SYLLABUS
PUR 6005 (9499/12DC)—THEORIES OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Instructor:
Dr. Kathleen Kelly, APR, Fellow PRSA
Professor
Weimer 3056
(352) 392-9359
kskelly@jou.ufl.edu

Traditional Office Hours:
W – Period E1 (7:20–8:10 p.m.)
R – Period 9 (4:05–4:55 p.m.)
R – Period E2 (8:20–9:10 p.m.)
or by Appointment

Professor R – Period E1 (5:10–8:10 pm)

Virtual Office Hours (E-mail):
T – Period E1 (7:20–9 p.m.)

COURSE TEXTS:


Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA; 6th ed.). (For free online assistance, go to <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/>.

COURSES

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

PUR 6005—Theories of Public Relations: Theories that dominate the field. Evolution of theories, their critiques, and current standing.

COURSE PURPOSE & GOAL:

PUR 6005 is a required core course in the public relations master’s curriculum. The purpose of the course is to develop an understanding of the theoretical body of knowledge in public relations and its application to professional practice. The overall goal of the course is to help students gain an intellectual foundation in theories of public relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In support of its overall goal, the course will enable students to: distinguish between empirical and experiential knowledge; understand how theory informs the professional practice of public relations; assess the current status of public relations in regard to professional standards, ethics, and values in the field; and appreciate public relations as an organizational function that fosters civil society.

The course supports – to some degree – all 12 professional values and competencies required of graduates by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. It specifically addresses the following six professional values and competencies:

• Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures in a global society
• Understand and apply concepts and theories relevant to the creation and delivery of public relations messages
• Understand and apply professional ethical principles in pursuit of truth, honesty, accuracy, fairness, and diversity
• Think critically, creatively and independently
• Conduct research and evaluate information by appropriate methods
• Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the public relations profession.

COURSE FORMAT:

The course primarily follows a seminar format consisting of lectures and class discussions. Each student will make an oral presentation and lead a class discussion. Several guest speakers will join the class to share their expertise in specific theories and areas of theoretical development. A high degree of student interaction is expected.

COURSE TEXTS:


Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA; 6th ed.). (For free online assistance, go to <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/>.
Chapters from the required text and additional assigned readings for each week are listed on the attached “Readings List,” which is keyed to the “Weekly Course Plan.” The additional readings are available online (through the UF Libraries) or will be e-mailed to you. All readings must be read in advance of the class dates for which they are listed. Students also are expected to monitor trade publications and the mass media for local, national, and international news related to public relations, which will be used in class discussions.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

A Discussion Leader/Case Study assignment will account for 25% of the course grade. Working in teams of two, students will serve one week/class session during the semester as a discussion leader. Their oral presentations will last approximately 90 minutes. Discussion leaders have five responsibilities:

1. Prepare a PowerPoint® presentation covering all readings assigned for that week/class session.
2. Create activities (e.g., questions, exercises, quizzes, contests, games) that lead and stimulate discussion among classmates.
3. Identify and research two public relations case studies per team that tie the theoretical topics of the week to public relations practice. Recent cases from the last two to five years, particularly those reported in mainstream and trade media, are preferred.
4. Prepare a one-page fact sheet about each case. Use phrases and bulleted lists rather than paragraphs of text. The fact sheets must be an original summary of the case, and any information taken from other sources must be properly attributed. Hard copies of the fact sheets (21 each) are to be distributed to classmates at the beginning of class.
5. Integrate slides on the case studies into the PowerPoint® presentation on readings, analyzing how the case study relates to a specific public relations theory. The final PowerPoint® must be e-mailed to the instructor no later than 12 midnight on the day of the presentation.

The grade received for a team’s presentation is not necessarily the grade individual team members will receive. Utilizing a confidential “Team Evaluation Form,” team members will evaluate each other’s contributions. Peer evaluations will weigh heavily in determining individual grades for the discussion leader/case study assignment. A detailed instruction packet on the discussion leader/case study assignment will be distributed on the third week of the semester.

A Semester Examination will account for 25% of the course grade. It will be given during class hours in Week 11 of the semester. The exam will measure students' mastery of content covered in the readings, presentations, and lectures/discussions up to the week it is given.

A Research Paper will account for 25% of the course grade and will be due at the beginning of class in Week 15. There will be two types of research papers. The majority of students will produce a “Practitioner Interview Paper” of five pages. The few students who plan to petition to produce a thesis as part of their requirements for the MAMC in Public Relations degree are required to write a “Research Proposal” of about 12 pages. Guidelines on producing the two types of research papers will be distributed early in the semester. Students electing the research proposal option must submit a “Check-Up Form,” which must be approved by the instructor no later than Tuesday, Nov. 6.

As with all written assignments for this course, the research paper must be typed in 12-point font, double spaced on one side of white paper, have one-inch margins, and stapled (no covers or binders, please). Points will be deducted for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors.

