

**SCMA 6330 - Business Logistics Systems**  
Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Dr. James Campbell  
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**Office:** 214 ESH (Express Scripts Hall)

**Class Schedule:** Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 pm in ABH 001. In the event that you must miss class, please notify me [campbelljf@umsl.edu](mailto:campbelljf@umsl.edu) as soon as possible.

**Office Hours:** My scheduled office hours are Wednesday before class from 5:00 – 5:30 pm. However, I am happy to meet with you after class, or almost any day – in person or via Zoom; please email me so we can set a mutually agreeable time.

**Prerequisites:** SCMA 5310, which may be taken concurrently.

**Course Materials:** Course materials are available via Canvas. I am not using a textbook for the course. (There are several good texts that cover the basics of business logistics and supply chain management, though most are not particularly quantitative.) The course is organized into 37 topics, each of which has a Powerpoint file and Panopto video, often along with supporting readings and videos (all posted on Canvas). The Canvas site shows for each week the assigned topics, so you can view the Powerpoints and Panopto videos before class and we can then use the class meeting time for presentations and discussion, and working on problems and quizzes.

**Course Objectives:** There are four primary objectives for the course:

- (1) To explore business logistics and supply chain management concepts, issues, costs and analyses;
- (2) To help develop and refine a quantitative approach to decision making;
- (3) To practice communication skills; and
- (4) To make you think!

**Grading:** Grades for the course are determined based on total points as indicated in the following table. There is not a strict scale (for example, 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, etc.) and grades are assigned based on individual performance relative to the performance of the entire class. After each exam and the group project I will adjust the grade ranges based on class performance. This is subject to change, and any changes will be announced in class.

Exam 1: Topics 1-19	22 %
Exam 2: Topics 20-34	22 %
Assignments	17 %
Quizzes	5 %
Short Presentation	8 %
Logistics Project	22 %
Class Participation	4 %

**Exams:** There are two exams for the course. The time and date that the exam is available and is due are posted on Canvas and you have the entire time span to complete the exam (the exam is not timed). For each exam, there is a “Sample Problems” document posted on Canvas that provides especially good preparation for the exam. There are also “Practice Problem” documents in Canvas that have additional problems to solve.

**Quizzes and Assignments:** There are many short quizzes and several assignments throughout the course, including assignments using Excel. Quizzes and assignments are always due at 11:00 pm, with their due dates posted on Canvas. Feel free to *submit quizzes and assignments early in Canvas* and I will provide feedback. Only the last submission (before the due date) is graded.

Solutions are available on Canvas shortly after the due date (usually 15 minutes after the due date). Late assignments (including the quizzes) are strongly discouraged: late assignments turned in before the solutions are posted receive a maximum of half credit; and assignments turned in after the solutions are posted receive no credit.

**Short Presentation:** Each student will make a short individual class presentation with PowerPoint slides (no more than five minutes long) on an assigned business logistics/supply chain topic. Details on the presentation are linked under Short Presentation on Canvas.

**Logistics Project:** The Logistics Project is a group analysis case study project (for a group of 2-3 students) for which a written report and an oral presentation to the class is required. Details are linked under Logistics Project on Canvas.

**Course Topics (content and timing are subject to change):**

Jan 17	Topics 1-2: Introduction and Scope
Jan 24	Topics 3-5: Key Concepts, Sourcing, Consolidation
Jan 31	Topics: 6-9: Product Classification; Transportation Fundamentals
Feb 7	Topics 10-11: The Transportation Problem
Feb 14	Topics 12-15: Transportation Cost, Rates, Service and Risk
Feb 21	Topics 16-19: Facility Location
	Exam 1 over Topics 1-19 – Available Feb 24; Due Feb 27
Feb 28	Topics 20-23: Discrete Location Modeling
Mar 6	Topics 24-25: More Location Modeling
Mar 13	Topics 26-28: Supply Chain Planning and Inventory
Mar 20	Topics 29-31: Square Root Rule, Lean and Inventory
Mar 27	Spring Break – no class
Apr 3	Logistics Analysis Group Project Meetings
Apr 10	Topics 32-34: Reorder Point Inventory Systems
	Exam 2 over Topics 20-34 – Available Apr 13; Due Apr 16
Apr 17	Topics 35-37: Periodic Review, Sustainability, Technology and Deglobalization
Apr 24	Project Presentations
May 1	Project Presentations and Wrap-up

**Class Attendance and Preparation:** Active participation is an important part of class. You are expected to keep up with the class materials and attend class. You should prepare for class by

reading and reviewing the relevant materials before class and working suggested problems. Arriving late and leaving early is disruptive for the class and disrespectful to your fellow students. Students are responsible for all materials and announcements covered in class and/or posted on Canvas. When you cannot attend a class session, it is your responsibility to clarify missed assignments with classmates or with me prior to the next class.

