

The College of Journalism and Communications

Department of Advertising

ADV4800
ADVERTISING
CAMPAIGNS
Course
Syllabus

*Spring 2021
Dr. W. John Starr
Instructor
Sections 1207, 127B,
3416, 3417*



NOTICE

Students requesting special classroom accommodation(s) must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting the accommodation(s).

ABOUT ADV4800 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

ADV4800 is the capstone course of the Advertising Program at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications; it is about strategic advertising planning; it is the culmination of what is taught in the research, strategies, copy and design, media planning, promotion and public relations courses taken prior to ADV4800.

Theoretically, this course is intended to assist students in acquiring the intellectual skills needed in developing well-planned and effective advertising strategies, but in practice, this course is designed to focus on application. Competing teams of five-to-seven students prepare advertising campaign plans for a client that is selected by the instructor.

Client selection is discussed in another section; the product or service may be real or fictitious (case studies). Real-world clients seem to give students more realistic, challenging and rewarding experiences, but there are benefits with case-studies also.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR

	W. John Starr, Ph.D.	OFFICE HOURS
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	Email: wjstarr@ufl.edu	For special arrangements, Or for a time certain contact by email

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to provide students with hands-on opportunity to develop an advertising campaign plan for a client. The learning objectives of the course are:

- To further develop the skills used in creating advertising and marketing communications, focusing on research, strategies, copy and design, media selection, sales promotion, and public relations.
- To allow students to apply the terminology, techniques and procedures used in the business of marketing communications and advertising.
- To provide students with an actual advertising problem, and to guide them through the development of a campaign plan and proposal “client pitch” presentation.

PRE-REQUISITES

Class Standing/Level: Senior - If you are not a senior, please inform the instructor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

The course has been designed to provide the students with concepts and experiences needed to meet the previously stated objectives and to measure the amount of success toward reaching the objectives. To successfully pass the ADV4800 course, you must complete all the individual and team tasks listed by the dates on the schedule. Refer to the *GRADING POLICY* section to see what the weighted percentages are for the tasks:

Individual Tasks

- Attend all class and team meetings, and be on time (like a real professional job)
- Read the suggested supplemental material
- Submit the *Campaign Plan Book-Property Acknowledgment Form*
- Submit all the *Weekly Call-Reports* (usually 5 to 7 total)
- Submit scheduled assignments
- Complete the *Final Presentations Attendance Requirement*
- Submit the *Peer-Group Evaluation Form*

Team Tasks

- Submit the *Team Information Sheet*
- Complete the *Previous Campaign Book Evaluation Assignment*.
- Complete each plan section task and submit a written draft for each section
- Complete your final *Campaign Book Rough-Draft Submission*
- Submit two identical hardcopies of the plan book plus 2 thumb drives containing all the work/computer files created for the client (e.g., book layout, creative executions, research files, final presentation, etc.)
- Complete a **dress**-rehearsal of the proposed formal presentation for the instructor
- Complete a formal presentation for the client, instructor, and audience

All forms, guides, assignments, schedule, and the syllabus can be found on, and downloaded from, the ADV4800 Canvas e-Learning homepage. Visit <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> and log in.

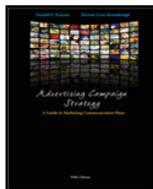
TEXT(S)

Several helpful outlines and a guide will be available to you on Canvas. You will also probably find notes and materials from your previous advertising classes helpful.

Two very good reference texts for this course are *Advertising Campaign Strategy* (Parente & Strausbaugh-Hutchinson), 5/e and *How to Get Ideas* (Jack Foster).

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CLASS ORGANIZATION

The client's advertising campaign plans are developed using an agency-team approach. Students are divided into several competing teams, with four-to-eight persons per team, depending on the client and class size. The instructor may assemble the teams if necessary. No perfect-selection system has been discovered; but the best method, based on experience, seems to be the student-selects approach to team building. **However, due to the COVID situation, teams have been assigned by instructor.**

It is suggested you choose colleagues who would like to earn a similar grade in the course. This will assist in matching yourself with those having similar ambitions. Moreover, team members should be chosen by matching complimentary (not similar) skills and interest. Best results occur when students are matched with others who have interest and experience, both classroom and practical, in each of the following areas:

- Account Planning (Campaign Strategy)
- Media Planning (Media Strategy and Recommended Implementation)
- Creative Strategy/Copy writing
- Creative Strategy/Art Direction
- Advertising Research
- Sales Promotion, Public Relations, Interactive Media
- Management/Marketing/ This is the Account Executive

One (or two) team members should be responsible for each of the above areas; however, all members on the team should be involved in the preparation of each area at least to some degree. The person responsible for the section should direct the development of the material, edit or re-write a good proportion of the section and be responsible for at least one section of the presentation.

To have time to become acquainted with each other as co-workers on an extensive project, teams have already been selected. The instructor will keep a record of each person on each team and their local contact information. This will assist in disseminating information to teams when there is a short-notice situation.

