PUR 4932 Internal Communications and Employee Engagement

Fall 2019 UF Online

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Office Hours: T, 12:00-12:50pm & 4-5pm, and by appointment (Feel free to email me anytime! 😊)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Employees have long been recognized as the No. 1 stakeholder of the organizations. Especially in this increasingly connected, globalized, and transparent digital age, the line between internal and external is blurred. Effective internal communication is critical for the success of an organization. This course focuses on the influential roles that communication managers play to address the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing internal stakeholders. It integrates theories, research insights, practices, as well as current issues and cases into a comprehensive guide for future internal communication managers and organizational leaders on how to communicate effectively with internal stakeholders, build beneficial relationships, and engage employees in the fast-changing business and media environment. Through lectures, discussions, and case studies, students will be equipped with effective strategies, tactics, and tools to be able to act as an internal communication strategist.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will teach you to:

- Discuss the basic principles of internal communication management, as related to topics of internal public segmentation, ethics, culture, communication strategies, channels, and measurement
- Counsel organizational leaders such as the C-Suite and supervisors on how to communicate effectively
- Apply the strategies, techniques, and tools required to engage employees, with specific emphasis on digital and social capabilities
- Develop a standard of excellence in internal communications by analyzing “real life,” award-winning cases
- Create an internal communication plan applying strategic and creative thinking
REQUIRED TEXT:


CONTINUING READING:

The Institute for Public Relations’ Organizational Communication Research Center (http://www.instituteforpr.org/organizational-communication-research/), the International Association of Business Communication (https://www.iabc.com/resources), and PRSA (www.prsa.org).

COMMUNICATION METHODS FOR ONLINE STUDENTS:

The instructor works normal weekday hours (i.e., Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.). If you email during this time, you may expect a reply in 24 hours. *(Note: Normally, I reply as soon as I see your email. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions! 😊)*

Please do not ask questions in the “comments” section of an assignment. The instructor does not get an individual ping when a comment is left, so I will not know that they are there and so will not be able to respond in a timely manner.

For technical issues with Canvas, please contact E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/

OTHER CLASS POLICIES:

- **Students with Special Needs**: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

- **Course Evaluations**: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. 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://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/.

- **Academic Honesty**: The University of Florida Honor Code applies to all activities associated with this class.
  - **UF students** are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.
  - **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.” The Honor Code
(http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

You can review UF’s academic honesty guidelines in detail at:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/seminars-modules/academic-integrity-module

- **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.

- Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

**GRADING:**

Grades are earned via five modes: (1) Assignments; (2) Activities or exercises; (3) Discussions; (4) Case study (5) Exam; and (6) A final internal communication plan [group]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities/exercises</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Plan</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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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 will require you to apply the principles, techniques, and skills you’ve learned to solve various problems.

- **Activities/exercises** are designed to engage the students with the course topics outside of the online environment. This may entail individual or group activities/exercises (e.g., role play). *(Note: graded as pass or fail)*

- **Participation in discussions** includes both your discussion posts and comments on others’ posts. There are a total of four required discussion questions in the class. See detailed explanation below.

- For the **case study**, each team of two students will browse case databases such as PRSA Silver Anvil Award cases (http://www.prsa.org/Awards/SilverAnvil/Search; Account no.: 1730276, password: zhedacici84) or case books to select a successful employee/internal communication campaign or program case, analyze the case, and present the case to the class. Deliverables include a PowerPoint which summarizes your analyses and a recorded video presentation. Detailed guidelines for case presentations can be found on page 13.
There will be one closed-book, comprehensive exam on **November 14**. A study guide will be provided to you. Content of class discussions and required readings are subject to inclusion. An extra-credit Q&A zoom session will be hosted prior to the exam date. Participation in the Q&A zoom session will gain 1 bonus point added to the exam score.

**The internal communication plan project** requires students to work in teams to research and propose an internal communication plan for an organization of your interest. A written plan will be turned in and students will record a virtual team presentation. Detailed instructions on the team communication plan project are included in this syllabus.

