

Writing for Public Relations - PUR 4100

Section	2E22
Class Times	Tuesday and Thursday, periods 10 and 11 (5:10 – 7:05 p.m.)
Location	Weimer 2056
Instructor	Amelia Bell, APR
Email	amelia.s.bell@gmail.com
Phone	352-246-3082 - This is my cell number. Please use this number to reach me with questions or to schedule appointments. Texts are preferred.
Office Hours	By appointment

Course Overview

In this course, you will master the core qualities of excellent writing for public relations. As a public relations professional, it is imperative that you learn to write well across a variety of forms and mediums, and you learn to write quickly. Reading assignments will be posted online or distributed in class, and will come from real life examples. By the end of the course, you will have a portfolio of writing samples that demonstrate your ability to not only write well, but to think strategically on behalf of a client.

Each week, we will combine lecture and discussion with class labs that will give you an opportunity to apply what you've learned from the discussion with hands-on experience. Ultimately, you will generate components of a strategic communications plan.

At the beginning of the course you will identify a client. The client may be an organization you have worked or volunteered with in the past, or an organization whose values or mission with which you identify. The client must be an existing organization. Most of your writing assignments will be completed on behalf of this client. You do not have to obtain permission from the client, or notify them, but you may find it helpful to do so to gain necessary information to complete assignments for this course. You will identify the core messages and audiences for that organization and translate those messages across a variety of forms of strategic communication.

In this course, we will adhere to AP style. All work is expected to be your own original work. Factual and grammatical errors will not be tolerated.

Required Course Materials

Wilcox, D.L., & Reber, B.H. (2013). *Public relations writing and media techniques* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson (ISBN: 0-205-56263-9)

The Associated Press Stylebook and briefing on Media Law (recent edition)

Please bring a reliable flash drive to save your work on during the semester.

Course Objectives

- Develop key messages and tailor them to specific audiences to achieve strategic public relations objectives.
- Quickly produce clear, concise, well-organized and accurate content, building upon strong key message development.
- Effectively tailor content for multi-media platforms and communication methods.

Prerequisites

To enroll in this course, you must have completed and received a grade of C or better in PUR 3000 (Principles of Public Relations) and JOU 3101 (Reporting).

Appointments

I am available to meet with students by appointment. Please email or text me to schedule an appointment.

Course Professionalism

This College is a professional school, and professional decorum is expected at all times. I expect you to adhere to workplace norms of collegial and respectful interaction. That specifically means that you will arrive on time, not speak when another student or the instructor are speaking, use cell phones, laptops or other electronic devices.

Class Attendance Policy

Class attendance is not required, but missing class will affect your participation grade. Please do not ask me to review material that I covered when you missed class, unless you missed class due to a serious illness. Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:

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

Academic Honesty

The work you submit for this course must be your own. It must be original work for this course. You must never use direct or paraphrased material from any source, including websites, without citing the source. You may not submit anything that you wrote for another class, or that you wrote as a volunteer or intern. You may not submit anything that was written for any purpose other than the given assignment. I will handle any incident of academic dishonesty in accordance with the UF policies that address cheating and unethical academic behavior, specifically the UF Honor Code and the Academic Honesty Guidelines. Any case of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for this course. I will follow University Guidelines for any offense. Anytime you complete an assignment for this course you will clearly attribute the source of your information, including information obtained from websites or internal documents. You cannot copy anything word for word, regardless of the source, without putting quotes around it and attributing the source.

For this class, we will use the MLA in-text citation method. Provide attribution within the text for any ideas, insights, or facts that are not your own. You must also list your sources in a bibliography.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Email

I am happy to answer questions via email. Please do not email me with a question about your assignment within 24 hours of the due date.

Format

Everything you write for this course must be coherent, logical and carefully edited. Misspellings, syntax and grammatical errors are unacceptable. Use page numbers in every assignment.

Grading Policy

- Client Proposal Project – 5 percent
- Class Participation – 15 percent
- Writing Assignments – 40 percent
- Strategic Communications Plan – 30 percent
- Presentation – 10 percent

No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments may not be made up.

Grades will be based on the following scale:

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| A | 90 – 100 percent – professional and could be published as-is. |
| B | 80 – 89 percent – strong but needs minor revisions |
| C | 70 – 79 percent – errors needs major revisions. |
| D | 60 – 69 percent – needs to be re-written. |
| E | 0 – 59 percent – unacceptable/missed deadline |

You will graduate and become a professional soon. Therefore, the course expectations are that you act professionally which means if you don't understand something – ask! **Late assignments will not be accepted.** I cannot go to my boss and ask for a deadline to be changed because I'm going to a social/ will be on vacation/got sick/ etc. **YOU MUST WRITE YOUR NAME AT THE TOP OF YOUR PAPER. PAPERS WITHOUT A NAME WILL NOT BE GRADED. YOU MUST ALSO STAPLE YOUR WORK IF IT IS MORE THAN ONE PAGE.**

Class Discussion and Assignment Schedule

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	August 26 Course Overview and Client Selection Reading: pages 16 - 31	August 28 <i>Client Selection Due</i> Audience Analysis and resumes/cover letters
Week 2	September 2 <i>Audience analysis due</i> Strategic Communications Plans – Research/Planning Reading: Chapter 18 – 19 and handouts	September 4 <i>Resume/Cover Letters due</i> Strategic Communications Plans – Implementation and Evaluation Reading: Chapter 18 – 19 and handouts
Week 3	September 9 <i>Client Proposal due</i> Strategic Communications Plans – Message Strategy and Persuasion Reading: Chapter 2	September 11 <i>Message strategy due</i> News Media Readings: Chapter 3 - 5
Week 4	September 16 <i>Press release due</i> News Media <i>In class assignment - Media list with pitch</i> Readings: Chapter 3 – 5	September 18 News Media: Media advisories <i>In class assignment - Media advisory</i> Reading: Chapter 6
Week 5	September 23 Presentations and Speechwriting Reading: Chapter 15	September 25 Work Day – <i>speech, speech memo and Q/A</i>
Week 6	September 30 <i>Speech due</i> Speech Presentations	October 2 <i>Speech due</i> Speech Presentations
Week 7	October 7 Fact Sheets and Backgrounders Reading: Chapter 6	October 9 <i>Fact sheets due</i> PSAs Reading: Chapter 6
Week 8	October 14 <i>PSAs due – print, radio and TV</i> Multimedia: Videos and Photographs <i>In class assignment: Shot list</i> Reading: Chapter 8	October 16 Newsletters and brochures/project timelines <i>In class assignment: Newsletter copy</i> Reading: Chapter 13
Week 9	October 21 Editorial Pages (op-ed and letters to the editor) Reading: Chapter 7	October 23 No Class

Week 10	October 28 <i>Op-ed due</i> Event timelines and budget Reading: Chapter 17	October 30 Feature Writing Reading: Chapter 7
Week 11	November 4 <i>Feature Story due</i> Crisis communications <i>In class assignment - Crisis response</i> Reading: page 112 – 114	November 6 Social media Reading: Chapter 12
Week 12	November 11 <i>Holiday</i>	November 13 <i>Social media report due</i> PR Law and Ethics
Week 13	November 18 Work Day	November 20 Work Day
Week 14	November 25 Happy Thanksgiving	November 27 Happy Thanksgiving
Week 15	December 2 Work Day	December 4 <i>Presentations and Final Communications Plan Due</i> Presentations on your final communications plan
Week 16	December 9 <i>Presentations and Final Communications Plan Due</i> Presentations on your final communications plan	