



## **SYLLABUS – PUR 4800 (1544) PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGNS\***

SPRING 2019 M – 6 – 7; W - 6; ROOM: WEIMER 1078

Monday, periods 6 – 7 (12:50 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.); Wednesday, period 6 (12:50 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.)

**Instructor: Mickey G. Nall, M.A.M.C., APR, Fellow PRSA, Professional in Residence**

Office: WEIMER 2084

Office hours: Monday, 3 – 5 p.m. or Wednesday, 2 – 3 p.m. or by appointment

Email (preferred): [mickey.nall@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:mickey.nall@jou.ufl.edu); Telephone: (352) 294-1572

Teaching Assistant: Yufan “Sunny” Qin, Ph.D. student; email: [ginyf1995@ufl.edu](mailto:ginyf1995@ufl.edu); office hours: Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 12 Noon

**\*This syllabus is subject to change as the professor deems appropriate and necessary.**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

PUR 4800 is the capstone course for the undergraduate program in public relations. As such, it draws heavily on students' previous training in principles, techniques, writing, and research methods to develop and partially implement a public relations campaign for an *actual organizational client*. Students will use the principles and techniques of public relations to analyze case studies, track current public relations issues, create various communication campaigns, and solve real-world problems. The additional advanced learning will come not so much from the instructor or the materials but in the application—the creation of comprehensive communication campaigns that truly communicate.

### **COURSE FORMAT:**

Class time will be dedicated to lectures/discussions and/or time reserved for team meetings and work sessions. Students should prepare to dedicate ample time outside of classroom hours to complete their campaign projects. For the campaign-planning portion, this course will employ the counseling-firm format in which class members form account teams, representing the same organization client. The requirements and expectations of the Team Project will be as rigorous and demanding as students' first job in public relations.

## **COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES:**

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

- understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the US;
- demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- think critically, creatively and independently;
- conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- apply basic numerical and statistical concepts;
- apply current tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work, and to understand the digital world.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Discuss the basic principles of public relations campaign management, including applied research, planning, communication, evaluation, and stakeholder relationship management
- Develop a standard of excellence by analyzing “real life,” award-winning campaigns
- Apply strategic, creative thinking in the development of a public relations campaign and collateral materials
- Determine, analyze, and, develop communication programs to solve real-world problems
- Consult and advise an actual client on strategic public relations campaign development

## **REQUIRED TEXT:**

Bobbit, R., & Sullivan, R. (2013). *Developing the Public Relations Campaigns: A Team-Based Approach 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* Upper Saddle River: Pearson.

## **ADDITIONAL TEXT:**

Smith R. D. (2013). *Strategic Planning for Public Relations* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge

## **CONTINUING READING:**

Students are expected to read news periodicals (local, national, and international) and communication-related professional and academic journals regularly. Higher levels of professional competence and authority demand not only awareness of current news events but also an applied understanding of how economic, political, and social trends affect the communication profession. Suggested resources include, but are not limited to, *Journal of Public Relations Research*, *Public Relations Review*, *Public Relations Journal* (<http://www.prsa.org/prjournal/>), and *PRism* (<http://www.prismjournal.org>). Other helpful practitioner-based resources include The Institute for Public Relations ([www.instituteforpr.com](http://www.instituteforpr.com)) and PRSA ([www.prsa.org](http://www.prsa.org)).

## **ABSENCES AND PUNCTUALITY:**

Attendance is required for each scheduled class meeting. Regardless of the reason for any absence, you are responsible for all class work missed, and a missed class is not an excuse for missing a deadline. Late arrivals and/or early departures from class, without prior approval from the professor, will be counted as unexcused absences.

## **OTHER CLASS POLICIES:**

- The University of Florida Honor Code applies to all activities associated with this class.
- Class members are expected to read the assigned readings (if any) before class and participate actively in class discussion.
- Although you may use computers in class, internet messaging and surfing are disruptive and, if caught, you may forfeit computer use in the class.
- All work will be judged by professional standards. All out-of-class work must be well written, typed and visually appealing, with no spelling or grammatical errors.