The Team Project grade is comprised of a Team Grade (75%) and an Individual Grade (25%). Individual grade will be based on peer evaluations. Utilizing confidential forms, team members will evaluate each others’ contributions. Team Grade will be based on the quality of the communication plan (75%) as well as the final oral presentation (25%).

All assignments are due on the specified dates. Feedback on the assignments will be provided within one week after the due dates. **Any assignments turned in late** will be assessed penalty points per calendar day. Late assignments will receive an automatic grade reduction of 10 points every 24 hours (or portion thereof) beyond the time they are due. So, if it’s an hour late, it’s a reduction of 10 points.

For more information on current UF grading policies, see [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

**COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Content/Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Understanding Internal Communication</td>
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</table>
|          | [What internal communication is and why internal communication is important for the organization’s success are discussed. Five theoretical perspectives (i.e., scientific management, human relations, human resources, systems, and culture) that shaped the development of present companies, businesses, and corporations, which offer insights into the evolution of internal communication are introduced. Current issues and trends in internal communication are discussed.]

**Lectures:**

M1.1: Course introduction and defining internal communication
M1.2: Theoretical approaches to internal communication
M1.3: Current trends and issues in internal communication

**Readings:**
M & B: Chapters 1, 2, & 10
Introduction to organizational communication research center
Watch Video: “Hawthorne Studies”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7RHjwmVGhs
Watch Video: “Companies Racing to Develop Artificial Intelligence”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98B5yCjfHFA

Assignment 1:
Video introduction
Due: Thursday, August 29 at 11:00pm

Discussion 1:
Due: Thursday, August 29 at 11:00pm
Please choose ONE from the following two discussion questions to answer.

1.1. Please identify the top three internal communication issues and problems in your organization.
1.2. “Not all employees are similar.” How are millennial employees different from the previous generations? What do millennials want in the workplace?

Additional Recommended Resources:
Watch: “The Exchange: Greg Smith on Leaving Goldman Sachs”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e5nsn7yrfc

Module 2 Internal Publics

[Various approaches in segmenting internal publics are introduced. Ethical issues related to internal communication are discussed.]

Lectures:
M2.1: Employee segmentation
M2.2: Situational theory of publics
M2.3: Ethics and internal communications

Readings:
M & B: Chapters 2 & 3

Activity 1:
Resource site
Due: Thursday, Sept 5 at 11:00pm

Exercise 1 [Group]:
Due: Thursday, Sept 5 at 11:00pm
Case analysis: HSBC “Shut up and listen”

Case study [Team 1]
Due: Thursday, Sept 5 at 11:00pm

Additional Recommended Resources:
Read: PRSA Code of Ethics
http://apps.prsa.org/AboutPRSA/Ethics/CodeEnglish
Module 3  Executive Leadership Communication

[The importance of top leadership and CEO communication style, channels, strategies, and social media presence will be discussed.]

Lectures:
M3.1: CEO visionary communication
M3.2: CEO communication strategies, styles, and channels

Readings:
M & B: Chapter 4

Watch Video “Satya Nadella addresses Microsoft employees”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipOqMQABNRw

Assignment 2:
Reaction essay  Due: Thursday, Sept 12 at 11:00pm

Activity 2:
Role play  Due: Thursday, Sept 12 at 11:00pm

Case study [Team 2]  Due: Thursday, Sept 12 at 11:00pm

Additional Recommended Resources:
Watch Video: “Dusty McCoy, CEO of Brunswick Welcomes New Hires” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4cUYoH0jjw

Module 4  Supervisory Leadership Communication

[Supervisory leadership communication with an emphasis on supervisors’ and line managers’ communication strategies, tactics, channels, and effectiveness is discussed.]

Lectures:
M4.1: Leadership styles and communication
M4.2: Best practices of supervisory leadership communication

Readings:


Watch Video: “What Leadership Style Is This?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bv16yctXaFM&feature=youtu.be

Case study [Team 3]  Due: Thursday, Sept 19 at 11:00pm

Discussion 2:  Due: Thursday, Sept 19 at 11:00pm

Choose ONE from the following two questions to answer.

2.1 Do you follow any CEOs on social media? If so, why? Comment on one CEO’s social media presence and communications that you follow.

