



MMC5007 Introduction to Audiences

Academic Term: Summer 2025

3 Credit Hours

Instructor

Name: Brittani Sahm, Ph.D.

Email Address: bsahm3@ufl.edu

Office Phone Number: All meetings will be held via Zoom using my personal room and/or through the “Zoom Conferences” tab on Canvas.

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:30-5:30pm

Course Description and Prerequisites

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide students with an understanding of the nature and evolution of contemporary audiences and how they can be conceptualized from both firm and consumer perspectives. Students will examine the diversity of audiences and how they can best be served in today’s marketplace. In addition, students will learn about the ethical implications of serving modern consumers, including the challenges that accompany new technologies and data access.

Course Prerequisites – N/A

Course Expectations

This course is fully online; you must log in to Canvas with your Gatorlink username and password to access the materials and assignments. The course is organized into modules with due dates. Unless otherwise specified, each module begins on Monday at 12:00 AM ET and ends on Sunday at 11:59 PM ET.

Time Commitment & Student Workload Expectations

Expect to spend 10 to 20 hours per week per course watching or attending lectures, reading, working on assignments and projects, and engaging in discussions.

Expectations for Writing Assignments: Writing Style

To meet the academic rigor and standards of a graduate program, all students must use the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) 7th Edition style in their courses when appropriate for the assignment. The APA 7th Edition Manual has a plethora of guidelines that include scholarly writing, publishing principles, elements and format for your papers, writing style and grammar, bias-free language guidelines, mechanics of style, in-text citing references, etc. For additional information on notable changes, see changes between APA 6th Edition and APA 7th Edition.

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies](#) for information on absences, religious holidays,



illness, and the twelve-day rule. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the [Graduate Catalog](#) and require appropriate documentation.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will not be accepted unless it is a [University excused absence](#), as stated in the attendance policies. ***Due to the university grading deadlines, no late work will be accepted for final projects or work due in the final week of class.*** Students should contact their instructors before submitting the assignment deadline if potential issues arise concerning submitting the final work.

1. Late Assignment Grade Reductions
 - a. 0-24 Hours Late: 10% reduction in grade.
 - b. Over 24 Hours (24 hours and 1 minute) to 7 Calendar Days Late: 20% reduction in grade.
 - c. After the 7th Calendar Day: Work will not be accepted.
2. Late Discussions will not be accepted.

Student Guidelines for Course Challenges

A student with questions regarding course content such as assignments, assessments, instructional materials, lectures, meetings, course objectives, course module objectives, or other areas of the course, please adhere to the following guidelines: First, *approach the faculty member who is teaching the course* to ask for clarifications regarding the course assignments, assessments, materials, lectures, meetings, etc. Use the instructor's contact information to request an appointment where you can address any concerns and/or questions. If, after meeting with *the faculty member teaching the course*, you are still unclear on the course assignments, assessments, materials, lectures, meetings, etc., then the next step would be to contact online advising (onlineadvising@jou.ufl.edu) for additional guidance.

Accessibility/Students with Disabilities Information

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letters with their instructors and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals,
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Note: Starting in Spring 2025, the central portal will change to <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>. The previous GatorEvals link (<https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>) will redirect to the updated portal for one year.



Course-Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the conceptualization of audiences. (CO: 1)
2. Analyze the evolving role of audiences. (CO: 2)
3. Explain characteristics by which audiences are defined. (CO: 3)
4. Identify audience behaviors. (CO: 4)
5. Identify cultural differences within audiences/consumer groups. (CO: 5)
6. Explain cultural relevance and audience sensitivity. (CO: 6)
7. Evaluate cultural relevance and audience sensitivity in media messages/content. (CO: 7)
8. Identify global audience perspectives. (CO: 8)
9. Identify audience sensitivity strategies within media messages/content. (CO: 9)
10. Assess audience data. (CO: 10)
11. Analyze data sets. (CO: 11)
12. Explain audience privacy challenges. (CO: 12)
13. Explain best practices in managing data. (CO: 13)
14. Analyze the ethical implications of consumer data. (CO: 14)

Textbooks and Materials

Required Course Textbook(s)

There are no required works to purchase for this course. All required learning materials will be linked in the modules or be freely available via Course Reserves or UF Library resources.

Required Software: There is no required software to purchase for this course.

Recommended Textbook(s)

This textbook is recommended in all CJC Online classes to support student expectations for writing style.

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association: The official guide to APA style* (7th ed.).

- ISBN-13: 978-1433832161
- ISBN-10: 143383216X

An example of a (mock) student paper in APA format is included in your actual course.

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials.

University and Course Grading Policies

University Honor Code

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 Conduct Code specifies the number of behaviors that violate this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is unacceptable, especially in academic communities. All academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research, or self-expression. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to, prohibited collaboration, consultation, and submission of academic work that has been purchased or obtained (see the [UF Policy: Student Conduct Violation](#)). In addition, self-plagiarism is also unacceptable. Self-plagiarism is defined as recycling or reusing one’s own specific words from previously submitted assignments or published texts. Remember that plagiarism is unacceptable in any of your work, including all discussion board posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. It’s important to always cite your sources in your assignments.

