

University of Florida - ADV4101

Copywriting + Visualization

Section: 04BH

Room: WEIM2050

Time: Tu Thur Period 10 - 11 (1:55pm - 3:50pm)

Instructor: Bienvenido Torres III (Benny)



Description.

This course will provide the application of creative strategy in advertising. We will help you develop your conceptual, aesthetic and creative sophistication. You will learn how to develop, execute, extend, and sell advertising that is effective and that people will love. This course will challenge you to enlighten, enrage, and (above all) engage with your work.

Prerequisite.

Credits: 3; Prereq: 3JM ADV; minimum grades of C or better in MMC 2100, ADV 3001 and VIC 3001; Coreq: ADV 3500.

Objectives.

- 🏠 Learn how to create strategic, memorable and persuasive messages for a variety of media.
- 🏠 Gain new insights into the creative process and push your creative boundaries.
- 🏠 Enhance ability to generate ideas individually and as part of a creative team.
- 🏠 Develop new and improve existing presentation skills.
- 🏠 Learn some basics of graphic design.
- 🏠 Constructively evaluate your own work and the work of others in the class.

Required Materials.

By the end of the second week, you will need to have:

1. A Jump Drive (a big one to carry around your work from home to lab to laptop).
2. One big sketch/marker pad (for brainstorming and/or hand-drawn concepts).
3. Joined the class Facebook group (either as yourself or with a secondary account)

Recommended Books. (not required, but not for you to ignore - also made add to this list).

- 🏠 Advertising Concept and Copy by Felton (the newest edition).
- 🏠 The Advertising Concept Book by Barry
- 🏠 Made to Stick by Heath and Heath
- 🏠 Hey Whipple, Squeeze This by Sullivan
- 🏠 Ogilvy on Advertising by Ogilvy
- 🏠 Resonate by Duarte
- 🏠 Visual Persuasion by Messaris



Online References.

Get in the habit of looking at ads all around you and trying to figure out what made them tick. On Day 1 we'll discuss some recommended resources for that - there are plenty more (and seriously, look at the world around you - learn how to screen cap your phone and your computer - take tons of pictures - bring in everything and anything). Sometimes I will see something cool and make you read it for discussion. If you bring me something cool (not a case study) and I use it in class you'll get extra credit.

Creative Resources.

It's 2016. There are all sorts of tools out there to help you do/learn great creative work (Lynda, Canva, etc). I'll go over some of them in class. You'll bring some to class for the benefit of everyone. We'll learn together.

Weekly Standing Homework: Case Studies.

There will be a standing homework assignment to bring in one ad a week. This doesn't mean just submit it. This means think critically about why it worked and be ready to present your findings to the class (format for this will be shown week 1). This homework will be tweaked slightly depending on the "unit" we are covering. Presentation and participation points will be given based on these case studies - so just because you're not presenting doesn't mean you shouldn't/don't have an opinion. You should be able to cite a source (recommended book, another ad/campaign, thought leader in the space) if you're challenged on a point in a case study - this is what the recommended readings/resources are for.

The Do Now.

Every class we'll start with the "Do Now." The "Do Now" will be a quick creative assignment to get our brains working and keep us thinking on our feet. The "Do Now" will be a "pass/fail" assignment. If you're here for it and you put effort into it - you get credit. If you don't, you won't.

Attention Expectations.

I hate meetings where people are on their phones, on their laptops, or otherwise not engaged. This isn't the way we improve as creatives. I hate it at work, I hate it in class. Don't do it.



“Professional” Execution.

You’re expected to execute and express your ideas as if you were presenting to a creative director and/or client. This means you’ll have flexibility in the tools you use and the way you present (paper, digital, particle board, interpretive dance, whatever). This also means that the standard for ANY presentation/ad is going to be a creative director and/or clients. This means PROFESSIONAL. Not having command of the tools you need to express your creativity is NOT an excuse for unprofessional work.

Rolling With The Punches.

Advertising/Creative is a dynamic business - there’s always something unexpected around the corner. Be prepared to think on your feet and improvise when/if required. The course schedule won’t change drastically (if at all) - but things might be swapped around depending on where we’re at.

Creative Reviews + Presentations.

There will be four “creative reviews” that serve as your exams. Each one will be the culmination of that unit of study. Each one will have different expectations based on its unit. Each one will also be another potential piece for your final presentation/portfolio.

You will make a professional-quality, 8-10 minute presentation at each stage. You can present in creative pairs (copywriter + art director defined) for the first 3 CRs, but the last CR must be presented alone.

The goal of the reviews is test your ability to sell and defend your ideas and executions in a clear, concise and confident manner across all stages of the creative process.

Pretend you’re talking to your boss/creative director for these reviews.

For the presentation - pretend the class is a roomful of stuffed-shirt, boring business people with lots of money to spend on a creative campaign. Convince them that your idea is the one they should invest in. You can use Powerpoint to complete their final presentation or some other method - poetry, performance art, Japanese Kabuki or charades (j/k). Just be sure to be creative.



