

## **Survey of Public Relations**

PBRL 3400-501

Spring 2018

TR 9:40-11:05 a.m.

Varnell-Jones 321

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## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Development, scope and modern role of public relations; emphasis on problem solving, discussions and application of major public relations tools and practices.

**PREREQUISITE:** None

### **TEXTBOOKS:**

REVEL Online Text: Wilcox, D.L., Cameron, G.T., Reber B.H. (2015). Public relations: strategies and tactics (11<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

This course uses a Pearson digital text which contains important assignments and resources used throughout the semester. The required link below is unique to this course. Here is how to register:

1. Go to: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/ldrxb6>
2. Sign in with your Pearson Account. You can either: sign in with an existing Pearson username and password OR create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product.
3. Choose your course under 'My Courses' and choose an access option: redeem an access code that you got from your school's bookstore or purchase access online. There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.

What you should know:

- Bookmark <https://console.pearson.com> to easily access your materials.
- Pearson recommends using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, or Safari with this digital product.
- If you lose the invitation link, visit the class shell in eCourseware to retrieve it (<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/ldrxb6>).

### **CLASSROOM FORMAT:**

The class will be presented in discussion format. It is a hybrid class, meaning work will be accomplished inside the classroom in a traditional format, and outside the classroom using various digital platforms. Class discussion will involve application of the concepts within the public relations 4-step process, current issues and trends.

**GRADING:**

The student's final grade will be based on a percentage of the following:

Exams: 50%

Activities/Assignments/Quizzes/Participation/Exercises: 50%

**Grading Rubric for Assignments:**

**A (90-100):** Professional work. Clear thinking is reflected in clear writing. Uses appropriate style for type of media. Knows and uses preferred form. No errors in form, grammar or spelling. Adapted to intended audience (public).

**B (80-89):** Near professional work. Lacks polish (style) of A work. Form is correct. No errors in form, grammar or spelling. Adapted to intended audience.

**C (70-79):** Acceptable as a classroom assignment only. Not usable professionally without further editing/corrections. Up to 7 errors detected [or] not well adapted to intended audience or medium.

**D (60-69):** Needs significant work in form and/or style. Up to 12 errors detected [or] shows little consideration of needs/interests of intended audience or medium.

**F (59 or below):** Unacceptable in form and style [or] fails to adapt to intended audience or medium.

**DEADLINES:**

Meeting deadlines is essential for media professionals. Regular attendance is vital in class. Late work will not be accepted unless there is an unavoidable emergency and documentation is provided, for instance, a car accident that resulted in hospitalization. If a student knows about an absence in advance, arrangements may be made with the professor to turn in the work early at the professor's discretion.

Work completed on REVEL is due by 9:40 a.m., typically on each Tuesday. There are some exceptions that set deadlines to 9:40 a.m. on Thursdays, so adhere to the deadlines set in your REVEL account, and that are reflected in the tentative course schedule.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students who enter the classroom late are required to sit in the closest seat available near the front of the class by the door to minimize distraction. If a student is late more than four times, the professor may ask that if they are going to be late again, not to enter the classroom on that day.

Students who miss more than three classes are subject to drop one letter grade per absence at the discretion of the professor. Students with more than two tardies are subject to have their final grade reduced by one percentage point per additional tardy. Attendance is mandatory.

Coming to class well prepared is equally important. This means reading the assigned chapters in the textbook and staying informed about current events.

The basic requirements for this course include these elements:

1. Complete assigned readings from the textbook each week;
2. Arrive to each class punctually and prepared;
3. Check campus email each weekday morning by 8 a.m.;
4. Complete any quizzes, assignments, or presentations on deadline and with

excellence;

5. Pass class exams;

6. Be respectful of classmates and professor at all times; and

7. Participate in meaningful class discussion and activities/exercises.

**COURSE WEBSITE ADDRESS:**

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 U of M eCourseware link

NOTE: We will NOT use the internal eCourseware email system on the course web page. Use your regular UM email located inside MyMemphis and correspond with the professor at her regular UM address noted at the top of this syllabus.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE BY WEEK:**

