

SPRING 2026 SYLLABUS: INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS

PUR 4404C (3 Credits)

Professor: Fred Hawrysh
Course Time: Tuesdays 9:35 – 10:25 am (virtual on zoom)
Thursdays 9:35 – 11:30 am (in-person)
Location: Weimer 2056
Prerequisite: PUR 3000 with a minimum grade of C
Email: fred.hawrysh@ufl.edu; phone or text: 203-246-1205
Office Hours: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Readings

Required Text: Alaimo, Kara (Third Edition) 2025
“Pitch, Tweet or Engage on the Street” - How to Practice Global Public Relations and Strategic Communication

Additional Readings as assigned:

There will be frequent readings from Molleda, Juan-Carlos, Kochhar, Sarab 2019 “Global and Multicultural Public Relations”. In addition, specific links to key newsletters and reports will be provided by the Professor.

Course Description:

In a highly connected world, this course will expose students to the challenges and opportunities of practicing public relations in diverse political, economic and cultural environments and the best practices that lead to successful campaigns. Students will examine the role of communications in promoting and protecting the reputation of companies, governments, NGOs and other stakeholders in a globalized world.

The course will combine communications theory with significant practical application, using international case studies to provide insight and learning. Students will hear first-hand from current international practitioners and subject matter experts who will join from locations around the world, live by zoom.

Recommended for those interested in being effective communicators outside our domestic U.S. market or those interested in managing multi-market campaigns.

Course Objectives

After taking this course, students will gain:

- An understanding of communications and public relations in an international context

- An overview of communications and public relations practices around the world
- An appreciation of how and why to develop a global mindset, and what is required to be an effective cross-border communicator
- A theoretical knowledge of:
 - The dimensions of culture and how it impacts effective communications in different markets
 - The international players/stakeholders, including the role of businesses, governments and NGOs as communicators
- A practical knowledge of:
 - International communications campaigns, including:
 - Market entry
 - Multi-market reputation and crisis management
 - Multi-market financial, corporate and internal communications
 - International thought leadership
 - Issues advocacy and public education
 - How to develop a successful multi-market campaign engaging a wide range of stakeholders and how to measure success
 - How to manage international teams
 - How to avoid pitfalls
 - Successfully pitching new business
- Inspiration and insight on how to pursue a career in international communications and/or work on global campaigns

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.

Online Course Administration — e-Learning in Canvas

<https://elearning.ufl.edu> will be used to administer the course communication, materials (e.g., PowerPoint files, additional readings, handouts, assignment guidelines, evaluation forms), and grades. You can access the site by using your GatorLink username and password. Please check the site for announcements and/or threads of comments from classmates, and the professor.

Course Professionalism

The College of Journalism and Communications is a professional school and professional decorum is expected at all times. Therefore, the students, and the professor, adhere to workplace norms for collegial and respectful interaction. Carefully consider how you participate in class discussions and in the assignments you submit and present. You can use humor and demonstrate creativity but think ahead to how it will reflect on you. Use your best professional judgment. Projects should not contain nudity, profanity, illegal activities, or situations that would put you or others in danger.

Students are expected to show up on time, not leave early unless prior permission is granted, and wait for the class to end before leaving. This applies to both in-person and Zoom classes. Please note the significant impact of attendance and active participation in your final grade and be sure to show up and speak up.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an honest, ethical, and courteous manner — with classmates and the professor.

AI Policy for Student Work

In this course you will be allowed to use generative AI for the **individual assignment (Global Media Outlet Analysis)**. 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! If you use AI in the Global Media Outlet Analysis assignment, you will need to document how AI was used and in which sections. This could include providing your original prompts, showing the editing that you did to the created content, or using appropriate citation of information obtained via generative AI. Note: A higher grade can be earned for the media pitch component of the assignment if AI is **not** used for this section

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If you are using AI when not explicitly allowed (that is, for any of the other assignments) 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.