2.2 What is your supervisor’s leadership communication style? Please give specific examples in your answer. (Note. You may refer to your supervisor for your internship or part-time positions if you don’t have a full-time job.)

Additional Recommended Resources:
Watch Video: “Tim Cook Reveals a Personal Message”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHTaEf8zRvQ

Module 5  Reaching Your Internal Stakeholders: Communication Channels

[Various traditional and new media channels for internal communication are introduced.]

Lectures:
M5.1: Traditional media channels
M5.2: New media and selecting appropriate channels

Readings:
M & B: Chapter 5

Exercise 2 [Group]  Due: Thursday, Sept 26 at 11:00pm
Case analysis: Think Yes: How an intranet changed customer service

Case study [Team 4]  Due: Thursday, Sept 26 at 11:00pm

Module 6  The Organization’s Internal Use of Social Media
[Opportunities and challenges internal social media tools bring for organizations are discussed. Focus is on how to capitalize on the advantages of internal social media and mitigate its risks.]

Lectures:
M6.1: Internal social media: Opportunities
M6.2: Internal social media: Challenges
M6.3: Best practices in using social media to engage employees

Readings:

Exercise 3 [Group] Due: Thursday, October 3 at 11:00pm
Case analysis: Barclays trains “digital eagles” to help train coworkers and customers

Case study [Team 5] Due: Thursday, October 3 at 11:00pm

Discussion 3: Due: Thursday, October 3 at 11:00pm
What suggestions do you have for companies to encourage their employees to use internal social media and to share corporate content to their personal social networking sites?

Module 7 Organizational Structure, Culture, and Communication Climate
[Discussion is focused on how organizational factors including organizational structure, culture, and climate influences internal communication effectiveness.]

Lectures:
M7.1: Contextual factors for excellence in public relations
M7.2: Organizational culture

Readings/resources:
M & B: Chapter 6
Watch Video: “Company Culture” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6L Ug-sjIVs
Watch Video: “Corporate Culture Inspirational Video”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ip3hCl0BWD8
Watch Video: “Walt Disney Company Culture”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEkksmYMv&3s

Assignment 3:
Communication manager interview  Due: Thursday, October 17 at 11:00pm

Exercise 4 [Group]  Due: Thursday, October 17 at 11:00pm
Case analysis: IBM cognitive build

Case study [Team 6]  Due: Thursday, October 17 at 11:00pm

Additional Recommended Resources:
Watch Video: “Corporate Culture Apple Example”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6d9xcvvyI

Module 8  Employee Engagement

[How employee engagement is defined, why it is important, and how to boost employee engagement through strategic internal communication are discussed.]

Lectures:
M8.1: What is employee engagement?
M8.2: Why does employee engagement matter?
M8.3: What drives employee engagement?

Readings:
M & B: Chapter 7
Watch Video: “Why Employee Engagement Matters”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSfDROxCuX1
Watch Video: “How to Boost Employee Engagement?”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RckBKSMMbQ

Exercise 5 [Group]  Due: Thursday, October 24 at 11:00pm
Case analysis: Engaging employees in CSR activities

Case study [Team 7]  Due: Thursday, October 24 at 11:00pm

Additional Recommended Resources:
“10 Ways to Create a Corporate Culture for Employee Engagement.”
http://www.instituteforpr.org/10-ways-create-corporate-culture-employee-engagement/

Module 9  Change Management and Internal Communication
The roles of strategic internal communication for successful change initiatives are discussed. A roadmap for strategic change communication and management is provided.

**Lectures:**
M9.1: The role of communication in strategic change management
M9.2: The process of strategic change communication

**Readings:**
M & B: Chapter 8


Watch Video: “Overcoming Resistance to Change: Isn’t It Obvious?” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcz1aZ60k7w

**Exercise 6 [Group] Due: Thursday, October 31 at 11:00pm**
Case analysis: The one Toyota initiative

**Case study [Team 8] Due: Thursday, October 31 at 11:00pm**

**Discussion 4:**

Choose ONE from the following two questions to answer.

4.1 Why do people fear change? You may relate to your personal experience to answer this question.
4.2 Beyond what is covered in the textbook and the lectures from last week on employee engagement, what are some of the other creative ways to engage employees?