## **SPECIAL NOTES:**

- *Disability Accommodations:* Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements.

- *Religious Observance*: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.
- *Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities*: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up any graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

## GRADING:

Grades are *earned* via four modes: (1) Assignments; (2) Semester exam; (3) A final campaign project and presentation [group]; and (4) Peer Review/Class participation

### Four Modes – percentage of grade

- Assignments (15%)
- Semester Exam (25%)
- Campaign Project (45%)
- Peer Review/Class participation (15%)

Grading scale: 100-93 A; 92-90 A-; 89-87 B+; 86-84 B; 83-80 B-; 79-77 C+; 76-74 C; 73-70 C-; 69-67 D+; 66-64 D; 63-60 D-; 59 and below E

- **Assignments** include individual writing assignments that require you to apply the principles, techniques, and skills you've learned to real-world scenarios and solve various problems. Some writing assignments may be related to your team project.
- There will be one closed-book, comprehensive **semester exam** on **March 27**. A study guide will be provided to you prior to the exam. Content of class discussions, required readings, and students' class presentations are subject to inclusion.
- **The final campaign project** requires students to work in teams to research and propose a public relations campaign for an actual client selected by the instructor. A written campaign proposal will be turned in and students will present their campaign designs to the client, who will provide oral debriefing. Detailed instructions on the team campaign project are included in this syllabus.
- Utilizing confidential forms, team members will evaluate each other's contributions. Your level of engagement and participation in class discussions and work attitude throughout the semester are also part of this review.

The **campaign project grade** of 225 points will be based on the quality of the campaign plan book (75%) as well as the final oral presentation (25%).

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**Please Note: As the semester progresses, this schedule may change to reflect the progress and needs of the class and work groups.**

Date

### **Week 1 (Jan. 7 – 9)**

Course Overview and Syllabus Review

Review of Fundamentals of Public Relations B & S: Chapter 1

[An introduction to the course. Fundamentals of public relations are reviewed, including definitions and functions of public relations, evolution of public relations, and why public relations is important for organizations' success in the contemporary world.]

**Assignment #1: Resume and Cover Letter (Due Jan. 14)**

### **Week 2 (Jan. 14 - 16)**

An Overview of the Public Relations Campaign Management Process

Brand Platform

B & S: Chapter 2 & handout

[The public relations campaign process. Focus is on the ROPE model. Brand platform is also discussed.]

**Due in Monday class (Jan. 14): Assignment #1**

**Assignment #2: Brand Platform (Due Jan. 30)**

### **Week 3 (Jan. 23) NOTE: Monday, Jan. 21 NO CLASS-HOLIDAY**

Research

B & S: Chapter 3, 4

[How to identify communication problems based on research findings. The primary research methods—survey, in-depth interviews, and focus groups— are examined. Related issues such as measurement development and data analysis techniques are discussed.]

**Campaign Project Team formed**

**Due in Thursday class (Jan. 30): Assignment #2**

## Week 4 (Jan. 28-30)

Strategic Planning: Goals and Objectives

B & S: Chapter 5

[How to develop goals and objectives based on environmental analysis is discussed. Planning and management techniques are introduced.]

**Client Meeting - TBD**

**Team Project:**

**Each team meets separately to compile one brand platform (Vision, Values, and Purpose sections only) that represents the team's shared input and an outline of the major challenges/issues to address in the Team Project.**

**Then, the AEs meet—each bringing their team's brand platform and list of campaign issues/challenges to the meeting - and reach agreement on one brand platform (Vision, Values, and Purpose sections only) and the campaign issues/challenges.**

**Research directors draft a research plan to coincide with the agreed upon brand platform and campaign issues/challenges to be addressed. This draft includes proposed methodologies, description of respondents, timeline, and instruments (i.e., focus group discussion guide, survey) to be reviewed with the client.**

**The agreed upon—brand platform, a list of campaign issues, research plan, and instrument drafts are due to Mickey Nall by email (mickey.nall@jou.ufl.edu) by 11:00 a.m. Feb. 11.**

Note: Please indicate clearly team contributions to each part of the research plan in your submission.

