

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**PUR3622: Social Media Management – Online**  
**SPRING 2023**

**Instructor:** Celeste Martínez, celestemartinez@ufl.edu  
Twitter: @celestesocial  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/celestemartinezsocial>

**Office Hours:** You may email me to set up a virtual conference call

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Social media has changed the way companies do business and interact with their audiences. In this course, we will explore social media from a public relations perspective and understand how our roles as strategic communicators have evolved as a result. You will learn to develop a social media strategy, create content and measure meaningful results to reach brand goals and reach key audiences.

Social media changes every day. Because of this, the course content may also change, allowing us to address and analyze what's happening across the industry.

This course is centered on you and your needs. As such, the course will provide the opportunity for hands-on learning and real-world applications to help you gain experience and build a robust portfolio that showcases your social media and strategic thinking skills.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In this class, students will master the basic social media skills of public relations and digital professionals to prepare them to meet the demands of today's industry. You will learn to:

- Analyze the social media landscape and its role in public relations and business;
- Apply fundamentals and best practices to social media management;
- Create and tailor social media plans – including strategy, content and KPIs – based on your target audiences and business objectives;
- Use social media platforms and professional tools, such as Hootsuite, through hands-on learning opportunities;
- Identify key performance indicators and measure the success of social media efforts;
- Examine the ethical and legal implications and potential risks of social media for brands;
- Develop and apply critical thinking, listening and professional skills through assignments that mimic industry work with clients and peers.

## **COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES**

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications requires that by graduation all students should be able to:

- Apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, in a global context, and for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located;
- demonstrate an understanding of the multicultural history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- demonstrate culturally proficient communication that empowers those traditionally disenfranchised in society, especially as grounded in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and ability, domestically and globally, across communication and media contexts;
- present images and information effectively and creatively, using appropriate tools and technologies;
- write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- apply critical thinking skills in conducting research and evaluating information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- effectively and correctly apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;
- critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work”

## **COURSE FORMAT & CONTENT**

This course will be 100 percent online. It is very important for you to keep up with all the video lectures, readings, assignments, quizzes and exam. These will be key to successful completion of the course.

I will use Canvas for all course communication, which will include a weekly email every Monday morning with upcoming assignments and announcements. Canvas can also remind you of upcoming due dates. Please check the site on a daily basis.

Course content may be published in advance, giving you the opportunity to work ahead.

## **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

We do not have a specific textbook for this course, but we will use the below materials throughout the semester:

- Hootsuite Academy. *Social Marketing Training and Platform Certification*
  - Free course: <https://education.hootsuite.com/courses/social-marketing-education>
- Because of the ever-changing nature of social media, required online readings will be assigned throughout the course.
- You will be asked to use social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter, to complete several of your assignments for this course. If you do not have profiles already, you will be required to create profiles on most of these platforms to complete assignments.
  - Free course: <https://education.hootsuite.com/courses/social-marketing-education>

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

### **WEEK 1:**

**Topic:** Introduction to Social Media and Public Relations

*Assignments:*

- Getting to Know You: Student Information
- Introduce Yourself with LinkedIn

### **WEEK 2:**

**Topic:** Law & Ethics in Social Media

*Assignments:*

- Discussion: Law and Ethics
- Group Social Media Project: Client Selection and Overview

### **WEEK 3:**

**Topic:** Building a Social Media Strategy

*Assignments:*

- Activity: Setting Goals and SMART Objectives
- Knowledge Check: Goals, Objectives, & KPI's

### **WEEK 4:**

**Topic:** Building a Social Media Strategy

*Assignment:*

- What's Trending

## **WEEK 5:**

**Topic:** Social Media Platforms and Best Practices

*Assignment:*

- Group Social Media Project: Research & Audit

## **WEEK 6:**

**Topic:** Creating Engaging Content

*Assignment:*

- Social Media Content Shoot

## **WEEK 7:**

**Topic:** Writing for Social Media

*Assignment:*

- Group Social Media Project: Campaign Idea
- Hootsuite Platform Certification

## **WEEK 8:**

**Topic:** Paid Social Media

*Exam:*

- Midterm Exam

## **WEEK 9:**

**Topic:** Community Management

*Assignments:*

- Practicing Community Management
- Group Social Media Project: Content & Channel Strategy and Calendar

## **WEEK 10: Spring Break**

## **Week 11:**

**Topic:** Measuring What Matters

*Assignment:*

- Self & Peer Evaluation

## **WEEK 12:**

**Topic:** Influencer Relations

*Assignments:*

- Identifying Influencer Partners

### **WEEK 13:**

**Topic:** Social Media Crises & Tragedies

*Assignment:*

- Brand Responses to Social Media Crises or Tragedy
- Group Social Media Project: Campaign Evaluation
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### **WEEK 14:**

**Topic:** Social Media and Emerging Technology

*Assignment:*

- Brands Using Emerging Technology

### **WEEK 15:**

**Final Project**

### **WEEK 16**

**Topic:** Finals Week

*Assignments:*

- Self and Peer Evaluation
- Final Exam

## **SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments must be “client-ready,” which means they have been proofread, reviewed and formatted so that they are ready to submit to your client – or in this case, to your instructor.