**Module 10 Measuring the Value of Internal Communication**

[What should be measured from the output, outtake, and outcome perspectives in internal communication and how to measure these results are discussed.]

**Lectures:**
M10.1: What should be measured?
M10.2: How to measure internal communication?

**Readings:**
M & B: Chapter 9

**Exercise 7 [Group] Due: Thursday, November 7 at 11:00pm**
Case analysis: Food Lion feeds
Case study [Team 9]  Due: Thursday, November 7 at 11:00pm

Exam  DATE/TIME: 11/14/2019

Final Project  Internal Communication Plan Book and Presentation  Due: Thursday, December 5 by 11:00pm

APPENDIX A: INSTRUCTIONS ON ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment #1: Video Introduction  DUE: August 29
For this assessment you will shoot a one-minute introductory video of yourself on your smartphone or webcam. Tell us who you are, where you are from, your major, and recent experiences (e.g., work, internship, classes) related to this class. Then, share with us some element of popular culture you happen to be into at the moment (e.g., a book, a film, a website, a magazine, a piece of music, whatever) to help the class know you better!(If you’re shooting this on your phone, shoot it horizontally, NOT vertically.)

Post this video to your YouTube account. The video MUST be set to PUBLIC, or we cannot view it. Submit the link to your YouTube video in Canvas.

Assignment #2: Reaction Essay  DUE: September 12
Please choose one of the assigned journal article readings this week and write a two-page (double spaced) reaction essay on the reading. Please share your take-aways from the reading, how it is related to your work or life experiences, or any other insights you have on the topic of executive leadership communication. Please cite properly in your writing.

Assignment #3: Interview of a Communication Manager  DUE: October 17
For this assignment, you will identify an internal communication manager with at least five years of work experience in the area. Contact the internal communication manager to schedule an in-depth interview (via skype, phone, or face-to-face) on how communications can help build an effective culture for the organization. The interview duration should last 20-30 minutes. Summarize and discuss your findings in a two-page field research report. Be sure to include a brief description of your interviewee’s background. Please also attach your interview guide (i.e., list of interview questions) in your submission.

ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Resource Site  DUE: Thursday, Sept 5 at 11:00pm
Browse the library’s electronic resources related to the topic of internal communication and employee engagement. You may also search outside of the library’s databases. Identify a resource site (e.g., a journal, magazine, a thought leader’s blog, or an organization’s website) that provide insights into topics of internal communication, which can deepen your learning and expand the scope and perspective of this class. Introduce the site, provide a 300-400 word rationale why you recommend this resource site, and links to the site (or instructions on how to get to the site).

Activity #2: Role Play  DUE: Thursday, Sept 12 at 11:00pm
You are the CEO of a boutique public relations firm located in Gainesville. This morning, one of your recently hired intern, Jessica (or John) Smith, came to your office complaining that there was a lack of mentorship in her/his job and she/he had trouble following up with other team members.

- Assuming you are an assertive CEO, what would you say?
- Assuming you are a responsive CEO, what would you say?

Find someone who could act as Jessica (or John) Smith and you will play the role of the CEO of this boutique PR firm. Record the scenes and the conversations (with you acting as an assertive CEO and a responsive CEO, respectively) and submit your video via Canvas.

DISCUSSIONS:

Participation in discussions is an important element of this course. The discussion board will give you an opportunity to consider aspects of topics that may be subject to interpretation. Each student is required to answer four discussion questions (20% for each) and comment on other classmates’ posts (20%). Each discussion post will be graded separately, but students will receive an overall commenting grade toward the end of the semester based upon your overall participation in the class discussions, i.e., quantity and quality of your comments on others’ posts.

As for your discussion post, typically, there will be no "right" or "wrong" answer. A high-quality post, is one in which the author makes a good case to support an opinion. It involves analyzing relevant issues, building on others’ ideas, synthesizing across readings and discussions, and expanding the class’ perspective. Posts should also be clear, concise, original, and thoughtful, with proper English grammar, syntax, and spelling. The expected length for a high quality post is about 150-200 words.