## Week 5 (Feb. 4 - 6)

Strategic Planning: Target Audiences Teamwork

[The concepts of target population, publics, and audiences are discussed. Different theoretical approaches to segment publics are introduced]

## Week 6 (Feb. 11 – 13)

Implementation: Messages and Strategies Handouts

Creative Thinking Techniques

[Different types of messaging strategies are discussed. The creative thinking process and techniques are examined.]

**Team Project:**

**DUE via email by 11:00am on Monday (Feb. 11): Agreed upon brand platform, a list of campaign issues, research plan, and instruments.**

**Feedback on your research materials will be provided to you on Feb. 13.**

**Finalize the research plan by the end of this week**

**Week 7 (Feb. 18 - 20)**

Implementation: Media Channels

B & S: Chapters 6 & 8

**Tentative Client Meeting (Feb. 18 - TBD)**

**Team Project:**

**AEs/CEO meet (or e-meet) with CEO to validate and finalize brand platform, issues/challenges, and research plan for Team Project on Feb. 20.**

**Primary research (focus group and survey) data collection begins.**

**Progress report on research step due by March 13 team meeting; formal research report and campaign objectives are due on March 20.**

**Week 8 (Feb. 25 - 27)**

Field Research Week

**Team Project:**

**Data collection and analysis cont'd**

**Week 9 – NO CLASS SPRING BREAK (March 2 – 9, 2019)**

**Week 10 (March 11-13)**

Field Research, Campaign Team Meetings, and Progress Report

**Team Project**

**Individual team meetings with Mickey Nall on March 13**

**AEs bring meeting materials (including the draft research report if available, SPSS survey analysis results, and objective portion) to the meeting on Wed., March 13. All meeting materials should be emailed to Mickey Nall (mickey.nall@jou.ufl.edu) by 11:00 am on March 13. Revise based on feedback. Formal research report and campaign objectives due on March 20.**

**Week 10 (March 18 – 20)**

Logistics, Evaluation, and Measurement B & S: Chapter 10

[Staffing, budgeting, and timing issues related to public relations programing. Introducing the role of measurement in public relations evaluation and why it is important for program success. A historical review of public relations evaluation approaches is provided. Differences between outputs and outcomes are discussed.]

**Team Project**

**Research report and campaign objectives due in class on Wed., March 20.**

**Validate campaign objectives with client**

**Start working on Programming**

**Draft of programming portion for campaign plan book DUE via hard copy to Mickey Nall on April 3.**

**Week 11 (March 25 – 27))**

Review and Semester Exam

Exam scheduled on **March 27**

**Week 12 (April 1 - 3)**

Teamwork

**Team Project meetings**

**DUE Wed., April 3: Draft of programming portion for campaign plan book. Email the draft to Mickey Nall (mickey.nall@jou.ufl.edu) by 11:00 am on April 3.**

**Week 13 (April 8 – 10)**

Campaign Plan Production

**Team Project**



**Continue working on programming; Start working on evaluation**

**Teams compile a complete draft of the campaign plan book and prototypes for Mickey Nall review on April 15 (book will be returned to team that day).**

**Week 14 (April 15 - 18)**

Campaign Plan Production & Reviews & Revisions

**Team Project**

**Campaign plan draft review with Mickey Nall on April 15**

**Groups should finalize plan post April 15 and develop draft/outline of the PPT review and quickly finalize campaign book and PPT for presentations.**

**Week 15 (April 22 - 24)**

**Groups 1 – 4 present April 22**

**Group 5 – 6 present April 24**

**HARD COPY CAMPAIGN PLAN BOOK DUE: April 24**

**Additional instructions on assignments and project assignments will be distributed in class.**