

Public Relations Campaigns
JOUR 4440-M50
Fall 2011
Instructor: Darrin M. Devault, M.A.
Office: Online only
Office hours: By appointment
Phone: (901) 678-2405
E-mail: darrin.devault@memphis.edu

COURSE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

CATALOGUE/COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Application of theory, research data, and problem-solving techniques in the development of comprehensive public relations strategies.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES:

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of people and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communication in a global society;
- Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- Think critically, creatively and independently;
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy, appropriate style and grammatical correctness; and
- Apply basic numerical and statistical concepts.

PREREQUISITES:

JOUR 3400, JOUR 3410, JOUR 3421, JOUR 4420 recommended or with instructor's permission.

TEXTBOOK:

Strategic Communications Planning for Effective Public Relations and Marketing by Wilson, L., and Ogden, J. (3rd edition, Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co.). ISBN 978-0-7575-4887-1

HOW PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES WILL BE MET:

Cognitive Objectives To Be Mastered (Ability to Explain, Analyze, Understand, Think Critically):

Students will:

- Conceptualize the structure of a public relations campaign.
- Differentiate campaigns from other activities.
- Describe different approaches to campaigns used by current practitioners.
- Describe how social science/communication theory can be applied in support of organizational standards.

- Understand the role they play in achieving success or failure in group and deadline-sensitive projects.

Performance Standards To Be Met (Demonstrable Skills, Abilities, Techniques, Applied Competencies):

Students will:

- Apply social science and communication theory to solve problems.
- Apply the public relations process—research, planning, execution and evaluation—to solve problems for a client.
- Plan and budget a public relations campaign.
- Work as a member of a public relations team or work group.
- Use group processes to produce decision options.

HOW ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING WILL BE MET FOR JOUR 4440:

This capstone public relations course is designed to develop and test students’ abilities to apply their knowledge and skills to solve public relations problems in a group setting. Students will draw upon and apply all of their coursework to succeed.

Students will:

- Incorporate audience segmentation principles in developing campaign research, planning, implementation and evaluation.
- Produce campaign materials suitable for clients and incorporate in final reports.
- Produce a unique and creative campaign to solve a PR challenge for an organization.
- Conduct research when no primary research is available. Students will design research, create research tools and interpret results in the final report.
- Produce a written report of their findings.
- Contribute to and produce a campaign: generate content, copy edit, print and produce supplementary materials.
- Where appropriate, input survey data into a software program (e.g., SPSS), run statistics and interpret data for the final report.

CLASSROOM FORMAT:

This course is delivered online in an asynchronous format. You must have Internet access and Microsoft Word or other word processing software that generates a “.doc” extension.

You must have Microsoft Word software. I must be able to open your work to grade it. Work submitted in a software package not noted as acceptable in this syllabus (Microsoft Word) may result in point deductions being assessed to your work.

COURSE WEB SITE ADDRESS: (The course page will be available from August 27 to December 15, 2011.)

1. Go to the University of Memphis home page: <http://www.memphis.edu>
2. Click on the “MyMemphis” link at the bottom of the left column menu.
3. Log in using your University of Memphis username and password.
4. Click on the “eCampus Resources” tab.
5. In the center column of the page, click on the blue UoM eCourseware link
6. Down on that page, in the Fall 2011 course list available to you click on the link for JOUR 4440 - M50 to enter your course and read the instructions on the welcoming page.

GRADING:

Testing Procedures: Course work will be accomplished each week. Four exams will be part of your final grade; each one will cover material in your textbook. Each must be completed by its due date and time (Central Standard Time), which varies by exam. Check each due time to ensure that you post by the deadline. Exams will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions, which will contain one or more units of study. Exams will be limited as to time. Desire2Learn will cut you off at the end of the prescribed time period, regardless of whether you have completed all questions. You may use your textbook to confirm an answer, but be aware that time limits will not allow you to spend much time flipping through it. You should read and be familiar with each section before taking its exam.

Other parts of your grade will come from participation in weekly online discussions and group projects. (The group projects include a peer evaluation component.) This work must be submitted per instructions; no credit will be given outside of the proper submission guidelines.

Grading Procedure:

*****ONLINE SUCCESS:** Your success in this online course will depend on your willingness to read the textual material, successfully complete exams, and complete written work and group projects as scheduled.

All work submitted will be considered final, as each student has unlimited access to the course to ask questions. There will be no re-submission of papers to increase the initial grade given. You are required to ask via email, set up an appointment in the chat room, or call me with your questions as to the proper completion of coursework. It is your responsibility to ensure clarification of instructions.

All work submitted must reflect critical thinking and knowledge of the material; that is, examples found within or outside of class, along with elaboration, are required to achieve an "A" grade. Material on all exams come from our textbook; check this resource first for your material.

No work will be accepted after the final day of class.