Below is a sample of a high-quality post:

“I think social media is critical for engaging employees. Today’s workplace is becoming more technology savvy especially with the first generation of employees who have grown up in the digital era entering the workplace. According to a 2013 Towers Watson Change and Communication ROI Survey, 56% of the employers surveyed use social media tools as part of their internal communication initiatives to build community. I think social media can be effective in driving employee engagement because it is two-way, interactive, and communal by nature. These features can help build employee connections, internal relationships, and foster collaboration and mutual understanding. Also, internal social media provides managers and leaders a convenient venue to listen to employees, gather employee feedback, and address employees’ concerns in a timely manner. Keeping the dialogues going can help create a sense of belonging and attachment to the organization among the employees.”

CASE STUDY:

For the case study, each team of two randomly assigned students will browse case databases such as PRSA Silver Anvil Award cases (http://www.prsa.org/Awards/SilverAnvil/Search; You may use account no.: 1730276, password: zhedacici84 to login to access old cases) or case books to select a successful internal/employee communication campaign case, analyze the case, and present the case to the class. Deliverables include a PowerPoint which summarizes your analyses and a recorded video presentation.
Case Study Guidelines

Background/Situation Analysis:
   a. Describe the situation that called for the internal communication program
   b. What’s the employee communication issue/problem?

- Research:
   a. Describe any research that communication manager conducted to gain insight into the problem/opportunity/audience. Which methods did planners use? What were the key research findings?

- Target Audience:
   a. Outline the target audiences for the communication program.
   b. How were the employee audiences segmented (e.g., demographically, psychographically, geographically, by department, or levels of position, etc.)?

- Goals/objectives:
   a. What were the goals/objectives for the internal communication program?
   b. Were the objectives measurable? In other words, did planners quantify each objective (e.g., increase recycling program participation among employees by 40%...)? How could the objectives be re-written to make them more effective?

- Key messages:
   a. List the major messages the planners wished to communicate to internal audiences in the program?
   b. What did planners want the employees to know, remember, think about, or do?

- Strategy: Identify the strategy or strategies for the internal communication program. What are the overall concepts, approaches, or general plans to achieve the goal(s) and objectives?

- Tactics/Channels:
   a. Describe how were the messages communicated to employees in the organization. Be specific. Through one-way or two-way, interpersonal or mediated, traditional or new media channels?
   b. Was there any special event involved?
**Evaluation:** Discuss how the program effectiveness was evaluated, and whether it achieved its stated objectives. What were the results of the internal communication program?

**Opinion:** On this last slide, comment on the strengths or weaknesses of the program. What was or was not done well? Why?

*Use your own words.* Do NOT “lift” entire sentences and paragraphs from the case study and place them in your presentation. This is plagiarism and you will receive a zero for the assignment.

**INTERNAL COMMUNICATION PLAN FINAL PROJECT:**

**DUE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 BY 11PM**

For the internal communication plan project, each randomly assigned team with six or seven students will collectively identify an organization that they are interested in. It could be an organization that the members work for, or an organization they are interested to work for in future. Conduct background research of the organization to identify its internal communication issues, problems, or opportunities as well as to better understand its audiences. Develop an internal communication plan which entails reasonable goals and objectives, the message platform, strategies, tactics/channels to achieve the goals/objectives, and an evaluation plan. See detailed guidelines for each section below.

The final communication plan book should include all the components as specified in the guidelines. Please be as specific as possible when addressing the questions. The communication plan should include enough details and specifics that the internal communication team of the organization could directly implement the plan if they choose to. In addition to the professional-level communication plan book (i.e., report format), a recorded video presentation of the plan including the PPT should be submitted. *Note:* Not all the team members are required to orally present the plan. In other words, your team may elect one or more members to perform the presenting role. It is at your team’s discretion.

Please keep in mind that the communication plan project grade is comprised of a Team Grade (75%) and an Individual Grade (25%). Individual Grade will be based on peer evaluations. Team Grade will be based on the quality of the communication plan book (75%) as well as the final oral presentation (25%).

**Internal Communication Plan Project Guidelines**

- **Executive Summary**
  This is a one page summary that includes the highlights of your internal communication plan book.