When submitting materials to AI tools, such as assignment instructions or other content, ensure you have the appropriate permissions for any copyrighted elements. Additionally, avoid sharing any information protected under FERPA, including personal data from educational records (provided via ChatGPT, 2024).

Course Grades and Assessment

- **Attendance and Active Participation: 20%**

Attendance is mandatory. Active participation through commenting and asking questions is required to gain full points; your physical presence is not enough. Zoom guest lectures must be attended “on camera”. You are responsible for notifying the instructor prior to missing class.

Requirements for assignments and other work in this course follow UF policies:

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

- **Content Quiz(s): 30%**

Two multiple choice quizzes will be given—half-way through and at the conclusion of the semester. These will be based on content presented by the zoom lecturers and during the in-class lectures. (2 x 15%)

- **Individual Assignment: 20%**

Students will be assigned one individual assignment constituting 20% of the student’s final assessment:

- Research and analyze a global media outlet according to pre-determined criteria that demonstrate an understanding of the outlet’s focus, bias, readership and style. You will develop a pitch to this outlet for a senior executive at an MNC. Each student will present their profile to the class during the first half of the semester.

- **Group Assignment: 30%**

Students will be assigned to small groups to research and plan a communications campaign for a selected multi-national company. This assignment will be presented in class in a simulated pitch. Grading criteria will be provided. Bonus marks will be awarded to the winning pitch team.

There will be no formal exams.

Grading for the entire course follows current UF grading policies for assigning grade points (see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>).

The grading scale for the course is as follows:

A = 94-100%. A- = 90.0-93.99%. B+ = 87.0-89.99%. B = 83.0-86.99%. B- = 80.0-82.99%. C+ = 77.0-79.99%. C = 74-76.99%. C- = 70-73.99%. D+ = 67-69.99%. D = 64-66.99%. D- = 60-63.99%. E = below 60%.

Further information about grades and grading policy may be found at this [link to the university grades and grading policies](#).

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

The Honor Pledge

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 specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). 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 the instructor or TA in this class.

Policy on Recording Classes

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.

Other Important Notes

- We will meet in person (Weimer 2056) for Thursday classes, but Tuesday classes will be conducted on Zoom to accommodate guest lecturers. The final zoom class on April 21st will be attended in person.
- I will be available in-person, by appointment, immediately following Thursday's class or by phone or zoom. I can also be reached via email (fred.hawrysh@ufl.edu or fredhawrysh@yahoo.com) or text (203-246-1205). While I always strive to respond in a timely way, please be aware that I may not always be able to respond immediately to your communication.
- If you notice yourself having trouble in the course, please see me as soon as possible.
- Any evidence of plagiarism, cheating or reliance on AI applications will result in an "E" for the course and possible disciplinary action.
- Spelling, grammar, punctuation and presentation skills factor into your overall evaluation.
- In addition to the required and recommended readings, you are expected to maintain comprehensive class notes because class and zoom lectures often contain information that is not found in the readings. You will be quizzed on this information. *If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get briefed by another student on the content covered in the class.*
- Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). 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.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1

Course Introduction and Overview (Zoom)

January 13

- Course overview
- Objectives and outcomes
- Assignments and grades

The Global Playing Field & Media (In-class)

January 15

- Personal context and areas of interest
- The forces of globalization – setting the playing field
- The stakeholders, influencers and channels
- Global media landscape and engagement

Read: Alaimo Chapter 1 "Global and Local Approaches to International Communications"
Alaimo Chapter 8 "The Global Media and Social Networks"

Week 2

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)
Global Media SME from London

January 20

Global Landscape (in-class)

January 22

- Global landscape
- Introduction to the U.K.
- Overview of the individual assignment for the semester

Read: Alaimo Chapter 1 “Global and Local Approaches to International Communications”
Alaimo pages 226-234 (United Kingdom)

Week 3

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)
Agency CEO from London

January 27

Global Campaigns (In-class)

