

PUR 4243 – Industry Perspectives – Fashion PR – SPRING 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

Professor: Christine Bucan
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Office: 1080B Weimer Hall
Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4 pm and by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Class Time: Tuesday, 3:00-3:50 PM
Course Number: PUR4243
Location: Weimer G030

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of Industry Perspectives is to give students insight into a particular industry topic area or focus within public relations. This course focuses on how leading fashion brands utilize public relations, influencer marketing and partnerships to create buzz and gain loyal customers. We will also discuss the role of celebrities, how to mitigate crises and discuss the importance of corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaigns to promote positive brand images.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, students will:

- Understand the landscape of fashion PR and potential career paths
- Understand the importance of events and partnerships, and the role they play in fashion PR
- Learn how to identify and evaluate influencers and celebrities for a fashion brand
- Hone pitching skills
- Understand the basics of how to handle a crisis should one arise

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:

- 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 REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

All readings will be provided on Canvas, no textbook purchase required.

Students will be expected to follow industry news such as PRWeek Daily Breakfast Briefing, PRWeek, PProvoke, IPR Research Letter, and PRNEWS. PRWeek is accessible to UF students through the UF George A. Smathers Libraries online database system. The professor will provide or assign additional reading materials (e.g. media articles or book chapters) over the course of the semester. Generally, assigned reading (book chapters or other articles) in the syllabus should be read in advance of the class for which they are listed. Be prepared for the professor to call on you in that class to discuss the assigned readings.

PREREQUISITES

PUR3000 - Principles of Public Relations with a C or better

COURSE POLICIES

Instructor Interaction:

The best way to reach me is by e-mail. I check my e-mail account regularly, but please do not expect a response by e-mail after normal business hours/over the weekend. If I have not written back within 48 hours, please send your email again. As my email is considered a state public record, I do not discuss grades or any student records issues via e-mail. Please schedule a meeting with me to discuss these issues.

Late or Missed Work:

Deadlines for each assignment will be given and students are expected to meet them. Late assignments will automatically lose a full letter grade for each week it is late (e.g. B to a C). Some consideration, however, might be given (at the discretion of the instructor) if there are extenuating circumstances such as prolonged hospitalization, family death, or extended individual sickness; however, you need to notify me before the deadline is missed, not after the fact.

Attendance:

This course focuses on class participation and group discussion. Your attendance is an important aspect of this course. Excessive absences will harm your grade. You are responsible for notifying me in advance of the cause of your absence and, if it is due to illness, provide a note from your medical provider. For further information on attendance policy, please go [here](#).

Email Policy:

As a state employee, my email is considered a public record, and can be requested via an open-records request. Because of this, you should not email things that you would be uncomfortable with anyone else reading (personal information, information about grades, ect.). In general, face-to-face meetings tend to take less time, and result in less confusion than emailed conversations. While you are welcome to email me, I may indicate that you need an in-person meeting depending on the complexity of the issue. Also, please be aware that email is considered formal communication, and it is important to practice professionalism. Make sure that you do not treat email as text (i.e., don't use text abbreviations) and never email something that you would not say to your boss' face.

University Honesty Policy:

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 honesty 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 [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me.

I will document and report all honor code violations, including cheating and plagiarism. The minimum penalty for a violation of the honor code is a zero on the assignment or exam but may be higher depending on the severity of the violation.

Professionalism:

As PR students I expect you to maintain a high level of professionalism in all of our interactions. This includes being courteous and respectful to all members of the course. Being respectful includes making sure you are not distracting to others via your cell phone or computer usage, talking with others during lecture, or arriving or leaving late – practice your professionalism now!

Students Requiring Accommodations:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

PR DEPARTMENT AI PRINCIPLES

AI Policy

In this course you may be asked to use generative AI for some assignments. AI is commonly used in the profession, so familiarity with generative AI tools is important. However, do not let

your creative thinking and editing skills lapse! When AI is allowed or encouraged in assignments, you will need to document how AI was used. This could include providing your prompts, showing the editing that you did to the created content, or using appropriate citation of information obtained via generative AI. If you are using AI when not explicitly allowed, that is considered a violation of the honor code as you are presenting content as your own that was not fully created by you. There are various AI detection tools available (built within Canvas and externally such as ZeroGPT), and many AI platforms follow very formulaic response patterns. If I am concerned that your work is not your own, I will try to verify the originality of your work. If unable to do so, I may ask you to resubmit the assignment detailing how you arrived at your submission. Some other considerations relating to AI:

- Ultimately, you are here to learn how to be a communications professional, which means you need to learn the basics of writing and creative thinking and be able to execute those skills on your own.
- AI can be useful to help and refine, but ultimately the work needs to be your own.
 - If AI wrote your assignment, that is not your own work
 - It's best as a brainstorming tool
- You need to be transparent when AI is used.
 - Each assignment will state if AI use is allowed or not, and if allowed how documentation needs to take place
- When you use AI, use it creatively.
 - Be thoughtful with your prompts
 - Use multiple prompts
- FACT CHECK
 - Do not trust anything that is created without checking anything it produces

GRADING POLICY

I will be as fair and impartial as is humanly possible in the grading process. Each of you will be graded on the same criteria. Because of this, no extra work or special assignments will be given. Grades are earned; they are not gifts. Grades are awarded on the basis of quality, not the amount of time expended. I will keep grades posted on Canvas - it is your responsibility to check on your progress throughout the semester.

GRADE COMPONENTS

Attendance and Active Participation: 30%

I expect you to attend each class meeting, but we will not have an attendance requirement. Students will be expected to participate in various interactive exercises and to be fully engaged at all times unless cleared in advance. Note that we will have in-class assignments, and if you are not in class to complete them you will receive a zero. Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course follow UF policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Individual Assignments: 40%

Individual assignments will provide an opportunity for you to explore various aspects of Fashion Public Relations. There will be five assignments given throughout the course. Students must complete 4 out of 5 assignments. They can eliminate the assignment of their choice.

Quizzes: 30%

Quizzes will be designed to test the students' understanding of key concepts of fashion PR essentials addressed in the course and/or in supplemental readings, and those discussed in class by the professor and/or guest lecturers.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale for the course is:

A	94.0 – 100%	B	84.0 – 86.99%	C	74.0 – 76.99%	D	64.0 – 66.99%
A-	90.0 – 93.99%	B-	80.0 – 83.99%	C-	70.0 – 73.99%	D-	60.0 – 63.99%
B+	87.0 – 89.99%	C+	77.0 – 79.99%	D+	67.0 – 69.99%	E	below 60%

See the current [UF Grading Policies](#) for more information.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tentative Course Schedule: Please note that guest speakers and assignments will be announced throughout the course and may be subject to change.

Date	Class Topic
Jan 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course overview• How fashion brands use PR to effectively build brand loyalty
Jan 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Fashion Media Landscape• Assigned reading
Jan 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest speaker• Assignment #1 due

Feb 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with celebrities and key influencers • Assigned reading
Feb 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSR • Assignment #2 due + assigned reading
Feb 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #1 • In-house vs Agency (potential career paths)
Feb 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership + Collaborations • Assigned reading
March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker • Assignment #3 due + assigned reading
March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crises and Issues Management
March 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2
March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No class, Spring Break
March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker • Assignment #4 due + assigned reading
April 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fashion shows and product launches • Assigned reading
April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speaker • Assignment #5 due + assigned reading
April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luxury events and sponsorships • Assigned reading
April 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #3

UF POLICIES

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. 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/>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

In-Class Recording

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 Policy on Course Syllabi 3 UF, Academic Affairs, July 28th, 2021 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.