Class Participation will account for 20% of the course grade, as determined by such efforts as class attendance, discussing assigned readings, asking questions, and bringing timely and relevant issues to the attention of the class.

Finally, each student will attend one Professional Meeting of the Gainesville Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Society (FPRA) on Sept. 20 or Nov. 15 (the meetings are listed in the “Weekly Course Plan,” which follows). Information and reservations can be found/made at http://fpragainesville.com/. This assignment will count as 5% of the course grade. To earn credit, students must obtain the business card of one practitioner attending the meeting and staple the card to a one-page summary of the meeting, with a focus on points made by the meeting’s main speaker.
**Grade Distribution Cont.**

Summarizing, the course grade will be determined on a 100-point scale as follows:

- FPRA Professional Meeting: 5%
- Class Participation: 20%
- Discussion Leader/Case Study: 25%
- Semester Examination: 25%
- Research Paper: 25%

Grading for the course follows current UF grading policies for assigning grade points (see [http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)).

Grading Scale: 92-100 = A, 90-91 = A-, 88-89 = B+, 82-87 = B, 80-81 = B-, 78-79 = C+, 70-77 = C, 60-69 = D, 59 or less = E.

**MAKEUPS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Course policy dictates that there will be no make-up exams or extensions of deadlines. Dates have been announced in advance in the "Weekly Course Plan" so that students can schedule other activities around these deadlines. Exceptions will be rare and made only in cases of extraordinary, documented circumstances, as determined by the instructor. Any make-up exams administered or late assignments accepted will be graded lower than work turned in on time.

**ABSENCES:**

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed one excused absence for the semester, which should be sufficient for illnesses, transportation problems, family crises, etc. Absences beyond one will result in a reduction of the course grade at the rate of one-third grade level for each absence beyond the number permitted. Students are responsible for all class work missed. They should consult with classmates, rather than the instructor, to obtain information on lectures, assignments, and other matters.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Students are expected to observe the University of Florida’s policy on academic honesty in fulfilling all course requirements. The penalty for violation of academic honesty is an “E” for the course, at minimum.

Academic dishonesty includes the following: extensive use of materials from another author without citation or attribution, extensive use of verbatim materials from another author with citation and attribution, and extensive use of one’s own writing from past assignments or from assignments in other, current classes (called “double dipping”).

The University of Florida Honor Code was voted on and passed by the Student Body in the Fall 1995 semester. The Honor Code reads as follows:

Preamble: In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. A student-run Honor Court and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.

The Honor Code: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. 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."

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION:

Lectures given in this course, including handouts and PowerPoint® presentations, are the property of the instructor and the University of Florida. Class lectures may not be recorded in any form without prior permission from the instructor and any guest lecturers that may speak to this class. Recordings, including class notes, may not be used for commercial purposes.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

The College of Journalism and Communications is a professional school and professional decorum is expected at all times. This means the instructor and students adhere to workplace norms for collegial and respectful interaction. Students are expected to arrive on time and not leave the classroom until announced breaks or the end of the class.

Diversity:

All discussions will be ruled by mutual respect—for people and their opinions. Effective public relations practice is dependent on gathering and understanding diverse viewpoints. Furthermore, professionalism requires an appreciation for the multicultural society and global economy in which students plan to work. Effectiveness in both practice and scholarship relies on an ability to recognize and embrace diversity in all its forms. Students are encouraged to learn from the information and ideas shared by their classmates.

Other Rules:

• Cell phones must be turned off during class.
• Laptops may not be used in class; notes must be handwritten.
• Students may only leave the classroom during official breaks (notify the instructor of emergencies).
• Reading unrelated material or talking while others are speaking is prohibited.
• Anyone violating these rules or disrupting class in other ways will be asked to leave the classroom.
• Students are urged to meet in-person or online with the instructor if they have questions or are having problems. Traditional and “Virtual” Office Hours are listed on p. 1 of the syllabus. Short conversations immediately following class are welcomed.
• E-mail inquiries to the instructor should be limited to questions that are not answered elsewhere (e.g., the syllabus). Formal composition and clear and concise writing are required. E-mail messages sent at times other than “Virtual Office Hours” generally cannot be answered in less than one day, so plan ahead.
• Telephone calls are encouraged for quick questions (when leaving a voice-mail message, slowly state your name, telephone number, and reason for calling; repeat the phone number).

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide the documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Requests should be made at a private meeting during the instructor’s office hours.

FINAL CAVEAT:

This syllabus is subject to change as the instructor deems appropriate and necessary.

- Continued –
WEEKLY COURSE PLAN:

**Week #1**  
Aug. 22/23  
Topics: Introduction to the Course. Overview of Requirements. Understanding Theory.

**Week #2**  
Aug. 29/30  
Readings: See Readings List.  
Assign: Select week/topic to serve as Discussion Leaders.  
Guest Speaker: Mr. Frank Ovaitt, President & CEO, Institute for Public Relations, “Standards for Research in Public Relations” (W: 4:10 – 5:10 p.m./R: 5:15 – 6:15 p.m.).