January 29

- The challenges of communicating cross-border
- Managing multi-market campaigns: local vs global strategies (8 Principles of Localization)
- Outstanding global campaigns – cases

Read: Alaimo Chapter 5 “Global Public Relations for Corporations”

Week 4

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)
Chief Communications Officer, Mubadala, from Dubai, UAE

February 3

Culture and Communications (In-class)

February 5

- Understanding cultural differences and their impact on public relations
- Developing cross-cultural communications skills
- Hofstede’s Culture Dimensions
- Erin Meyer’s Culture Map
- Molinsky’s six dimensions for behavior

Read: Alaimo Chapter 2 “Culture is the Key”; [insights.com/countrycomparison](https://www.insights.com/countrycomparison)

Week 5

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)
CEO & Founder, Open Mindset Project, from Boston

February 10

Global Teams, Global Brands and CSR (in-class)

February 13

- Managing global teams
- CSR and ESG – How Brands Make a Difference

Read: Alaimo Chapter 3 “Building, Managing and Evaluating Global Teams”
Moleda Chapter 9 “CSR, Sustainability and Multisector Partnerships”

Week 6

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)

February 17

Chief Communications Officer, McKinsey, from London

Governments & Nation Branding (In-class)

February 19

- Governments
- Soft Power and Communications
- Country as a Brand – benefits, characteristics
- The Middle-East

Read:

Alaimo Chapter 7 “Global Public Relations for Governments”
Alaimo Chapter 11 “Public Relations in the Middle-East and North Africa

Week 7

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)

February 24

Former Head of Government Communications Apex Brasil, from Abu Dhabi

Non-profits, Activists & NGOs (In-class)

February 26

- Public education campaigns
- NGOs
- Events: Davos, Aspen, Milken; Global Sponsorships
- UN Global Compact Principles

Read: Alaimo Chapter 6 “Public Relations on Global Issues”
Molleda Chapter 6 “Non-governmental Organizations, Multilateral Organizations and Activist Networks”

Week 8

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)

March 3

Chair Global Markets - Milken Institute, Former US Ambassador to the Asian Development Bank, from Bangkok, Thailand

Global Media Assignment Presentations (In-class)

March 5

- Students present individual assignment

Week 9		
Guest Lecturer (Zoom)		March 10
<i>Co-CEO and Founder Perceptual Advisors, from Miami</i>		
Latin America (In-class)		March 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Latin America • Students present individual assignment 		
Read: Alaimo Chapter 12, “Public Relations in North and Latin America”		
Week 10	Spring Break (no class)	March 17, 19
Week 11		
Guest Lecturer (Zoom)		March 24
<i>Former AP and EU Agency CEO and Professor, from the Netherlands</i>		
Asia-Pacific (In-class)		March 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary Asia-Pacific • Any remaining students present individual assignment 		
Read: Alaimo Chapter 9 “Public Relations in Asia and the Pacific”		
Week 12		
Guest Lecturer (Zoom)		March 31
<i>Corporate Communications Director Europe – Accenture, from London</i>		
Europe, Thought Leadership (In-class)		April 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Relations in Europe • Conducting research internationally 		
Read: Alaimo Chapter 10 “Public Relations in Europe”		
Molleda Chapter 2 “Research Measurement and Evaluation”		
Week 13		
Guest Lecturer (Zoom)		April 7
<i>Founding Partner Astrum, India’s Leading Research Consultancy, from New Delhi</i>		
Crisis Communications – International (In-class)		April 9

- Crises in an international context
- Cross-border reputation management

Read: Alaimo Chapter 4 “Global Crisis Communication”

Week 14

Guest Lecturer (Zoom)

April 14

EVP, Global Reputation & Risk Management Practice, Ruder Finn, from Hong Kong

Group Presentations (In-class)

April 16

Week 15 IN-PERSON Meeting

April 21

Course Wrap-up

- Building your own international career
- Content quiz and feedback

There will be no final exam for this course.