When the scheduled class lectures in the course have been completed, each team will meet with the instructor once per week during regular class time. The team meetings serve to involve the instructor in the development of the campaign plans. The instructor will be an integral part of the team and serves as the agency director. It is appropriate for the instructor to offer suggestions, correct errors of fact or grammar, assist in developing strategies for solving any problems that are presented, or check the teams' progress on a task or exercise. An assistant agency director may be employed by the instructor; these assistant directors will help coordinate team efforts and report to the director.

You will be informed up front whether your client is real or a case study. Experience has shown that actual clients seem to give students more realistic, challenging and rewarding experiences, although, it can become troublesome at times for the instructor to manage the situation effectively. Work from real clients requires more time to secure, and it requires more effort to effectively deal with a client that has a real advertising problem compared to a case study that has been created for simulation. Whenever a real client is used in this class, the following protocol is used to match the client to the student teams; it is helpful for determining what the expectations and limits of the project will be:

- 1) The client is matched to the school and class by contacting those business or other organizations that appear to be large enough to provide a sizable marketing and advertising communications problem and small enough so as not to overpower the course.
- 2) An assignment that is large enough to allow the teams real choices in the selection of media and perhaps even in geographic segmentation. Our preferred "lowest possible budget" that we are willing to work with is \$50,000 in proposed media expenditures; we have worked with \$30,000+ budgets. We would much prefer significantly larger possibilities. From a geographical standpoint, a regional account is better than a national one. This is because more attention must be paid to individual cities and media scheduling possibilities. Some recent clients contracting with the Advertising Department have given us advertising budgets ranging from \$100,000 to \$800,000 per year to work with.
- 3) A fee is paid to the school by the client for the assignment. This is helpful to defray some of the costs for conducting the course and other school expenses. Some of the fee will be awarded to the students at the end of the campaign to help cover some of the costs. Student teams are awarded varying amounts depending on how the client evaluates their plans book and final presentation. The fee is used to help pay student expenses and it is an added incentive to spur students to do the best possible work...**it is a COMPETITION!**
- 4) The client will visit the class sometime during the first three weeks of the semester (or as soon as possible) to present the official assignment to the class and to answer questions. During this visit, each student team should be prepared to ask questions about the product or service to be advertised. The client should provide the class with information about the product or service before the meeting; however, students will need to prepare themselves by conducting additional secondary research.
- 5) The client should be available to answer questions throughout the term. Teams should be required either to select one member to initiate all team/client contact or all questions should be presented to the instructor who will make the contact. Regardless of the method that is chosen, contact should be limited to once or twice a week to minimize interruption of the client's normal business activity.
- 6) In some cases, visits to the client's business may be helpful. If teams would benefit from seeing the manufacturing process, the service, or any aspect of the business assigned, then the instructor may arrange a group trip. Some products or services cannot be portrayed clearly without some observation by those preparing the advertisements. Amusement parks or housing developments are good examples of the need for on-site visits.

7) The client should be prepared for at least one more visit to the class. Although it may be helpful for the client to return midway through the course to evaluate progress or answer questions, it is essential that the client return at the end of the course to view the students' final presentations. Although each team will present the client with an advertising plans book, the campaign cannot be clearly understood by the client without a verbal-and-visual presentation. This also gives the client an opportunity to ask questions and to question rationale.

THE CAMPAIGN PLAN BOOK

Much time and effort are needed to prepare a well thought-out and doable campaign. Each team must prepare a campaign plan book; it will become your team's permanent record of the analysis and proposed solution(s) for the assigned advertising problem.

There is a minimum 100-page prescribed length for a campaign book; recent books produced for this course at the University of Florida have ranged between 100 and 150 pages in length. Once the course is established, hard copies (and perhaps digital copies) of previous campaigns books will be available for study. The instructor will monitor the way these books are handled and used. Previous books must be treated with extreme care and respect and must not be abused; you cannot copy directly from them.

Every campaign plan has its strengths and weaknesses. One of the team-task class assignments is to evaluate a previous campaign plan book. It is an exercise to help you determine the good and bad points of a preceding campaign, which should help you when you write your campaign book. Some of the previous books may still contain critique sheets. If you run across one, use it to guide you through the strengths and weaknesses of the book. The plan books your team submits may be used for study in future classes.

Each team is required to **deliver two complete and identical copies of the plan book** when they become due.

A guide to a typical advertising campaign book outline and other guides and related information packets and can be found on, and downloaded from, the ADV4800 Canvas e-Learning homepage. Visit <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

and log in. It should be pointed out that your final plan book outline may somewhat vary from the provided guide depending on the case and/or need(s) of the client.

Teams and team members should bring any questions to the weekly team meetings or contact the instructor directly if you cannot wait until then. Team members should help each other improve by continually reviewing and critiquing each other's work.

Your Expenses and Reimbursement (subject to final approval by a client)

In return for the completed plan books, the client will provide base-expense money to offset expenses you will incur to produce the books.

The second plan book becomes the property of the instructor and serves as a record of the team's work. The best book(s) will be used as teaching aids for future campaigns classes. Absolute due dates will be assigned to tasks. **The plan books must be submitted on time.** Completing a project on time is an essential component of advertising planning. In this course, it will be approximately two weeks before the date of the final presentation; this allows the client and instructor adequate time to review all the plans prior to the final presentations. Refer to the schedule for all due dates, task events and lecture topics.