Jan. 16	Introduction / Review of Syllabus / Agency Profile Presentation Assigned / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 1 & Complete REVEL Work
Jan. 18	Discussion: Chapter 1 / REVEL Work for Ch. 1 Due / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 2 & Complete REVEL Work
Jan. 23	Discussion: Chapter 2 / REVEL Work for Ch. 2 Due / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 3 & Complete REVEL Work
Jan. 25	Finish Discussion: Chapter 2
Jan. 30	Discussion Ch. 3 / REVEL Work for Ch. 3 Due / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 4 & Complete REVEL Work
Feb. 1	Discussion: Chapter 4
Feb. 6	REVEL Work for Ch. 4 Due / <b>Agency Profile Presentation Day 1 / Homework:</b> Study for Test
Feb. 8	<b>EXAM 1</b> (ch. 1-4) / Homework: Read Ch. 5
Feb. 13	Discussion: Your Personal Brand / <b>Assignment Discussed</b> (Personal Digital Media Inventory & Evaluation) / Discussion: Chapter 5 / REVEL Work for Ch. 5 Due
Feb. 15	<b>Agency Profile Presentation Day 2 / Homework:</b> Read Ch. 6 & Complete REVEL work

Feb. 20	Discussion: Chapter 6 / REVEL Work for Ch. 6 Due
Feb. 22	<b>Agency Profile Presentation Day 3 / Homework:</b> Read Ch. 7 & Complete REVEL work
Feb. 27	Discussion: Chapter 7 / REVEL work for Ch. 7 Due
March 1	<b>EXAM 2</b> (ch. 5-7) / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 8 & Complete REVEL Work
March 6	<b>SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS</b>
March 8	<b>SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS</b>
March 13	Discussion: Chapter 8 / REVEL work for Ch. 8 Due / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 9 & Complete REVEL work for Ch. 9
March 15	Movie: Art & Copy / <b>Homework:</b> Read Chapter 10 & Complete REVEL Work
March 20	Complete Movie and Exercise
March 22	Discussion: Chapter 9 / REVEL work for Ch. 9 Due / <b>Assignment Reminder</b> (YouTube Videography)
March 27	Discussion: Chapter 10 / REVEL Work for Ch. 10 Due
March 29	<b>Agency Profile Presentation Day 4 (If needed)</b>
April 3	Discussion: Chapter 11 / REVEL work for Ch. 11 Due / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch. 11 & Complete REVEL Work
April 5	<b>EXAM 3</b> (ch. 8-11) / <b>Homework:</b> Chapter Read 13 & Complete REVEL Work
April 10	Discussion: Chapter 13 / REVEL Work for Ch. 13 Due / <b>Homework:</b> Read Ch.14 & Complete REVEL Work
April 12	<b>Personal Digital Media Inventory and Evaluation Presentations</b>
April 17	Discussion: Chapter 14 / REVEL Work for Ch. 14 Due
April 19	<b>Personal Digital Media Inventory and Evaluation Presentations</b>
April 24	<b>Last Day of Class: YouTube Videography Presentations</b>
T, May 1, 10:30a - 12:30p	FINAL EXAM

### **FIVE PILLARS OF PBRL3400**

- *Professionalism*: Students learn the professional standards and strategies of the public relations industry by discussing and participating in PR activity simulations, learning public relations theory and history, and learning industry vocabulary. Finally, students conduct a personal digital media inventory and present the results to the class.
- *Writing*: JOUR 3400 addresses writing skills related to strategic planning, crisis communication, positioning, and platform specific media requirements.
- *Multimedia*: Students prepare a personal digital media inventory and present it to the class. Students also create a short videography and post it on YouTube.
- *Critical Thinking*: Students must demonstrate an understanding of the importance of understanding the needs, values, and attitudes of all stakeholder groups in order to determine the appropriate public relations strategies to implement.
- *Media Literacy*: JOUR 3400 addresses media literacy by exposing students to the vocabulary and tools of the public relations industry. Students learn how to communicate with different media outlets, and how to conduct research, planning, communication and evaluation.