Everything you write for this course must be coherent, logical and carefully edited. Misspellings, syntax and grammatical errors are unacceptable and will affect your grade. This is a key skill for future public relations and social media professionals.

### ***Late Policy, Technical Issues and Make-Up Assignments***

Social media takes time and consistency. Manage your time wisely. Please do not wait until the last minute to start working on your assignments. Public relations and social media professionals are often bound by tight, important deadlines and missing these can damage their and their clients’ credibility.

All assignments are due on Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on the date of the deadline, unless otherwise instructed. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Requirements for make-up assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You must e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

For any technical issues, you may contact the UF Help Desk, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

### **GRADING POLICY**

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90 – 100 percent      A
- 87 – 89 percent      B+
- 80 – 86 percent      B
- 77 – 79 percent      C+
- 70 – 76 percent      C
- 60 – 69 percent      D
- 0 – 59 percent      E

For any questions regarding a given grade, please contact me within 48 hours after the grade is received.

### ***Components of Your Final Grade***

- **Exams (30 percent)** – You will have one midterm which will consist on true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Also, you will have one final exam that will consist of putting together a social media strategy for a client by responding to 7-10 questions.
- **Activities (15 percent)** – You will also complete assignments, which have the purpose of putting into practice what you're learning throughout the week. Writing errors (such as grammar, spelling, syntax, etc.) will negatively affect your grade.

- **Individual Discussions (15 percent)** – You will complete discussions related to some of the week’s materials. The purpose of these discussions is to encourage you to keep up with the industry, use your critical thinking skills and share varying perspectives. Writing errors (such as grammar, spelling, syntax, etc.) will negatively affect your grade.
  
- **Hootsuite Platform Certification (10 percent)** – You will complete your Hootsuite Platform Certification this semester. If you’re already certified, you will be given an alternative assignment.
  
- **Group Client Social Media Project:** This is your final group project for the course, and as such, it is weighted heavily. You will complete several components of the plan throughout the semester and your drafts will count toward your final grade. Your team member’s evaluations of your contribution and overall participation will affect your grade too. See the breakdown below:
  - **Drafts: 40%**
  - **Final Project: 50%**
  - **Peer Evaluations: 10%**

## **CONTACTING ME**

I will be available to answer questions and provide feedback via email. I will do my best to reply as soon as possible, but please allow up to 48 hours for a response. Please do not email me with a question about your assignment within 24 hours of the due date.

You may also email me to schedule an appointment for a video conference call.

## **COURSE PROFESSIONALISM**

The College of Journalism and Communications is a professional school, and professional decorum is expected at all times. Students will conduct themselves in an honest, ethical and courteous manner with students and the instructor, abiding by the UF Student Conduct & Honor Codes.

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in email messages, threaded discussions and chats. You may review the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses here: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The work you submit for this course must be your own. You must never use direct or paraphrased material from any source, including websites, without citation.

Citation means providing attribution within the text for any ideas, insights or facts that are not your own. To clarify, you may not copy anything word for word from any source without

putting quotes around it and attributing the source. This includes organizations' or companies' websites, internal documents and materials.

For this class, we will use the MLA in-text citation method. This applies to all discussions, assignments and projects. You must also list your sources in a works cited for all assignments.

All work submitted must be original work for this course. You may not submit anything that you wrote for another class, an internship, as a volunteer or in another academic or professional setting. You may not submit anything that was written for any purpose other than the given assignment. Plagiarizing another student's work or having another student complete the assignment for you is considered academic dishonesty.

I will handle any incident of academic dishonesty in accordance with the UF Honor Code that provides examples of unethical academic behavior, such as cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation and fabrication. Any case of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for this course. I will follow university guidelines for any offense.

"Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture **does not** include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code."



You may review the Student Conduct & Honor Codes here:  
[sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/).

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students requesting classroom accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office's Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Students Office will provide an accommodation letter that must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

To contact the Disability Resource Center, visit [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) or call 352-392-8565.

### **ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION POLICY**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.