THE PRESENTATION

Each team will make one dress-rehearsal presentation to the instructor and one formal presentation — of the essential elements, particularly their recommendations — to the client, instructor, and any other audience in attendance that day. Presentations are scheduled as close to the end of the course semester as possible to allow the maximum time to prepare. Each team member needs to participate in the presentation, although, it is not essential that equal time be allocated to each member.

“The idea of the presentation, or more apropos, the sales pitch, is to sell the client on the thoroughness of your research and the strength of your proposed campaign plan.”

Immediately following the client presentation, a question and answer (Q&A) session and critique (or discussion) will be held in an adjoining meeting room. These sessions typically last from 10 to 30 minutes. The Q&A is for the benefit of the client to clarify any ambiguities and to discuss rationale. The critique (or discussion) is held for the benefit of the students and should be handled appropriately and maturely. Students will often learn more if a client is candid and supportive.

Members should view their team's individual presentation as an opportunity to present their proposal in a favorable light. This is a time to convince the client that they have the best communication solution to their marketing problem. The approach should include a significant amount of rationale to help persuade the client to select your team's proposal. The formal presentation is an excellent opportunity for a team to present its ideas to a captive group of interested, knowledgeable persons who make their livelihood by working for the client's organization.

Because of the importance of presentations in this course and the business world in general, **All ADV4800 students must attend at least one other team's presentation.** There will be a roster sheet you must sign to receive the attendance credit.

HANDOUTS

There will be a several handouts — forms, guides, assignment packs, etc. — in this course. They can all be found on, and downloaded from, the ADV4800 Canvas e-Learning homepage. Visit <https://elearning.ufl.edu/> and log in.

However, there may be new information throughout the semester, particularly in the last few weeks. This process is like the many directives that emanate from company management and is an important part of the information flow in this course and the advertising world. You should read all handouts thoroughly and complete all forms and assignments promptly; they are vital to your success in this course.

The course handouts are available on the course website and are listed on the next page.

HANDOUTS LIST (all documents are available on the course website)

SCHEDULE & SYLLABUS

- ADV4800 Schedule*
- ADV4800 Syllabus*

CLASS-RELATED PACK

- Campaign Book Rough-Draft Submission Guidelines*
- Final Presentations Attendance Requirement*
- Peer-Group Evaluation Form*
- Previous Campaign Book Evaluation Assignment*
- Student (You) Fact Sheet*
- Team Information Sheet*
- Weekly Call-Reports Guide*

CLIENT-RELATED PACK

- Campaign Plan Book Outline*
- Campaign Plan Book-Property Acknowledgment Form*
- Guide on Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Tactics*
- Plan Books Recapitulation Report*

GRADING POLICY

Although the client may determine which team(s) did the best job of solving their advertising problem, the instructor will assign the final course grades. The instructor may consider the client's judgments; however, the grades should be assigned independently of these findings. Below is the typical ADV4800 course grading policy. Please note that it is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

EFFORT	TASK	WEIGHT	BASED ON
TEAM 25%	Previous Campaign Book Evaluation Assignment	5%	Quality of information and presentation by your team
	Section/rough draft	10%	Performance and timeliness
	Final Presentation	10%	Client and instructor evaluation of team's performance
TEAM & INDIVIDUAL 35%	Final Campaign Plan Book	15%	Team's overall quality of the plan book
		10%	Your individual assigned portion of the book
		10%	Overall individual contributions to the book and work
INDIVIDUAL 40%	Weekly Call Reports	10%	Based on quality and quantity
	Instructor Evaluation	10%	Classroom/assignments Performance , & your timeliness
	Peer-Group Evaluations	20%	Your own evaluation and those received from your team
TOTAL		100%	

Minus grades will not be used. A "C" grade or better is required to pass the course.

GRADING SCALE					
A	92-100	B	82-86	D+	67-71
A-	90 -91.9	C+	77-81.9	D	60-66
B+	87 -89.9	C	72-76.9	E	0-60

Attendance is noted; one-half of a letter grade will be deducted for missing a team meeting or a class lecture (e.g., an "A" becomes "B+"). Emergencies must be approved by the instructor. Excuses for school related business will be accepted only with prior approval. **One full letter grade will be deducted if the rough draft of the book or the final books is not turned in by the scheduled date** (e.g., an "A" becomes "B").

Assessment

Due to a new UF and state policy all students' competency in the field shall be assessed. Be prepared to take a test over the key components of an advertising plan sometime during the semester. You must complete the test.

POLICY FOR REMOVING A NON-PRODUCTIVE TEAM MEMBER

Due to the current size of the campaigns' classes, and similar policies in other campaigns' classes, a member on any team may be fired or removed from the team either -

by unanimous vote of the team, OR

A vote by the team must occur at least one week before the official university course drop date and be reported in writing to the instructor and the affected student. The affected student must then either -

find another student group to accept him or her, OR

complete the project on their own, OR

remove themselves from the course

This action must be taken by the team no later than February 20, 2021