



COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS

MMC 1009 - Intro to Media and Communications

Fall 2025 Syllabus

Course Facilitator: Meisha Wade

Video Lecturer: Bridget Dunbar

Meeting Time: Online, class week runs from Monday through Sunday with assignments due **Mondays at 11:59 PM EST**. Log In here: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Contact: Via email to mwade@jou.ufl.edu. All messages should be sent to this address, not via Canvas. Any messages sent via Canvas might not get a timely reply.

Office Hours. Thursdays 2:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. Log into the [Virtual Advising Lobby](#) or click [here](#) to schedule an appointment if you need to meet with me outside of my normal office hours.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce UF Online students to the tools/resources available through the College of Journalism and Communications and the University, while also preparing them for success as an online student and in their future careers. Lessons will focus on keys to success in online learning, the organization of the college, academic and career preparation.

This course will facilitate student learning and understanding by including opportunities for:

- Success in online learning
- Understanding of CJC majors and requirements
- Knowledge of College and University resources
- Career Preparation
- Awareness of Varied Perspectives and Backgrounds
- Professional Engagement (with College, Faculty/Staff, and Peers)
- Involvement

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Our goal is to prepare you for a successful experience as a CJC online student by introducing you to our programs, resources, faculty/staff, industry professionals and best practices. Our hope is to help you set yourself up for success by strengthening your time management skills, actively engaging in your own learning, and planning your career by building your professional network from day one with us. Through this course, you will be introduced to various faculty/staff members who play key roles within our college as well as university and college resources that can assist you throughout your journey.

You will also connect with practicing professionals in the industry of your choice to learn more about your career options in Journalism and Communications.

By the end of this course, students should:

- Understand the best practices for online learning success and how to incorporate them into your daily routine.
- Know who your advisor is and how/when to reach out to them.
- Have gained basic knowledge of CJC's general degree requirements.
- Understand how to read their degree audit and participate in academic planning.
- Have gained basic knowledge of CJC majors and how these fields of study provide career opportunities.
- Have a general knowledge of the university, college, and career resources available to you and how to leverage them.
- Understand how to position your social networks to benefit you professionally.
- Have general knowledge of where to find opportunities that you can take advantage of as an online student.

Respect

You are expected to give your classmates the utmost respect when interacting with them in this course. Remember that it is much different to communicate thoughts and opinions over discussion boards than in person. Be respectful to your classmates' ideas, ask insightful questions for clarity, read with consideration, and give criticism with professionalism. Both students and faculty each have a responsibility to maintain an appropriate learning environment online. I expect that we will all show professional courtesy and good "netiquette" in our discussions.

Required Textbook

There are no required textbooks for this course. You will have assigned readings in each module.

Course Grading

Students will be graded through a variety of course activities, quizzes, and a final paper.

Almost all are due on Mondays at 11:59 pm EST. The grades will break down as follows and are available in your grade book on Canvas (the final grade average calculated there will be used to determine your final grade). Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here: [University grades and grading policies](#)

Six Multiple-Choice Quizzes (10 each): **60 points**

Discussion Board Posts (5 each): **20 points**

Five Course Activities (10 each): **50 points**

Final Paper: **30 points** (Check-in: 5 pts/ Paper: 25 pts)

Total possible points earned in class: 160

Grading Scale:	
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
E	59 or lower

Multiple-choice quizzes will be given at various points throughout the semester and will cover the topics in both the lectures and the readings. They will be taken online, have a time limit, and be graded immediately after you complete it.

Discussion board posts will vary from topics like sharing why you chose your current major to comments about topics covered in class. They will be open for two-week periods and will be graded for relevance, understanding of the topic asked and your ability to identify and communicate pertinent and accurate concept.

All course activities will be turned in online. No work will be accepted via email. These activities will vary from weekly schedule planning, creating a professional LinkedIn account, or completing the Career Connection Center's Gator Professional Series.

For the **Final paper (Interviewing a Professional) assignment**, you will be required to find a professional in one of the four media fields we cover in this class (advertising, public relations, print journalism, broadcast journalism, media production/management/technology), interview them and journal the experience. **Marketing is not one of our fields, so people who work in that field are not acceptable for this assignment.** An example of this would be finding a local reporter for your television station or other news outlet and interviewing them to find out what a day in his or her life is like.

The paper should be detailed enough to describe who you interviewed, why and how you chose and connected with this professional, how they conduct their job, and what lessons from the lectures or reading applied to your learning of this profession. Most papers are usually between 700-1000 words. **You must also include a screenshot or picture of your thank- you note/email to them, which should be sent within 48 hours of your interview.**

The professional you interview must work in one of the fields listed above full time, not have a job or business that just includes doing some marketing or social media promotion; **media and communications in public relations (not marketing), advertising, or print/broadcast journalism, media production/management must be their primary function.** You may not interview any kind of faculty unless they have an active professional role unrelated to role as a faculty member.

If you have any questions or need direction or help, please contact me as soon as possible – this includes confirming that the person you want to interview is appropriate for the Interviewing a Professional assignment. **The final paper can be turned in at any time during the course, but its final deadline is Monday, December 8 at 11:59 pm EST.**

Missed Assignments and Late Work

Since we are working in a class about preparation, professionalism, developing effective time management skills, you will be expected to model and practice professional behavior with respect to dates and deadlines. **No late work will be accepted or extended deadlines for missed assignments will be granted in this course.** Manage your time and prioritize your work. Our assignments are neither long nor extremely difficult, and if you complete them well and turn them in on time, you will complete this course with a satisfactory grade.

Each module's quiz, discussion board post, and/or course activity will be scheduled in advance and open for at least a two-week period prior to the start of the module. The Interviewing a Professional Final Paper will be open on Canvas on the first day of the course and can be turned in at any time during the course. Please plan ahead and, if you need to, work ahead.

How to Succeed in this Course

Here are some tips that will help you get the most of this course while taking full advantage of its online, asynchronous format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. **You will receive no credit for work that is turned in late!**
- Read ALL the material contained on the Canvas site. There is a lot of helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
- **TAKE NOTES** on your lectures and readings.
- Review our course schedule and put our deadlines in your personal calendar or planner, then check things off as you go.
- Ask for help or clarification of the material if you need it.
- Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date or do an assignment incorrectly. This includes your final Interviewing a Professional paper. It's better to ask and be safe than sorry.
- **Do your work well before the due dates.** Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you'll need time to get to another machine. **Deadline extension request are not likely to be granted.**
- To be extra safe, back up your work to a flash drive or the cloud
- If you experience technical issues, please contact the UF HELP Desk:
- Online: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- By email: helpdesk@ufl.edu
- By phone: 352.392.HELP
- You also may seek assistance at Learning-support@ufl.edu.

Academic Resources & Policies

Link: [UF Syllabus Policy Links - Online Course Syllabi - University of Florida](#)

Academic Policies:

- Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. [See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies.](#)
- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. [See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site.](#) It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.
- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points. This may be achieved by including [a link to the University grades and grading policies.](#)
- 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
 3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluera.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available

at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- The University's Honesty Policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:

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 a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

- 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 education 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 deliver by an 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 presentation 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 guest 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.

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. Call [866-281-6309](#) or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, Call [352-392-2010](#), or to make a private appointment: [352- 392-6420](#). Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, [352-846-1138](#) | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; [Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information](#).
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information](#).
- UF Student Success Initiative: Visit <https://studentsuccess.ufl.edu/> for resources that support your success as a UF student.

Campus Health and Wellness Resources:

- UF Whole Gator Resources: Visit <https://one.ufl.edu/whole-gator/discover> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.