

PUR 3000: Spring 2015
Principles of Public Relations (Online)

INSTRUCTOR: Tiffany Schweickart
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Course Description

The purpose of the Public Relations Principles course is to provide a general overview of the practices of public relations and to provide exposure to a number of selected topics in the field of public relations such as history, law, ethics, and the international nature of public relations. This will serve as an introductory course for pursuing the major. The course will provide a comprehensive understanding of public relations' role in organizations and society; how public relations has been developed as a discipline; and the contemporary roles of public relations in organizations and society. Basic public relations principles and theories will be examined in addition to applied perspectives. Students will discuss public relations issues and trends as well as international and ethical considerations involved in the practice of public relations. Students will be encouraged to think more broadly considering the globalized communication function of public relations and having their own ideas about public relations through the discussion of misunderstandings and misperceptions about the field of public relations.

Specific Course Objectives

- To gain a historical perspective of the public relations discipline.
- To understand the theories, principles, and practices relevant to public relations.
- To gain international perspectives of public relations practice.
- To evaluate the role and functions of public relations in organizations.
- To understand key processes involved in public relations such as research, planning, strategy, and evaluation.

Required Text

Wilcox, D. L. & Cameron, G. T. (2012). *Public relations: Strategies and tactics* (11th edition). Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course; this course is open to all.

Course Communication and Engagement

You have a variety of ways to communicate with the instructor but all office communication from her will be conveyed via announcements and materials on our Sakai course site. All assignments, lectures, due dates, grades, and announcements will be posted on Sakai. You are responsible for being aware of the site's contents on a daily basis (i.e. if you have computer problems, you will need to make arrangements to log on elsewhere to keep up).

Please be aware of the following communication policies:

- Please review our syllabus, module intros, announcements, grading rubrics, due dates etc. before posting a question. Most of your questions are answered there. If you've looked and it's not there or you need further clarification, then post your general questions on the Course Questions discussion board (the type of thing that you would raise your hand in class to ask). This is the fastest way to get your questions answered. Feel free to respond to each other if you know the answer.
- For personal or grade questions, please email the instructor (from within elearning in Sakai) or make an appointment by e-mail.
- If you need to meet in person, please make an appointment via email (from within elearning in Sakai).
- Sakai is our official email tool. You should email the instructor through Sakai.

Assignments & Grading

Grades will be based on a combination of categories as follows:

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|---|------------|
| • Homework Assignments | 20% |
| • Group Project: Program Planning Assignment | 20% |
| • Exam 1 | 15% |
| • Exam 2 | 20% |
| • Exam 3 | 25% |

Assignment Type

Description

<p>Homework (20%)</p>	<p>You will have homework assignments due most (but not all) weeks during the semester. These assignments will be announced typically on Sundays and you will have until the following Sunday (one week) to complete them. The assignments will vary but may include short quizzes, discussion posts, short answer questions, assignment activities from the textbook, and others. Some of these assignments will be graded and others will be graded for completion. Detailed instructions for each homework assignment will be given one week in advance.</p>
<p>Exam 1 (15%)</p>	<p>Exam two will be an online exam that will test knowledge you retained from the course throughout the second third of the semester. There will be 50 questions for exam one (T/F and Multiple Choices). Exam questions will be randomly drawn. You may consult study materials during the exam. A study guide is posted on Sakai. The exam will be administered for two days and it will be timed (50 minutes). Check the course schedule at "Due Dates" for exam two.</p>
<p>Program Planning Group Project Assignments Team Grade (16%)</p>	<p>Students will work on program planning group project assignments with the same group they are assigned for discussion forum assignments. Your group will be assigned by the instructor based on students' last names. Assigned groups will be announced during week 2. For group collaboration of these assignments, you should use Google's collaborative presentation tool (Google Drivepresentations). There are four interim deadlines for the 4 Program Planning Group Project Assignments and the final deadline. <u>Missing</u> interim deadlines for each assignment will result in a 5-point deduction. By each interim deadline, each group should post the Google Presentation link to your work under the assignments tab. However, I won't grade your work for interim deadlines. I will only grade your final submission. By the final submission due date, each group should combine all program planning project assignments 1, 2, 3, & 4 and submit it as a PPT file (not a link) to the assignment tab. Check the detailed "Instructions" for program planning group project assignments.</p>
<p>Program Planning Group Project Assignments Individual Grade (4%)</p>	<p>Individual grade will also be worth 16 points. Keep track of your group members' collaboration using the peer evaluation form posted on our Sakai site. Each group member should fill out this peer evaluation form and submit it through assignment tab. Check the "Due date" for the peer evaluation.</p>

Exam 2 (20%)	Exam two will be an online exam that will test knowledge you retained from the course throughout the second third of the semester. There will be 50 questions for exam one (T/F and Multiple Choices). Exam questions will be randomly drawn. You may consult study materials during the exam. A study guide is posted on Sakai. The exam will be administered for two days and it will be timed (50 minutes). Check the course schedule at “Due Dates” for exam two.
Exam 3 (25%)	Exam three will be an online exam that will test the knowledge you retained from the course throughout the last third of the semester. There will be 50 questions for Exam three (T/F and Multiple Choices). Exam questions will be randomly drawn. You may consult study materials during the exam. A study guide is posted on Sakai. The exam will be administered for two days and it will be timed (50 minutes). Check the course schedule at “Due Dates” for exam three.

****Please refer to “Due Dates Course Calendar” for all assignments’ due dates.**

Grading Scale

Grade	Scale
A	90-100 %
B	80-89 %
C	70-79 %
D	60-69 %
E	59 % and below

Academic Honesty

IMPORTANT Please be aware: During this course students are permitted to use their book and notes during quizzes and exams. However, students are NOT allowed to cooperate with other students in order to complete quizzes or exams.

If several students habitually begin the test at the same time, or if other digital evidence provided by Sakai suggests that students have attempted to cheat by cooperating then students suspected of dishonesty may be offered a chance to retake an in-person proctored exam without the benefit of notes or textbooks in order to verify their knowledge of the material. Cheating is a violation of the **honor code and may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.**

University of Florida Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

****Netiquette: Communication Courtesy:** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior] <http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at: Learning-support@ufl.edu , (352) 392-HELP - select option 2, <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

** Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for: Counseling and Wellness resources, Disability resources, Resources for handling student concerns and complaints, Library Help Desk support. Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Course Schedule and Due Dates

Please refer to the eLearning course schedule for weekly course content, required readings, assignment instructions, and assignment due dates posted in our Sakai course site.