**Week #3**  
Sept. 5/6  
Readings: See Readings List.  
Guest Speaker: Mr. Patrick Reakes, University Librarian, UF (R: 5:15 – 6 p.m.).

**Week #4**  
Sept. 12/13  
Topics: Effectiveness & Measurement; Relationship Theory.  
Dis. Leaders: W: Rui Huang & A’shayla Passaretti; R: Yuqing Wang & Youjing Liang.  
Readings: See Readings List.  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Linda Hon, Professor, Public Relations, UF (W: 4:10-5 p.m./R: 5:10- 6 p.m.).

**Week #5**  
Sept. 19/20  
Readings: See Readings List.  
Field Trip: Only 1 of 2 Required: Thursday, Sept. 20 – FPRA Gainesville Chapter Meeting, Sweetwater Branch Inn (11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.).

**Week #6**  
Sept. 26/27  
Topics: Global & International Theories.  
Readings: See Readings List.  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Juan-Carlos Molleda, Professor, Public Relations, UF (W: 4:10-5 p.m./R: 5:10- 6 p.m.).

**Week #7**  
Oct. 3/4  
Topics: Philanthropy, Nonprofit Management, & Fundraising Theories.  
Dis. Leaders: W: Xi Jiang & Benben Li; R: Mallori Wojcik & Lisi Tao.  
Readings: See Readings List.  
Guest Speaker: Mr. David Morse, Civic Ventures Senior Fellow, “Theories/Concepts of Philanthropy” (W: 6:05 – 7:05 p.m./R: 5:10 – 6:10 p.m.).

**Week #8**  
Oct. 10/11  
Readings: See Readings List.
Weekly Course Plan Cont.

Week #9
Oct. 17/18  
**Dis. Leaders:** W: Michelle Secades & Chase Abraham; R: Natalie Sautter & Cheng Hong.
**Readings:** See Readings List.

Week #10
Oct. 24/25  
**Topics:** Public Relations Crisis & Corporate Social Responsibility Theories. Review for Exam.
**Dis. Leaders:** W: Yuge Wang & Sining Kong; R: Xue Zhao & Ke Huang.
**Readings:** See Readings List.
**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Sora Kim, Assistant Professor, Public Relations, UF (W: 4:10-5 p.m./R: 5:10-6 p.m.).

Week #11
Oct. 31/Nov. 1  
**EXAM:** Semester Exam – Thursday, Nov. 1, 5:10 – 6:40 p.m.
**Topics:** Persuasion Theories & Integrated Marketing Communication.
**Dis. Leaders:** W: Yue Shu & Xianglin Kuang; R: Xi Luo & Yuan “Jocelyn” Xiao.
**Readings:** See Readings List.

Week #12
Nov. 7/8  
**Topics:** Exam Results. Research Papers. Activism & Conflict Resolution. Investor Relations.
**Dis. Leaders:** W: Sizhi Liu & Xi Zhu; R: Xinyu Li & Haokun Wang.
**Readings:** See Readings List.

Week #13
Nov. 14/15  
**Topics:** History, Legal, & Ethical Theories. Course Evaluation Reminder.
**Dis. Leaders:** W: Allison Justice & Sherry Rodriguez; R: Natalie Belva & Jungyun Won.
**Readings:** See Readings List.
**Guest Speakers:** Members of the Department of Public Relations Advisory Council (W: 6:05 – 7:05 p.m./R: 6:05 – 7:05 p.m.).
**Field Trip:** Only 1 of 2 Required: Thursday, Nov. 15 – FPRA Gainesville Chapter Meeting, Sweetwater Branch Inn (11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.).

Week #14
Nov. 21/22  
No Class  

Week #15
Nov. 28/29  
**Due:** Research Paper, W: 4:05 p.m./R: 5:10 p.m.
FPRA Professional Meeting Summary, W: 4:05 p.m./R: 5:10 p.m.

Week #16
Dec. 5  
**Topics:** End-of-Semester Celebration (Location TBD).

Happy Holidays!
Week #2
August 29/30

Theoretical Frameworks for Understanding Public Relations


Week #3
September 5/6

Excellence, Role, & Contingency Theories


Week #4
September 12/13

Effectiveness & Measurement; Relationship Theory


**Week #5**
September 19/20  **Rhetorical & Critical Theories**


**Week #6**
September 26/27  **Global & International Theories**


**Week #7**
October 3/4  **Philanthropy, Nonprofit Management, & Fundraising Theories**


**Week #8**
October 10/11  **Feminist, Gender, & Diversity Theories**


Media Theories: Agenda Building, Agenda Setting, & Innovative Media


Public Relations Crisis & Corporate Social Responsibility Theories


Persuasion Theories & Integrated Marketing Communication


Activism & Conflict Resolution. Investor Relations


History, Legal, & Ethical Theories