## ASSESSMENT

### PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES FOR PBRL3400:

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

### HOW PROFESSIONAL VALUES AND COMPETENCIES WILL BE MET:

**Cognitive objectives to be mastered (ability to explain, analyze, understand, think critically):**

- Define public relations.
- Distinguish public relations from other management functions.
- Explain how public relations evolved in the United States.
- Describe the activities of public relations – what PR people do.
- Identify an organization's key publics – including under represented publics.
- Describe and apply the public relations process – research, planning, action/communication and evaluation.
- Describe the various contexts for public relations.

**Performance standards to be met (demonstrable skills, abilities, techniques, applied competencies):**

- Earn a passing score on periodic exams.
- Work a public relations problem within an ethical framework.
- Write measurable objectives necessary to successful application of the public relations 4-step process.

### **HOW ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING WILL BE MET FOR PBRL3400:**

The course is designed to equip students with knowledge necessary to successfully apply problem-solving concepts constituting the public relations 4-step process.

*Awareness:*

- Identify historically significant principles and applications in the evolution of public relations through quizzes and exams.

*Understanding:*

- Target identified publics for appropriate communication in applying the public relations 4-step process.

*Application:*

- Successfully execute a group project that applies the public relations 4-step process.

## **DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

### **PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT:**

All students in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media are required to develop and maintain an active portfolio of their work. Undergraduate students are to begin the portfolio in JRSJ 3900 and contribute to it from every course thereafter. The portfolio should contain samples of the student's work from his/her courses and/or professional experience and should develop as the student builds skills. Portfolios will undergo a final, external review while students are enrolled in the capstone course for their majors.

Students may use any type of web hosting for their portfolios, but it must have an independent and professional URL. The department requires students to use WordPress to build their portfolio sites. Students are encouraged to consider purchasing a URL and hosting if they plan to use the portfolio for a long term, but must keep the portfolio active for six months following graduation from the University of Memphis.

Students should have a professional email address they plan to use throughout their professional life, via a common email service, such as Gmail or Yahoo.

All portfolios must contain the following items:

- Samples of work from courses and/or professional activities. (Example: Broadcasting students must include a video reel)
- A current résumé
- A personal profile
- Contact information/means of contact
- Social media links

Students might wish to include a blog, video reels, photograph galleries, SoundSlides presentations, design PDFs, audio files, and Storify pieces as examples of professional work. The professional work should ultimately be tailored to the career the student seeks after graduation. Thus, each student's portfolio should show a unique blend of work.

**EMAIL:**

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.

**MOBILE PHONES AND LAPTOPS:**

Some classes require a tablet, laptop or a smartphone. Others do not. Your instructor will set the policy for her/her specific class.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Class attendance is mandatory in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media. 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 because of 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 class. 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 and Strategic Media 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.

Further, as this is a journalism/mass communication class, students are expected to comply with copyright law, and must have sufficient permission to use any copyrighted materials used in creative projects, unless otherwise informed in cases of exercises or reproduction.

"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 this course. Once your instructor has posted your grade, you can immediately see that grade, provided you completed a teacher evaluation for that class. 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.

**DEADLINES:**

Remember there's a reason "DEAD" makes up half the word "deadline." All deadlines are firm. This is journalism and strategic media. If you get into trouble, talk to your instructor. Exceptions will be made for reasonable circumstances if the student notifies the instructor prior to the due date.

**AP STYLE AND GRAMMAR:**

All written work in this class should follow the AP Stylebook and accepted rules of grammar and punctuation. If you don't know the style for a particular phrase, look it up or ask your classmates or the instructor.

**DISABILITY:**

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

**DIVERSITY:**

Students are required to respect the differences of others and treat all persons with respect. Discriminatory, derogatory and threatening language or behavior will not be tolerated. Further, students are expected to consider their work through a diverse mind. Mass communications reach a mass audience, and students should be aware of how those messages are received by a diverse audience.

**WEATHER POLICY:**

Always check with local media and the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather. If the university is closed or classes are canceled, this course will not meet. However, students will still be responsible for that day's work.