thought and is not a simple question or answer.
- 4. Originality your contribution should not be essentially the same as that of another student.

What is a low quality contribution? A low quality contribution does not teach us anything, or contribute anything positive or substantial to the discussion. Examples of low quality contribution: any contribution which is biased, prejudicial, off topic, or is unsubstantiated; any contribution which is carelessly phrased, poorly thought-out, grammatically incorrect or confusing; any response which is disrespectful of another student or any other person, etc.

What is a high quality contribution? A high quality contribution teaches us something, or adds something positive and/or substantial to the discussion. It contains information from the textbook or another valid source, or applies a concept from the text or a legitimate website in a meaningful way, or facilitates understanding of the course material. The best contributions not only introduce new ideas or knowledge, but help us relate it to what we are studying in the module.

I will evaluate the quality of your contributions to each class using a 0 - 4 scale (see the table below).

| 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|---|---|
| Little to no contribution to the discussion | Contribution indicates a minimum acceptable understanding of the material and/or willingness to become | Contribution shows a reasonable understanding of the material. The student is participating meaningfully in the | The contribution delivers significant insight into the topic, or opens a potentially significant new line of thinking regarding the |

| _ | _ | _ | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|--------|
| | involved in the discussion. | discussion. | topic. |

The quantity of on-line discussions is assessed on the following basis:

| , , , |
|--|
| 0 |
| No posts |
| 1 |
| Posted less than three times: began no major |

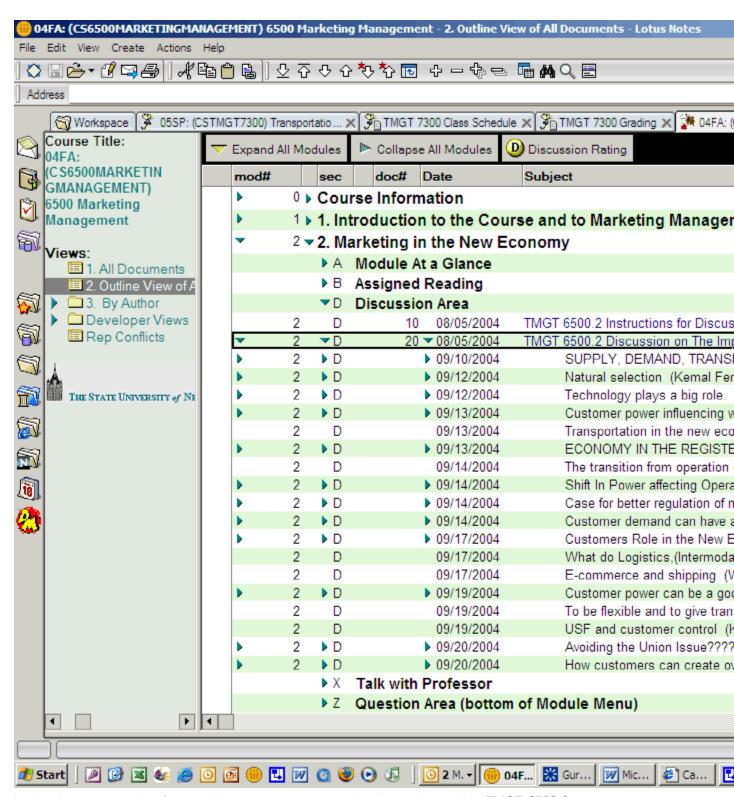
discussion threads

Posted three times; began one major discussion thread

3

Posted more than three times; began one or more discussion threads

Discussion threads are a related set of discussions on a major issue associated with the discussion topic .



In the above screen shot from a prior course you can see the discussion topic is **TMGT 6500.2 Discussion of The Impact of the Customer Power Shift on Transportation**. This topic was posted by me. Underneath the discussion topic there are 18 discussion threads that were started. Ellis Younger started one, the first. Marlon Guillory started two, the fifth and the fourteenth.

A maximum of seven points (four from quality; three from quantity) are available on a weekly basis.