Grading Criterion

Discussion Boards (30%)

Each week, you will submit a substantive and scholarly response of between 200-600 words to a discussion prompt focused on topics covered in the readings and lectures. After submitting your initial post, you must reply to at least two other students’ posts with a substantive, scholarly, and thoughtful response. A substantive response adds scholarly value to the discussion by bringing new ideas, research, evidence, etc. to the conversation. Responses such as “I agree,” “Ditto,” etc., are not acceptable replies and the rules of Netiquette must be followed.

All initial posts for each module discussion board must be submitted by Thursdays at 11:59 PM, ET, so your peers have time to respond to your initial post. Responses to peers are due by Sundays at 11:59 PM, ET. To view the grading criteria rubric for the discussions in the course room, click the Settings icon (the 3 dots on the top-right corner) and select the *Show Rubric* button. Feedback from the professor will be left in the rubric and in the assignment comments.

Worksheets (15%)

Throughout the semester, you will submit substantive and scholarly responses to 2-3 questions through worksheet assessments. These assessments will cover topics you’ve learned about in the weekly readings and lectures that were not examined in the Discussion Boards. All responses will be short answers and must be supported with evidence and examples from course materials and/or your own personal experiences with the topics. All worksheets must be submitted by Sundays at 11:59PM, ET.

Talking Points Outline on Casting (5%)

For the purposes of this assignment, you are a junior member of the casting team for a new Hollywood blockbuster film. In reviewing the recommendations of others on your team, you notice that the actors suggested for the lead roles are all White men. Yet, you’ve learned that more diverse casts can lead to greater success at the box office. What arguments would you make to persuade your team to consider actors from historically underrepresented groups for the lead role?

Advertising Evaluation Assignment (10%)

View the video advertisement spots as noted in the module. Given what you have learned from readings and lecture, take notes to yourself as to what traits, elements, or characteristics are present in the ads that might resonate with or appeal to the African American consumer or, conversely, fail to resonate or appeal to this consumer segment. You may



want to watch each commercial spot several times to pick up all the nuances and elements that may be present (or not present).

Culturally Relevant Advertising Script (15%)

For this assignment, you will prepare an ad copy for a culturally relevant advertisement. It should be in the format of a video advertisement script. You will find the earlier advertising evaluation assignment useful here, as you are now more aware of what makes a culturally relevant and/or sensitive advertisement.

Culturally Relevant Fundraising Campaign Outline (15%)

For the purposes of this assignment, you are a university/higher education fundraiser. After digging into your institution's past efforts and practices, you've come to realize that most donors are older and White. Yet you know there is a lot of opportunity (and money) in younger alumni who have done well professionally, as well as alumni who represent other diverse demographics, including Asian-Americans and Asians who studied here as international students and then returned to their home countries. What can you do to tap into this giving potential?

Data Evaluation Assignment (10%)

As a data analyst, there are many things to consider before analyzing a dataset. What are the factors you need to keep in mind? What questions do you need to ask about the data set? What factors do you need to evaluate to assess its validity and trustworthiness? What are traits and characteristics that you need to look for?

Your grade will be calculated based on the following:

Assignments/Assessments	Weight (%)
Course Orientation: These assignments are required; however, they do not count toward the final grade. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Introduction• Course Evaluation	0%
15 Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points each.	30%
8 Worksheets <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points each.	15%
1 Casting Outline: The Benefits of Diversity/Inclusion (Assignment 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points.	5%
1 Advertising Evaluation (Assignment 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points.	10%
1 Culturally Relevant Advertising Script (Assignment 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points.	15%
1 Culturally Relevant Fundraising Campaign Outline (Assignment 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points.	15%
1 Dataset Evaluation (Assignment 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worth up to 100 points.	10%
TOTAL	100%

Grade	Percentage
A	92.5-100%



A-	89.5-92.4%
B+	86.5-89.4%
B	82.5-86.4%
B-	79.5-82.4%
C+	76.5-79.4%
C	72.5-76.4%
C-	69.5-72.4%
D+	66.5-69.4%
D	62.5-66.4%
D-	59.5-62.4%
E	0 – 59.4%

The only passing grades for graduate students are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, and C. Letter grades of C-, D+, D, D- or E are not considered passing at the graduate level. However, the grade points associated with these letter grades are included in grade point average calculations. See the [Graduate Catalog](#) and [UF graduate school grading policy](#) for more information.

Student Privacy

Federal laws protect your privacy regarding grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Technology Requirements

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students at 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.