- **Table of Content**

- **Background**
  a. Brief introduction of the organization including its history, structure, culture, etc.
- **Situational Analysis**
  a. Describe the situation that calls for the internal communication plan, including the SWOT analysis of the organization.
  b. Assessment of the current internal communication efforts (e.g., strategies, tactics, and channels)
  c. What are the internal communication issues/problems?

- **Audience Analysis**
  a. Who are the target audience for the internal communication program?
  b. How are the audience segmented (e.g., demographically, psychographically, geographically, by position, etc.)?

- **Goals/objectives:**
  a. What are the goals and objectives for the internal communication program?
  b. What are the expected outputs, outtakes, and outcomes?
  c. Be sure to follow the SMART guidelines in writing the goal/objective statements.

- **Message Platform/Key Messages:**
  a. Are there any key messages that you want to communicate to the internal audience?
  b. What do you want the employees to know, remember, think about, or do?

- **Strategy:** Identify the strategy or strategies for the internal communication plan. What are the overall concepts, approaches, or general plans to achieve the goal(s) and objectives?

- **Tactics/Channels:**
  a. Describe how the messages will be communicated to the internal audience. Be specific.
  b. Will you rely on owned, paid, earned, or shared media? Interpersonal channels? How?
  c. Any special events?
  d. Include a minimum of 10 tactics and at least three prototypes for the tactics.

- **Evaluation:** Discuss how the internal communication efforts and goals and objectives will be evaluated. Specify clearly what will be measured and what methods will be used to measure it.
APPENDIX B: GRADING RUBRICS