A large number of posts per week for the sole purpose of getting additional points is not a good tactic. It should be obvious from looking at the two tables above that seven points is the maximum one can earn in a week. On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, the math is but a guideline. I will make the final assessment of your grade. Additional high-value posts have the potential of additionally demonstrating to me your competence in the material.

The class meets for 8 weeks. The maximum points available are 56.

Discussions are the heart and soul of this course. I expect you to lead and/or participate in discussions.

Special Note: When you understand the approach taken to assigning the quantity grades you will find it tempting to engage in the notion that all you have to do to get maximum points for quantity is to respond four times to discussion topic I post . In other words, all you need to do is enter into a discussion with me, not any of your fellow students. You should resist that temptation. I expect you to engage in on-line discussions with your fellow students and will consider , in assigning your final grade, the degree to which you have done so .

This material on discussions is based on that developed by Prof. William Pelz of SUNY Herkimer Community College.

Project

The third portion of your grade is based on the project. The project constitutes the final examination for this course.

This project produces a description of the management system required to deliver on the door-to-door promise of the international, integrated, multimodal transportation system known as FastShip.

Further details about the project, what's due when, the makeup of the project teams, and supporting material will be found in Module 16. Course Project: A Management System for FastShip.

Project Report

The team grade for the final report will be assigned according to the following criteria:

| Points | Criteria | | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 0 | Project report not submitted. | | | | | |
| 42 | Project report demonstrates an adequate understanding of the topics and issues; reasoning and clarity of communication is fair. | | | | | |
| 48 | Project report demonstrates a good understanding of the topics and issues; reasoning and clarity of communications is acceptable; team members are candidates to be assigned to a team to further develop the approach to marketing management. | | | | | |
| 56 | Project report demonstrates an excellent understanding of the topics and issues; reasoning and communications is clear and compelling; team members are candidates to be assigned lead a team to further develop the approach to marketing management. | | | | | |

Maximum points available on the project report are 56.

The project report are to be submitted as Microsoft Word documents (.doc files) or in Rich Text Format (.rtf files) through CourseSpace.

Team Participation

Your participation as a member of a team will be assessed your peers and by me. The basis for this will be the answer to the following question.

"Would you like to be on a team in the future with this person?"

Acceptable answers and associated points are:

Definitely (4)

Probably (3)

Probably Not (1)

Definitely Not (0)

At the end of the project I will give you a list of the members of the team in the following form:

| | Definitely | Probably | Probably Not | Definitely Not |
|--------|------------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| Name 1 | | | | |
| Name 2 | | | | |
| Name 3 | | | | |
| Name 4 | | | | |

Your task is to place a "X" in the box indicating your assessment of your peers. It would be appropriate to not assess yourself.

I will prorate the points so that the maximum available points (in the sample above it would be 12) equates to 12.

Special Note: It is tempting, inasmuch as this may possibly be your last activity in this course, to treat it lightly. Resist the temptation.

One of the most important responsibilities you will have during your career is the assessment of the performance of others. This assessment not only reflects upon the person assessed, but also on you, the assessor.

Suppose, for example, you assessed a person as extremely capable, but made the assessment in a rather casual, off-handed, quick fashion. The person is then, based largely on your assessment, hired and subsequently found not to live up to expectations. Your assessment has put the person in a difficult position, he has performed poorly, his subsequent career is affected. You are also affected because your judgement is called into question.

Take the time to think about your teammates participation. Produce a fair assessment. Treat them as you would like to be treated.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Schedule

TMGT 7300 Transportation Management Schedule

Preparation and assignments are due on the date with which they are associated.