**Drop Policy:** If you drop the course on or before the first class after Exam 1 is returned, you will receive a grade of "Excused". If you drop after the first class after Exam 1 is returned, you will receive an "Excused" or "Failing" grade based on your grade at the time the instructor receives written notification that you are dropping the course.

**Academic Honesty:** Academic dishonesty includes activities such as cheating, plagiarism, or sabotage. According to the University Standard of Conduct, Section 6.0101, "The Board of Curators recognizes that academic honesty is essential for the intellectual life of the University. Faculty members have a special obligation to expect high standards of academic honesty in all student work. Students are responsible for following campus policies about academic honesty as stated in the University's Student Conduct Code [www.umsl.edu/~studentconduct/](http://www.umsl.edu/~studentconduct/) and the academic dishonesty guidelines [www.umsl.edu/services/academic/policy/academic-dishonesty.html](http://www.umsl.edu/services/academic/policy/academic-dishonesty.html). Any student who is caught cheating on any exam or assignment will receive a grade of zero for that assignment or exam. Further, a recommendation may be made to the appropriate university officials that additional formal disciplinary action be taken.

Any written assignments should be in your own thoughts and words. Plagiarism, which is presenting the ideas, written work (including material from web sites), or any other information from someone else as your own work, is academic dishonesty. **Any ideas or quotes from other sources (including web sites) that you use in a written assignment should be in quotations and should be properly acknowledged.** For a nice discussion of how to properly cite your sources and how to avoid plagiarism, see [www.umsl.edu/~comm/files/pdfs/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.umsl.edu/~comm/files/pdfs/plagiarism.pdf).

### **Technology Requirements:**

You are expected to have reliable internet access almost every day. Please reach out to your academic advisor or student success network if you need hardware or access to the Internet. If you have computing problems, it is your responsibility to address these through the ITS Helpdesk ([helpdesk@umsl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@umsl.edu)) or to use campus computing labs. Problems with your computer or other technology issues are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations and missed deadlines for the course. If you have a problem, [get help in solving it immediately](#). At a minimum, you will need the following software/hardware to participate in this course:

1. Computer with an updated operating system (e.g. Windows, Mac, Linux)
2. Updated Internet browsers (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari)
3. Ability to navigate Canvas (Learning Management System)
4. Minimum Processor Speed of 1 GHz or higher recommended.
5. Reliable and stable internet connection.
6. [Adobe Reader or alternative PDF reader \(free\)](#)

This course uses Office tools, including Excel and the Solver Excel Add-in (free). Solver and Excel work best in a Windows environment, and sometimes can cause problems in Apple systems.

### **Technical Support**

Please consult UMSL's Keep Learning web resource for technology tips and help with learning in Canvas: <https://www.umsl.edu/services/ctl/KeepLearning/index.html>. If you have problems with Canvas such as logging into your online course, or an issue within the course site, please contact the **Technology Support Center** ([www.umsl.edu/technology/tsc/](http://www.umsl.edu/technology/tsc/)) at (314) 516-6034 or [helpdesk@umsl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@umsl.edu). If you are having difficulty with a technology tool in Canvas, consider visiting the [Canvas Student Guides](#), which has overviews of each tool and tutorials on how to use them.

**Disabilities:** Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact Disability Access Services (DAS) at <http://umsl.edu/hcdas/das/> in 144 Millennium Student Center at (314) 516-5671 or [das@umsl.edu](mailto:das@umsl.edu) immediately. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the office of Disability Access Services in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. Information about your disability is confidential. Once DAS reviews your medical documentation, they will provide you with the information and steps to inform me about the accommodations to which you are entitled. Your accommodations will begin as soon as we discuss your approved accommodations.

**Title IX Policies:** Under Title IX, all UMSL faculty, staff, and administrators (with limited exception) are obligated to report any incidents of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or gender discrimination to the Student Affairs office and/or other University officials. This ensures that all parties are protected from further abuses and that victim(s) are supported by trained counselors and professionals. There are several offices at UMSL (e.g., Counseling Services, Health Services, Community Psychological Service, Center for Trauma Recovery, and Student Social Services) whose staff are exempt from Title IX mandated reporting, when the information is learned in the course of a confidential communication.