# GRADING RUBRIC FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
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<th>Completion</th>
<th>Superior 100</th>
<th>Excellent 90</th>
<th>Good 80</th>
<th>Fair 70</th>
<th>Poor 0</th>
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<tr>
<td>All required components incorporated into submission</td>
<td>Only one component not incorporated</td>
<td>Two or more components not incorporated</td>
<td>Up to half of the required components not incorporated</td>
<td>More than half of the required components not incorporated</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thoroughness</th>
<th>Each topic is treated very thoroughly</th>
<th>Each topic is treated somewhat thoroughly</th>
<th>Only some topics are treated somewhat thoroughly</th>
<th>Some topics are treated weakly</th>
<th>Each topic is treated only weakly</th>
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<tr>
<th>Relatedness</th>
<th>Very clear that lectures and readings were understood and incorporated well</th>
<th>Clear that lectures and readings were understood and incorporated well</th>
<th>Somewhat unclear that lectures and readings were understood</th>
<th>Submission has questionable relationship to lectures and reading materials</th>
<th>No evidence that lectures and readings were understood or incorporated</th>
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<tr>
<th>Accuracy and/or quality of ideas</th>
<th>Contains well-developed original ideas and/or precisely-worded, accurate information</th>
<th>Contains original ideas and/or accurate information</th>
<th>Contains at least some original ideas and/or some accurate information</th>
<th>Contains few original ideas or some accurate information</th>
<th>Contains only unoriginal ideas and/or inaccurate information</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface features (e.g., formatting, correct spelling, grammar, complete sentences, and appropriate citation of sources)</th>
<th>Controls very well for surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</th>
<th>Controls well for surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</th>
<th>Somewhat lax in control of surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</th>
<th>Very lax in control of surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</th>
<th>Lacks acceptable control of surface features (i.e., numerous distracting flaws in formatting, spelling, grammar, etc.)</th>
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</thead>
</table>
# GRADING RUBRIC FOR CASE STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Superior 100</th>
<th>Excellent 90</th>
<th>Good 80</th>
<th>Fair 70</th>
<th>Poor 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>All required components incorporated into submission</td>
<td>Only one component not incorporated</td>
<td>Two or more components not incorporated</td>
<td>Up to half of the required components not incorporated</td>
<td>More than half of the required components not incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoroughness</td>
<td>Each topic is treated very thoroughly</td>
<td>Each topic is treated somewhat thoroughly</td>
<td>Only some topics are treated somewhat thoroughly</td>
<td>Some topics are treated somewhat weakly</td>
<td>Each topic is treated only weakly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings (Application of case materials)</td>
<td>Very clear that readings were understood and incorporated well</td>
<td>Clear that readings were understood and incorporated well</td>
<td>Somewhat unclear that readings were understood</td>
<td>Submission has questionable relationship to reading material</td>
<td>No evidence that readings were incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accuracy and/or quality of ideas</td>
<td>Contains well-developed original ideas and/or precisely-worded, accurate information</td>
<td>Contains original ideas and/or accurate information</td>
<td>Contains at least some original ideas and/or some accurate information</td>
<td>Contains few original ideas or some inaccurate information</td>
<td>Contains only unoriginal ideas and/or inaccurate information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface features</td>
<td>Controls very well for surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</td>
<td>Controls well in control of surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</td>
<td>Somewhat lax in control of surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</td>
<td>Very lax in control of surface features (i.e., formatting, spelling, grammar, typographical errors, etc.)</td>
<td>Lacks acceptable control of surface features (i.e., numerous distracting flaws in formatting, spelling, grammar, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# GRADING RUBRIC FOR THE COMMUNICATION PLAN BOOK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Excellent &gt;90</th>
<th>Proficient 80-89</th>
<th>Basic 70-79</th>
<th>Inadequate &lt;70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format /Mechanics</strong></td>
<td>• Typed&lt;br&gt;• Cover page, references &amp; page numbers&lt;br&gt;• Well-constructed sentences&lt;br&gt;• No grammar or typing/spelling errors&lt;br&gt;• Outstanding design/layout/neatness</td>
<td>• Typed&lt;br&gt;• Cover page, most references included &amp; page numbers&lt;br&gt;• Mostly well-constructed sentences&lt;br&gt;• Relatively free of grammar and spelling/typing errors&lt;br&gt;• Good design/layout/neatness</td>
<td>• Typed&lt;br&gt;• No cover page, references or page numbers&lt;br&gt;• Some poorly constructed sentences&lt;br&gt;• Some grammar and spelling/typing errors&lt;br&gt;• Poor Design/layout/neatness</td>
<td>• Format errors or handwritten&lt;br&gt;• No cover page, references or page numbers&lt;br&gt;• Numerous poorly constructed sentences&lt;br&gt;• Multiple grammar and spelling/typing errors&lt;br&gt;• Poor design/layout/neatness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure/Organization</strong></td>
<td>• Well-organized&lt;br&gt;• Clear background, planning, and recommendations&lt;br&gt;• Ideas are developed in a logical way&lt;br&gt;• Relevant and concisely written</td>
<td>• Well-organized&lt;br&gt;• Clear background, planning, and recommendations&lt;br&gt;• Ideas are developed&lt;br&gt;• Some irrelevant or redundant information</td>
<td>• Some problems with organization&lt;br&gt;• Weak background, planning, and recommendations&lt;br&gt;• Ideas are somewhat developed&lt;br&gt;• Lacks precision</td>
<td>• Problems with organization&lt;br&gt;• Insufficient background, planning, and/or recommendations&lt;br&gt;• Ideas are undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td>• Sound and appropriate research methods&lt;br&gt;• Sufficient primary and secondary information related to the issue&lt;br&gt;• Every recommendation is supported by research</td>