Coyle refers to J. J. Coyle, E. J. Bardi and R. A. Novack, <u>Transportation</u>, <u>6e</u>, Sixth, Thomson Southwestern (2006), 0-324-20214-8

This is only a summary of the contents of the specific modules . You should look at the modules for the details. For example, detail instructions regarding the written assignment for module one will be found in module one. The lectures notes for module one will also be found there.

| Topics/Activities | Class Meeting Date and Location | Class Preparations and Assignments Due |
|--|--|---|
| 1: Introduction to the Course and to Transportation Management Written Assignment: Global Transportation Management Issues. Due 1/17/6. | 1/17/6 - 1/20/6 | Read: 1. Lecture Note: Introduction to the Course and to Transportation Management 2. Lecture Note: Barriers and Catalysts in Global Transportation |
| 2: Transportation, the Supply Chain, and the Economy On-Line Discussion: Soup to Nuts, Inc., Case 1-2, Coyle pp 48-49. Starts on 1/21/6 and ends on 1/24/6. | 1/21/6 - 1/24/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 1. Transportation, the Supply Chain, and the Economy. Exclude the discussion of passenger transportation on pp 40-44. |
| 3: Transportation Regulation and Public Policy On-Line Discussion: Case 2.2 The US Airline Industry Public Support, Coyle p 86. Starts on 1/25/6 and ends on 1/28/6. | 1/25/6 - 1/28/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 2. Transportation Regulation and Public Policy |
| 4: Motor Carriers On-Line Discussion: Case 3.2 JEI Carrier Corporation, Coyle p 124-125. Starts on 1/29/6 and ends on 2/1/6. | 1/29/6 - 2/1/6 | Read: Coyle 3. 1. Motor Carriers |
| 5: Railroads On-Line Discussion: Case 4.1 CBN Railway Company, Coyle p 154-155. Starts on 2/2/6 and ends on 2/5/6. | 2/2/6 - 2/5/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 4. Railroads |

| 6: Domestic Water Carriers On-Line Discussion : Case 6.1 Great Lakes Bulk Carriers, pp 206-207. Starts on 2/6/6 and ends on 2/9/6. | 2/6/6 - 2/9/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 6. Water Carriers and Pipelines, pp 185-194 | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|--|
| 7: Intermodal and Special Carriers On-Line Discussion: Case 7.1 Specialty Gift Foods, Coyle pp 228-229. Starts on 2/10/6 and ends on 2/13/6. | 2/10/6 - 2/13/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 7. Intermodal and Special Carriers | | |
| 8: International Transportation On-Line Discussion: What new transportation issues are introduced and which national transportation issues are highlighted in the international transportation environment? Why have you selected these? What actions might you take to resolve these issues? Starts on 2/14/6 and ends on 2/17/6. | 2/14/6 - 2/17/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 8. Global Transportation | | |
| 9: Costing and Pricing in Transportation On-Line Discussion: What are the factors that affect the price of transportation service? What's the relative degree of impact these factors have on the price? What process would you use to balance these factors in order to arrive at the best price? Starts on 2/20/6 and ends on 2/23/6. | 2/20/6 - 2/23/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 9. Costing and Pricing in Transportation (except Appendices 9-A through 9-B) | | |
| 10: Carrier Strategies; Shipper Strategies On-Line Discussion: Case 10.2 Shiner International Transportation Company, Coyle p 349. Starts on 2/24/6 and ends on 2/27/6. | 2/24/6 - 2/27/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 10, Carrier Strategies 2. Coyle 12. Shipper Strategies | | |
| 11: Information Management and Technology On-Line Discussion : Describe the | 2/28/6 - 3/3/6 | Read: 1. Coyle 11. Information Management and | | |