Critiques.

Creativity is subjective. In this spirit, I'll include student critiques at every review and presentation. You will be selected to join me in a critique without any warning. At least one student critic will be a part of each individual review. They must critique the work presented. Others in the class will be invited to critique depending on time - this will also affect your final "critique" grade.

Critiques aren't meant to hurt; they're meant to help you learn and progress. The people who do the best work solicit criticism, resulting in a better product. If you hide from criticism or refuse to respond to it, your work cannot improve. Welcome it.

This class is part objective. This means that even if you do poorly on the executions, there are objective measures (homework, participation, etc.) that provide additional points to your grade.

Questions To Ask Yourself As A Creative.

Research.

Do you have the requisite knowledge/insight in the ad category assigned? Have you learned about the target market, what motivates them and what doesn't? Do you have sources or convincing anecdotes? Did you pull from the brief or extend it in some way?

Strategy.

Do you have a good plan for positioning your product in the marketplace? How will you use media to get your message across?

Concept.

Is your idea fresh? Extendible? Effective? Is it appropriate for your campaign, or is it a stand- alone ad?

Presentation.

Were you professional, organized, enthusiastic, thorough, clear and compelling?

Craft / Execution.

Is your layout well designed? Is your body copy tight, memorable and evocative? Do the layout and copy work well together? Is the material presentation of your work attractive? Does the typography work? Does the design and copy fit your target audience and the product? Are your visuals appropriate and arresting?

Originality.

Do we want to run down the hall and show your work to every person we see? Can you create a unique, interesting way of looking at the product or service, so that people actually want to hear what you have to say about it?

Collaboration / Critique.

Are you adding to other's ideas? Are you bringing your perspective and forming it?



Creative Grading Scale.

(From Leo Burnett HumanKind Scale)

- 1 (60%) - Destructive
- 2 (65%) - No idea
- 3 (70%) - Invisible
- 4 (75%) - I don't know what this brand stands for
- 5 (80%) - I understand the brands purpose
- 6 (85%) - An intelligent idea
- 7 (90%) - An inspiring, beautifully crafted idea
- 8 (95%) - Changes the way people think and feel
- 9 - Changes the way people live
- 10 - Changes the world.

Where Do Grades Come From?

- 30% - Case Studies (30 Case Study Pts Pass/Fail)
- 10% - CR1 Concepting
- 10% - CR2 Execution
- 10% - CR3 Extending
- 10% - CR4 Selling (Individual Portfolio "Job Interview")
- 10% - Participation
- 10% - Case Study Presentations/Submissions
- 10% - Critiques (formal and informal)

Can I Get A Do Over? (Revisions)

If you get lower than a B on any given presentation you'll be able to revise and resubmit for a higher grade. Revisions will only be accepted/seen during the final CR4.

Other Grading Factors.

I will also take into account attitude, behavior, effort and the like in your final grade (the intangibles). No one wants to work with an awesome creative mind who is terrible to work with. This may result in a higher or lower grade.

Is There Other Homework?

Yep. Homework should be emailed to me before class (a minute before is still before) and be "presentation ready." The expectation for all assignments is that a "client" or your "creative director" will be reviewing them. Deadlines will be included with briefs. If there's time in a lab to work on something, you'll know before. PDF is the friendliest file format to save your work to ensure correct viewing. Call the help desk if you have issues.



Groups + Partnering + Creative Collaboration

You should be engaged in others work and helping. You can choose to partner with someone in class for all creative reviews. You will present CR1-3 together as a team if you choose. You must present the final creative review yourself - even if you partnered with someone. You may partner with the same person or different people for each CR. You must let me know if you are partnering with someone for a CR. I reserve the right to surprise you with a partner on at least one CR.

Creative partners MUST choose a specialty. One of you MUST have a focus on art and the other must focus on copy. You'll both get the same grade if you partner - so these aren't strict roles. Once you choose to partner, I will assume that's your partner for that CR. It'll take a lot for me to undo this - so choose carefully and recognize that this is how agencies work. Please come and see me ASAP if you have issues with your partner that you think will affect your grade/presentation.

Guest Lecturers

There may be guest lecturers. You'll be expected to pay attention/learn and implement their lessons to your work.

Absences + Late Work + Deadlines

I reserve the right to reduce your final grade 1/2 letter grade for each unexcused absence after one. An absence is excused for urgent personal / family health conditions certified by a physician / counselor, religious holiday, certified University business or participation in a University sporting event or certified military obligation. Makeup work for excused absences will be due the next session. It's up to you to ask for any missed assignments. Please do not schedule non-urgent doctor's appointments (dental check-up, physicals, etc.) during class time, they don't count.

Notify me before you miss class. I will not review material that has already been covered in class. If you choose to miss class, acquire the missed handouts, notes and/or explanations of missed material.