<td>• Sound and appropriate research methods&lt;br&gt;• Sufficient primary and secondary information related to the issue&lt;br&gt;• Most recommendations are supported by research</td>
<td>• Some problems with research methodology&lt;br&gt;• Some primary and secondary information related to the issue&lt;br&gt;• Some recommendations are supported by research</td>
<td>• Problems with research methodology&lt;br&gt;• Insufficient primary and secondary information related to the issue&lt;br&gt;• Recommendations have little research support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application</strong></td>
<td>• Evidence of reflection on and incorporation of concepts, models, tactics, and tools from class discussions/texts</td>
<td>• Evidence of concepts, models, tactics, and tools from class discussion/texts</td>
<td>• Minimal evidence of concepts, models, tactics, and tools from class discussion/texts</td>
<td>• No attempt to apply concepts, models, tactics, or tools from readings or class discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creativity</strong></td>
<td>• A unique or creative approach is used&lt;br&gt;• Ideas are original, interesting, and engaging</td>
<td>• A unique or creative approach is used&lt;br&gt;• Ideas are original and interesting</td>
<td>• Lack of uniqueness and creativity&lt;br&gt;• Some ideas are original</td>
<td>• No evidence of uniqueness or creativity&lt;br&gt;• No original ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Completeness/Accuracy</strong></td>
<td>• Content beyond what was required&lt;br&gt;• Specific information and examples used to support points</td>
<td>• Did all that was required&lt;br&gt;• Accurately presented facts and concepts</td>
<td>• Did most of what was required&lt;br&gt;• Accurately presented most facts and concepts</td>
<td>• Did not fulfill requirements&lt;br&gt;• Understanding of facts or concepts inconsistent or inaccurate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**GRADING RUBRIC FOR EXERCISES & ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Satisfactory 100</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
<td>• Fully followed instructions for exercises/activities</td>
<td>• Failed to fully follow instructions for exercises/activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Specific information and examples used to support points</td>
<td>• No specific information and examples used to support points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity</td>
<td>• Questions are answered clearly and thoroughly.</td>
<td>• Questions are not answered clearly and thoroughly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clear points are made.</td>
<td>• Points are not made clearly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>• Evidence of sound and appropriate research</td>
<td>• No or minimal evidence of sound and appropriate research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Recommendation are supported by research.</td>
<td>• Recommendation are not supported by research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>• Show application of concepts, models, tactics, or tools learnt from class</td>
<td>• No application of concepts, models, tactics, or tools learnt from class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Answers show relevance to course topics.</td>
<td>• Answers show no or little relevance to course topics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>• Ideas are original.</td>
<td>• No evidence of uniqueness or originality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ideas are interesting and engaging.</td>
<td>• No creativity demonstrated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# GRADING RUBRIC FOR DISCUSSIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Good  &gt;90</th>
<th>Basic 70-89</th>
<th>Inadequate &lt;70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completeness/Thoroughness</td>
<td>• Specific information and examples used to support points</td>
<td>• Some specific information and examples used to support points</td>
<td>• No specific information and examples used to support points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 150-200 words</td>
<td>• 100-150 words</td>
<td>• Below 100 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity</td>
<td>• Questions are answered clearly and thoroughly.</td>
<td>• Questions are answered mostly clearly and thoroughly.</td>
<td>• Questions are not answered clearly and thoroughly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Clear points are made.</td>
<td>• Some clear points are made.</td>
<td>• Points are not made clearly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Writing is concise.</td>
<td>• Writing is overall concise</td>
<td>• Writing is redundant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanics</td>
<td>• Correct spelling and grammar</td>
<td>• Post contains one or two spelling/grammar errors</td>
<td>• Post contains many spelling/grammar errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Complete sentences</td>
<td>• Some incomplete sentences</td>
<td>• Incomplete sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Give credit to others’ ideas by using appropriate citations and references</td>
<td>• Give credit to others’ ideas by using mostly appropriate citations and references</td>
<td>• Fail to appropriately credit others’ ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>• Show application of concepts, models, tactics, or tools learnt from class</td>
<td>• Show application of at least one concept, model, tactic, or tool learnt from class</td>
<td>• No application of concepts, models, tactics, or tools learnt from class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Synthesizing across readings and discussions</td>
<td>• Some synthesis of readings and discussions</td>
<td>• No or little synthesis of readings and discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Show relevance to course topics</td>
<td>• Show some relevance to course topics</td>
<td>• Show no or little relevance to course topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>• Ideas are original.</td>
<td>• Ideas are mostly original.</td>
<td>• No evidence of uniqueness or originality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ideas are interesting and engaging.</td>
<td>• Ideas are mostly interesting and engaging.</td>
<td>• No creativity demonstrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Posts are thoughtful, expanding the class perspectives.</td>
<td>• Posts are mostly thoughtful, expanding the class perspectives.</td>
<td>• Posts are not thoughtful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>class perspectives.</td>
<td>without expanding the class perspectives.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>