Software

- [Microsoft Office 365](#).
- [UF Apps](#) – access UF software applications from any device from any location at any time.
- [Adobe Reader](#)
- [Zoom](#)

Technical Support

If you have technical difficulties with your course, don't hesitate to contact the UF Computing Help Desk by filling out an online request form or calling 352-392-4357 (HELP).

If your technical difficulties cause you to miss a due date, you must report the problem to the Help Desk and then email your instructor. Include the ticket number you are given from the Help Desk in an email to the instructor to explain the late assignment/quiz/test.



IT Support

For all Technical assistance questions, please get in touch with the UF Computing Help Desk.

Phone: 352-392-HELP (4357)

Email: helpdesk@ufl.edu

Communication Policies

Student Expectations

Since this course is online, you should access your course at least four times per week to ensure you do not miss pertinent postings, messages, or announcements. If you are experiencing a major illness, absences due to University duties, or other large-scale issues, contact the instructor immediately.

Announcements

You are responsible for reading all announcements posted in the course each time you log in.

Email

You are responsible for reading all your course emails and responding promptly (within 24 hours).

Instructor Communications

Email Policy

Except for weekends, holidays, and University breaks, the instructor will typically respond to emails within 48 hours. For course-related questions, please post on the Canvas FAQ discussion board. If you have questions of a personal nature, please email me directly.

Assignment Feedback Policy

I will provide feedback/grades on submitted assignments within two weeks of the due date. Some assignments may require a longer review period, which I will communicate to you if necessary.

Course Policies

Video 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 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 Honor Code and Student Conduct Code](#).

Privacy

If your course includes live synchronous meetings, the class sessions will all be recorded for students in the class to refer to and for enrolled students who cannot attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilized a profile image agree to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who unmute during class and participate agree to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. Please see UF's Information Technology [policies](#) for additional information.

Challenging Topics

In this course, we may cover subjects that may be sensitive and/or challenging. As in all our courses, we do this not to indoctrinate but to instruct, to prepare you to be the most effective and successful media professional or scholar you can be. We encourage you to understand all concepts presented in class, but we know that what you personally believe is your choice. If you want to discuss anything regarding this, don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Academic and Student Resources

Academic Resources

- E-learning Technical Support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 (HELP) or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connection Center](#): Career assistance and counseling. Reitz Union, Phone: 352-392-1601.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance concerning using the libraries or finding resources. [UF Library Services for Distance Students](#)
[Ask a Librarian](#) – chat with librarians online.
CJC Librarian - April Hines, Phone: 352-273-2728, Email: aprhine@uflib.ufl.edu.
- [Writing Studio](#): Provides one-on-one consultations and workshops tailored to specific classes (graduate and undergraduate). 302 Tigert Hall, Phone: 352-846-1138.

Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, call 352-294-2273, or visit the 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 and 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 the [UF Police Department](#) website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal well-being, including wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Student Fees and Service Entitlement

Student Fees

There are fees mandated by the state and one local fee that ALL students must pay per credit hour. Visit the [University Bursar](#) for up-to-date fee rates.

- Capital Improvement Trust Fund Fee
- Technology Fee
- Student Financial Aid Fee [not applicable for certificate programs]

Student services and entitlements

The student services that the distance student is entitled to are comparable to those of the resident student and should include the following:

- Eligibility for financial aid and financial aid advising [not applicable for certificate programs]
- Student complaints and concerns
- Student counseling and advising
- Student organizations
- Technology assistance

Course Schedule

Week Number	Topic and Assignments
1	May 12 – 18: What is an audience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Introductions • Discussion 1 • Worksheet 1
2	May 19 – 25: Audience Valuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 2 • Worksheet 2
3	May 26 – June 1: Introduction to Audience Ethics Holiday: Monday, May 26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 3 • Worksheet 3
4	June 2 – 8: Audience Diversity and Cultural Relevance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 4 • Assignment 1 – Casting Outline
5	June 9 – 15: African American Audiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 5 • Assignment 2 – Advertising Evaluations
6	June 16 – 22: Hispanic Audiences Holiday: Thursday, June 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 6 • Assignment 3 – Culturally Relevant Advertising Script
7	Summer Break: June 23 – June 29, 2025
8	June 30 – July 6: Asian-American Audiences Holiday: Friday, July 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 7 • Assignment 4 – Culturally Relevant Fundraising Campaign
9	July 7 – 13: Sex, Gender, and Sexual Orientation and Age and Ability Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 8 • Worksheet 4 • Discussion 9 • Worksheet 5
10	July 14 – 20: Religious and Political Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 10 • Worksheet 6
11	July 21 – 27: Consumer Privacy & Data Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 11 • Worksheet 7 • Discussion 12 • Worksheet 8
12	July 28 – August 3: Data Evaluation and Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 13 • Assignment 5 – Dataset Evaluation
13	August 4 – 8: AI, Machine Learning, and CRM Last Day of Class: Friday, Aug. 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 14 • Discussion 15

The instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus as necessary.