Keep in mind deadlines. An in-class assignment due to an unexcused absence or not having your materials on the due date / time, credit will not count. You may not present an in-class assignment ahead of time in lab. You must be physically present to present your ads. Homework can be turned in early, but not late. Late work will not be accepted. viewing. Compress your PDFs to a maximum of 5 megabytes if you're emailing them to me.



Coming Into Class Late

We are all late from time to time, but now is the time to get used to getting to meetings (class) on time. The “Do Now” will be presented 5 minutes after class starts. If you’re not there for the “Do Now,” you miss out on those points. General rule of thumb is 5 minutes is annoying, but okay. 15 minutes you may as well have missed the meeting.

I reserve the right to take off points if you come in late, threw your homework together before class or were working on it prior to your presentation. If you come to class more than 30 minutes late, you will not be counted as having attended class that day. Regardless of the technical aspects, it is just rude.

Think You’re Not Creative?

For many of you, the idea of “being creative” may be uncomfortable. However, while some people may be more creatively gifted than others, anyone can develop their creativity to a greater degree. You WILL pass this course if you try. Let’s establish collaborative relationships, critique and guide one another. Your work will be better for it.

FAQs

Q: I have no desire to pursue a creative career. Why do I have to take this course?

A: No matter what career path you ultimately choose, you will need to think creatively and creatively solve problems. It will always help you to understand how advertising is “constructed” and what differentiates good creative from bad. My goal is that, after this class, you NEVER get to say “I’m not creative.” Finally, you may discover a talent for creative work that you did not know you had. Frequently students decide on creative careers as a result of taking this class.

Q: Is this an easy class, because I’m taking a full course load / working / not very motivated?

A: This class requires you to work outside the classroom to complete assignments. If you use your lab time wisely, this outside time can be minimized, but not eliminated. We give you opportunities to redo your work for “upgrades,” but again, this requires time. There is no short cut to learning how to create arresting, quality advertising. This class requires concentrated effort. Please plan your schedules accordingly. Also, keep in mind, everyone is not able to “turn on/off” being creative. Sometimes a great idea will appear at the strangest of times. Have a notepad or sketchbook nearby. Also, it is very hard to schedule time to “be creative.” Don’t wait until the last minute.



More FAQs

Q: Do I have to finish my work on the computer?

A: You are not required to do so. Well-executed and hand-drawn work is just as likely to earn an “A” as computer-generated work. However, it behooves you to learn and experiment as much as you can about various tools/software while you are in this class. These skills greatly enhance your marketability after you graduate. Also the only way to learn them is to practice!

Q: Can we make our final presentation as a team?

A: No. Each person gets a solo presentation grade.

Q: Isn't creative totally subjective?

A: Not entirely. Good writing is good writing. You either grab attention or you don't. A designer either uses/maximizes design principles or he/she doesn't. Your campaign is either cohesive or not. However, ultimately I will evaluate the level of your creativity. The good news is that there are objective measures of “creative exercise” used, like the “do nows” and the case studies.

Q: How should I ask someone if my ad is good?

A: Naturally people (friends, parents or strangers) aren't going to want to offend you or hurt your feelings. So ask them if they “get” your ad and explain it to you. If you have to explain anything to them, then go back to the drawing board.

Students With Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation of the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodations. If you have a disability, you'll need to make an appointment with me to discuss your accommodations. Don't try to throw me your disability letter and run! If your disability requires special testing arrangements (eg., extra time, quiet environment), you will be taking your exams at the disability office and not in the building. You will also need to keep track of the appropriate paperwork for this.



The Honor Code.

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University Community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge and hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

For more information about academic honesty, contact Student Judicial Affairs, P202 Peabody Hall, 352-392-1261. You can review UF’s academic honesty guidelines in detail at: www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honesty-bruchure.php.

Tentative Course Schedule (may change)

1. CONCEPT (8/23 - 9/23)

Intro Class/Industry 101
Insights/Briefs/Setup
Brainstorming/Concepting/Ideas/Critiquing
ADLOBS: Mood Boards/Idea Statements/Demonstrative Visuals
CR1 - Pitch Your Concept (Week of 1/25)

2. EXECUTE (9/27 - 10/13)

COPY: Headlines/Subheadlines/Manifestos/RTBS
VISUALIZATION: Typeface/Design Basics/Tools
FORMATS: Video boards, Interactive Ideas, Banner key frames,
CR2 - Execute (Week Before Spring Break)

3. EXTEND (10/18 - 11/10)

Traditional Media
New Media
“Household” Media
Gamification
CR3 - Extend (Week of 3/21)

4. SELL (1/15 - END)

Why You Love This
Presentations + Public Speaking
Clients
Now What Professional Help
Present Your Portfolio Test (Job Interview-Last 2 Classes)

If Ya Have Complaints, Check Here: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