Grading Scale:

Four Exams Covering Textbook — 160 points
Individual Report on a PR/Marketing Book — 40 points
Individual Participation in Class Discussions — 300 points
Group Project — 500 points
TOTAL: 1,000 points

A = 900-1,000 points

B = 800-899 points

C = 700-799 points

D = 600-699 points

F = 599 and fewer points

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE:

Individual Participation in Class Discussions

Participation #1 (25 points): Aug. 29 - Sept. 4
Participation #2 (25 points): Sept. 5-11
Participation #3 (25 points): Sept. 12-18
Participation #4 (25 points): Sept. 19-25
Participation #5 (25 points): Sept. 26 - Oct. 2
Participation #6 (25 points): Oct. 3-9
Participation #7 (25 points): Oct. 10-23
Participation #8 (25 points): Oct. 24-30
Participation #9 (25 points): Oct. 31-Nov. 6
Participation #10 (25 points): Nov. 7-13
Participation #11 (25 points): Nov. 14-20
Participation #12 (25 points): Nov. 21 - Dec. 4

PARTICIPATION TOTAL: 300 points

Individual Abstract on a PR/Marketing Book (40 points): due by November 4

Everyone will read and submit an individual abstract based on a PR/Marketing book. The abstract should identify at least 10 important points that can be useful in planning public relations campaigns. You will be expected to share your abstract in this forum and initiate a relevant discussion based on the highlights of the book. (Note: A list of available books to read for this assignment will be made available during the first full week of class.)

Exams

Exam #1 (40 points): available Aug. 27 - Sept. 23
Exam #2 (40 points): available Sept. 24 - Oct. 14
Exam #3 (40 points): available Oct. 15 - Nov. 11
Exam #4 (40 points): available Nov. 12 - Dec. 9

EXAMS TOTAL: 160 points

Group Project (500 points): due by December 7

The group project/PR campaign is the culmination of this course and of your overall coursework in public relations. Your project will be organized into sections that will be detailed on the Discussion Board and in the Content section of our course.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SEMESTER POINTS: 1,000 points

ASSIGNED READINGS

Here are the assigned readings from your textbook:

Chapter 1: Trust and the Relationship-Building Approach to Communication, Aug. 29 - Sept. 4
Chapters 2: Public Information and Persuasive Communication, Sept. 5-11
Chapters 3: Communications Research Methods, Sept. 12-18
Chapters 4: Using Research for Effective Communications Planning, Sept. 19-25

Chapters 5: Setting Goals and Objectives, Sept. 26 - Oct. 2
Chapters 6: Key Publics and Message Design, Oct. 3-9
Chapters 7: Designing Strategies and Tactics to Send Messages, Oct. 10-23
Chapters 8: Calendaring and Budgeting, Oct. 24-30
Chapters 9: Implementation and Communications Management, Oct. 31 - Nov. 6
Chapters 10: Effective Communications Measurement and Evaluation, Nov. 7-13
Chapters 11: Executive Summaries and Business Presentations, Nov. 14-20
Chapters 12: Ethics and Professionalism, Nov. 21 - Dec. 4

DEPARTMENT POLICIES

E-MAIL:

You must have your UM email account activated. If you are using another provider such as Google, you are required to have your UM email forwarded to that account. Go to the <http://iam.memphis.edu> website to implement forwarding of UM email. You are required to check your email daily. You are responsible for complying with any email sent to you by your professor or the University.

CELL PHONES:

You must turn them off during class.

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is mandatory in the Department of Journalism. You may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance, or habitual late arrival. No late work will be accepted without prior arrangements, which are acceptable to your professor. Students may not be permitted to make up any missing work unless it is for an absence due to illness or other catastrophic emergency such as a death in the family that can be documented (e.g., with a doctor's note or a copy of the newspaper obituary). This is a professional program for journalists who are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. If you have some problem making it to class on time make arrangements to fix the problem or consider taking another course. You should consider this class your "job" in the educational process and be on time just as you would elsewhere.

CHEATING:

In addition to university-wide policies stated in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Department of Journalism considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses, or a student receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on his/her own, as acts of cheating punishable to the degree determined appropriate by the course instructor and department chair. That may include grade reductions or seeking dismissal of the student from the university.

"Your written work may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar electronic detection method, for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. As part of this process, you may be required to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your written work, or be given other instructions to follow. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process and that the assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Any assignment not submitted according to the procedures given by the instructor may be penalized or may not be accepted at all." (Office of Legal Counsel, October 17, 2005)

ONLINE SETEs:

You are urged to complete the SETEs evaluation of the course. Once your instructor has posted your grade, you can immediately see that grade, provided you completed a teacher evaluation for that course. How to access your evaluation forms: Log in using your UUID and email password; click on the gray “Student” tab; complete an evaluation for each course listed and hit the “Submit” button at the bottom of the form. It will only take a few minutes of your time. We take the evaluations very seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Your feedback is essential and will be appreciated.

DISABILITY:

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at (901) 678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

EXIT EXAM FOR ALL JOURNALISM MAJORS:

All Journalism majors are required to take the Journalism Exit Exam their last semester before graduation. Please contact the Journalism office staff anytime during the semester to sign up. You may take the test anytime there are open lab hours during the semester. You will not be certified to graduate until you have completed the test.

PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES FOR JOURNALISM PROGRAM:

The Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication requires that, irrespective of their particular specialization, all graduates should be aware of certain core values and competencies and be able to:

- understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
- demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
- demonstrate an understanding of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and, as appropriate, other forms of diversity in domestic society in relation to mass communication;
- demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
- understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
- think critically, creatively and independently;
- conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- apply basic numerical and statistical concepts; and

- apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING FOR JOURNALISM PROGRAM

The Council seeks to promote student learning and encourages experimentation and innovation. Assessment is a system of evaluation of student learning at the course or unit level (as opposed to grading at the individual level). Three criteria should guide assessment of student learning:

- Awareness: familiarity with specific information, including facts, concepts, theories, laws and regulations, processes and effects.
- Understanding: assimilation and comprehension of information, concepts, theories and ideas.
- Application: competence in relating and applying skills, information, concepts, theories and ideas to the accomplishment of tasks.