

"The problem with communication is the illusion that it has occurred."
- George Bernard Shaw

Class Times Tuesdays 10: 40 am – 12:35 pm
Thursdays 11: 45 am - 12:35 pm

Classroom 1092 Weimer Hall

Instructor Michelle Hinson

Office Location 3059 Weimer Hall

Office Hours TBD and by appointment
You can always chat with me before or after class.

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Feel free to email me with questions or concerns. If your classmates can benefit from your question, and you can keep it to 140 characters or less, then tweet to **#ufpr3801**.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PUR 3801—Public Relations Strategy: The development of skills in strategic public relations management based on an analysis of current and historical case studies. Prerequisites: minimum grade of C in PUR 3000 and PUR 3500.

COURSE FORMAT:

This course uses a combination of lecture and seminar formats. Several guest speakers will join the class to demonstrate how scholarly principles are related to the professional practice of public relations. A high degree of student interaction is expected.

COURSE PURPOSE & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to educate students in the strategic management of public relations through a systematic problem-solving process based on theory and research. Through readings, lectures, exercises, and discussions, students will study in-depth the essential steps of the process: research, objectives, programming, evaluation, and stewardship. Using case studies, students will analyze and evaluate actual public relations campaigns related to the various sub-functions of public relations, such as media relations and employee relations. As a result of the course, students should be able to:

Demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of public relations and the process through which it is practiced strategically;

- Apply the problem-solving process of ROPES to diverse organizations and situations.
- Identify and explain the concepts and theories on which strategic public relations is based.
- Write and formulate fundamental components of a public relations campaign plan, including objectives and budget.
- Define publics appropriate for specific campaigns and appreciate differences that affect programming.
- Recognize the importance of formative and evaluative research in public relations practice.
- Demonstrate proficiency in written and oral communication.

The course specifically supports 7 of the 11 professional values and competencies required of graduates by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC):

Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of groups in a global society in relationship to public relations.

Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.

Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles, and work ethically.

Think critically, creatively and independently.

Conduct research and evaluate information by appropriate methods.

Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the public relations profession.

Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts.

COURSE TEXTS:

Required:

Wilcox, D. L. & Cameron, G. T. (2011). *Public relations: Strategies and tactics* (10th ed.). New York: Pearson.

Chapters from the texts are assigned in the “Weekly Course Plan” of this syllabus. Additional assigned readings also are listed. They will be handed out in class, are available online, or will be e-mailed to you. All readings must be **read in advance** of the class dates for which they are listed. Students also are expected to monitor trade publications and the mass media for local, national, and international news related to public relations, which will be used in class discussions.

TESTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Class Participation 5%

PRSSA Speaker Event	5%
Individual Case Analysis	15%
Team Campaign Analysis	20%
Exam #1	25%
Exam #2	30%

Grading for the course follows current UF grading policies for assigning grade points (see <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>).

Grading Scale: 91-100 = A, 89-90 = A-, 88 = B+, 82-87 = B, 80-81 = B-, 78-79 = C+, 72-77 = C, 70-71 = C-, 60-69 = D, 59 or less = E.

Class Participation will account for 5% of the course grade, as determined by such efforts as discussing assigned readings, participating in ungraded exercises, and bringing timely and relevant issues to the attention of the class.

Students will attend one **PRSSA Speaker Event** during the semester and submit a one-page, double-spaced, typed summary of the featured speaker's presentation, which will account for 5% of the course grade. See "Events" at <http://ufprssa.com/>. To verify attendance, students will submit a second sheet containing the student's name, date of the meeting, and the signature of one Alpha Chapter officer stapled to the summary. Any substitute meetings must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Students will produce an **Individual Case Analysis** of a public relations case study. Resources for the case study will be provided. The written analysis will be four to five pages in length, double-spaced and typed. It will account for 15% of the course grade. Details of this first major assignment are given in the handouts, "Case Study Analysis Guidelines" and "Assessment of Individual Case Analysis," which will be distributed during the third week of class.

A **Team Campaign Analysis** accounts for 20% of the course grade. Students will be organized into five teams of five members each, based on their interest in one of the sub-functions of public relations (for example, investor relations). Each team will prepare an analysis of a public relations campaign conducted by an organization in the assigned sub-function. The team will produce a written report of 22 to 26 pages and a 25-minute oral presentation. The grade received for a team's analysis is not necessarily the grade individual team members will receive. Utilizing confidential forms, team members will evaluate each other's contributions. Peer evaluations will weigh heavily in determining individual grades for the project. As in real life, team members will be dependent on each other to complete the project successfully. A detailed assignment handout, "Team Campaign Analysis Schedule and Instructions," and a "Team Evaluation Form" will be distributed early in the second half of the semester.

Two Exams will account for a total of 55% of the course grade.

Listen actively to the instructor and your fellow students, and make meaningful contributions to class discussion. Be thoughtful and instructive when editing the work of fellow classmates.

MAKEUPS, LATE ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXTRA CREDIT:

Policy of the course is that there will be no make-up exams or extensions of deadlines. Dates have been announced in advance in the "Weekly Course Plan" so that students can schedule other activities around these deadlines. Exceptions will be rare and made only in cases of extraordinary, documented circumstances, as determined by the instructor. Any make-up exams administered or

late assignments accepted will be graded lower than work turned in on time. No extra credit will be given for additional work.

ABSENCES:

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed two excused absences for the semester. Absences beyond two—for *any* reason—will result in a reduction of the course grade at the rate of one-third grade level for each absence. Students are responsible for all class work missed. They should consult with classmates, rather than the instructor, to obtain information on lectures, assignments, and other matters.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are expected to observe the University of Florida's policy on academic honesty in fulfilling all course requirements. The penalty for violation of academic honesty is an "E" for the course, at minimum.

Academic dishonesty includes the following: use of materials from another author without citation or attribution, extensive use of verbatim materials from another author *with* citation and attribution, and extensive use of one's own writing from past assignments or from assignments in other, current classes (called "double dipping").

The University of Florida Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in Fall 1995. The Honor Code reads as follows:

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 to 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 the student honor code, violations, and sanctions, go to the Judicial Affairs Web site at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION:

Lectures given in this course, including handouts and PowerPoint® presentations, are the property of the instructor and the University of Florida. Class lectures may not be recorded in any form without prior permission from the instructor and any guest lecturers that may speak to this class. Recordings, including class notes, may not be used for commercial purposes.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

The College of Journalism and Communications is a professional school and professional decorum is expected at all times. This means the instructor and students adhere to workplace norms for collegial

and respectful interaction. Students are expected to arrive on time and not leave the classroom until announced breaks or the end of the class.

DIVERSITY:

All discussions will be ruled by mutual respect—for people and their opinions. Effective public relations practice is dependent on gathering and understanding diverse viewpoints. Furthermore, professionalism requires an appreciation for the multicultural society and global economy in which students plan to work. Effectiveness in both practice and scholarship relies on an ability to recognize and embrace diversity in all its forms. Throughout the course, students will have opportunities to see how different cultural perspectives influence public relations. They are encouraged to also learn from the information and ideas shared by their classmates.

CELL PHONES:

Vibrate only unless you are on the National Organ Transplant waiting list.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide the documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Requests should be made at a private meeting during the instructor's office hours.

SCHEDULE:

The schedule is subject to change, as needed, to further the understanding of the course materials by the students. Students are expected to come to class prepared.

Seek clarity. Take ownership of your performance if you don't understand something, let me know. The same holds true if you are concerned about your progress. Please talk with me at any point in the semester. I will gladly help you.