| fundamental characteristics of an information system to support a global transportation management business. Starts on 2/28/6 and ends on 3/3/6. | | Technology (except Appendix 11-A) |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 12: Managing in Disruptive Environments On-Line Discussion: Hurricane Katrina devastated transportation along the Gulf Coast of the US. It was a natural disaster and created a disruptive environment in which organizations tried, first, to survive, then to recover and get on with life. There are man-made disruptions that also affect the transportation of goods. In the fall of 2002 the inability of the PMA and ILWU to agree on a plan for moving forward on the transformation of work on the Los Angeles and Long Beach docks resulted in a significant short term impact on the economies of nations. Discuss how an organization that was very reliant on transportation through these ports might have managed in this disruptive environment. Starts on 3/4/6 and ends on 3/7/6. | 3/4/6 - 3/7/6 | Read: 1. West Coast Port Congestion - Serious Problem or Significant Opportunity for Supply Chain Masters 2. Economic Impact of a West Coast Dock Shutdown |
| 13: Security and Culture On-Line Discussion: Managing in the current and emerging world could involve the following actions: 1. Detection of potential security issues 2. Prevention or avoidance of harmful outcomes 3. Recovery from disruptive situations What must the transportation management system (i.e., people, process, information) be able to do in order to successfully execute the actions 1-3? You should consider how Project GLOBE impacts decisions regarding the transportation management system. Starts on 3/8/6 and ends on 3/11/6. | 3/8/6 - 3/11/6 | Read: 1. Supply Chain Management Under the Threat of International Terrorism. 2. Cultural Acumen for the Global Manager - Lessons from Project GLOBE. |
| 14: Submit Project | 3/12/6 | Final Project Reports are due by 2400 on 3/12/6. |

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Some Further Words Regarding Communication

My preference is to receive all written communication via e-mail. If you are submitted an writing assignment, the preference is that you submit it as an attached Microsoft Word document. This allows me an easy way to mark-up your document and return it to you prior to class. I recognize this is not always possible and will, of course, accept handwritten documents.

If submitted via e-mail aim to say what you want to say in a single page (8.5 x 11 inches) of size 10 font. If handwritten, aim to say what you want to say in two pages trying to leave some room for me to write comments.

- 1. Your written work should be a complete statement of the issue (the beginning), facts and discussion (the middle), and conclusions and recommendations (the end).
- 2. Avoid restating information from the course material. Analyze the information. Identify a coherent framework that puts the issue in perspective.
- 3. Do not spend effort on writing about that which is irrelevant to the issue.
- 4. Avoid generic terms. Be as specific as possible.
- 5. Be logical, develop consistent arguments.
- 6. Be creative. Creativity is the essence of effective strategic analysis.
- 7. Use your own words, not those of others.

Points 3-7 are based on Peter McAliney's Business Policy 5100 Case Analysis Guidelines at Baruch College.

It is important to be able quickly identify the core issue, reason about it in a logical and complete manner, and clearly state conclusions and recommendations. Content and clarity are important.

Think before you write. Write. Review and enhance. Submit.

"One communicates to gather information, participate in the discussion underlying thinking and decision, compel change during implementation, and contribute to the post-change activities of learning and insight.

This communication is based upon knowledge of:

- The decisions that need to be made and why.
- 2. The manner of making these decisions and why.
- 3. The source of the data to support the decisions.

Communication must be useful and usable:

- 1. The grammar and syntax of the communication is easily understood.
- 2. The information communicated is relevant.

3. The medium of communication is acceptable.

Communication is active (speaking, writing, personal appearance, appearance of documents) and passive (listening, observing) and both are critical.

Communication arises from how one perceives and considers an opportunity. That is, it is affected by how one solves problems. The concepts of fact-based hypothesis-driven thinking come into play here."

James Drogan, A Point of View On Teaching Content and Communication, September 21,2002

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Time Management

The business world will be at least as demanding of your time as are your teachers. Time is an unlimited resource, but you will not be able to give unlimited time to each of things you must, should and could do. Learn to manage so that the investment of your time maximizes the return you seek.

"Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."

Carl Sandburg

Prioritize the tasks that face you into the must-dos, should-dos, and could-dos. Allocate your time in the same sequence. You can't be all things to all people all the time. You need to learn to say no in a fashion that makes people want to come back.

Consider the following list from one of the most highly respected business books:

- 1. Be Proactive
- 2. Begin with the End in Mind
- 3. Put First Things First
- 4. Think Win/Win
- 5. Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
- 6. Synergize
- 7. Sharpen the Saw

Covey, S. R. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Simon & Schuster, Inc.

I understand that this class is one of many demands on your time. My aim is for you to not spend more than six times the course credit hours per week on the course. Some of you will, of course, spend less and others more.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 A Note on Integrity

Please read the Maritime College Academic Integrity Policy at http://www.sunymaritime.edu/academics/Regulations/AcademicIntegrityPolicy.htm.

Integrity is a core value upon which acceptable business behavior is based. Integrity is about honesty, keeping one's commitments, and consideration of the rights and needs of others. In short, can your business partners rely upon you?

The lack of integrity in the academic community means you may fail a course, in business you may be passed over for a promotion; in the academic community you may be placed on probation, in business you may be placed on an improvement program; in the academic community you may be expulsed, in the business community you may lose a job; and finally, in the business world, you may be sent to jail.

For an eloquent statement on integrity I would like you to read the Letter to Students re Academic Integrity by Bill Taylor at http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/facultyhandbook/taylor letter.htm.

You are expected to learn and practice the habits associated with high integrity. Do it now, do not defer or delay, or neglect it, for you will not pass this way again.

My experience is that it is fairly easy to establish a student's writing style and it is fairly evident when the student is submitting work that is not in accordance with this style. The Internet is a wonderful resource for determining whether plagiarism is taking place. I encourage you to use the network for research, but find your own words, express your own analysis, conclusions, and recommendations. Blatant plagiarism tends to result in zero points for the assignment. My advice is to not do it. If you found it on the Internet, I can find it on the Internet.

I trust that it is clear that Maritime College, the Department of Global Business and Transportation, and I will not tolerate unethical behavior and academic dishonesty.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 My Expectations

- 1. That you will do your own work and find your own words except in those situations where there is a clear call for teamwork.
- 2. That you and I will develop a relationship of mutual trust that is the basis for a high value learning experience. We should be willing to share any thoughts, concerns, constructive criticisms, ideas, etc. in a manner that respects the dignity and value of all parties.
- 3. That all of us in class will discharge our individual responsibilities to teach and learn. If we don't, who will?
- 4. That we make time to help others. If we don't, who are we?
- 5. That you keep on schedule with the course requirements. I expect you to be spending about eighteen

hours a week on this course.

6. That I keep on schedule with the course requirements.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan **Subject:** TMGT 7300 Guide to the Modules

Modules 1 through 13: Fundamental learning modules of the course. Overview, objectives, and assignments will be found here. These should be a principal focus of your effort.

Module 14: The project module. All your work regarding the term can be facilitated by this module. This should be a principal focus of your effort.

Culminating Activity: This module requests feedback from you when the course has been completed.

| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |
|----------|--------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |

COURSE INFO. DOCUMENT by: James Drogan

Subject: TMGT 7300 Your Next Steps

The **Bulletin Board** is a discussion area for our class outside the context of a particular course module. Just as you have the opportunity to talk or chat with each other or with the instructor when taking a conventional classroom course, you should also have the opportunity to do the same in a web course. The Bulletin Board is available only to students enrolled in this class to post and/or read messages and respond. These can include questions or comments to other students and me about course material, assignments, readings, etc. It is also a place where you can go to socialize and have open discussion on subjects of your interests.

You will find the Bulletin Board in the Class Community section of the Course Map. I will be using this area to make announcements during the semester, so be sure to check it every time you "come to class."

Meet Your Classmates is an area for you to introduce yourself to the class and where you can go to meet the others that are in this course. Your profile will help us get to know each other and begin to build a sense of class community, so please feel free to personalize your profile and add a link to your favorite web site, or attach a digital image of yourself.

You will find my profile by clicking the Meet Your Classmates link in the Class Community section of the Course Map. Check this area to meet the others in this course. Since profiles will be posted as people join the course for the first time, you may have to return to this area several times to see the latest entries.

As your next step, you should click on **Course Map** link and then, do the following:

- 1. Click on the **Bulletin Board** area. Post an item to start a discussion, or read other students' responses if there are any, and make a response.
- 2. Click on the **Meet Your Classmates** area and introduce yourself.

When you have completed those two tasks, you are ready to begin the first module of the course.

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| SLN Home | Student Commons | Course Map | Previous Document | Next Document | Campus Contacts | HelpDesk |