

Intro to Strategic Writing

STRM 3210-001

Fall 2025

Class Meeting: M/W 2:20 - 3:45 p.m. Meeman Journalism 212

Prof. Taylor Ackerman, APR, MA

She/Her

Office hours: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, 2:30 - 3 p.m.

Wednesdays, 12 - 1 p.m.

Other times available by appointment! If you are wishing to meet during my office hours, please send me a text prior to arriving to confirm which office I'm in or receive a Teams link.

Email: tckerman@memphis.edu

Phone: 731-225-7656 Text only unless by appointment

Please allow up to 48 hours for an email response M-F. While I don't have an issue with you texting me course questions, please be sure to always include your name and course in the text. Additionally, if texting, please honor my working hours of 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F. I will not respond to any texts on Sundays. If you need to contact me at an off time, please do so via email. Additionally, make sure to use your official U of M email (@memphis.edu) when contacting me about the course - messages sent via Canvas or from addresses outside the organization could be missed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Catalog description

Bridges information-based reporting with strategic writing. Students will learn how to use research, ethics, and critical thinking to develop their storytelling to fit the goals and objectives of each writing tool (e.g., media pitch, fact sheet, news release) while considering their client's needs and intended publics.

Textbooks, Software and Required Materials

No official textbook required for class - various articles and resources will be uploaded to Canvas. Please check weekly for required readings and media resources. Though not required, a copy of the *The Associated Press Stylebook* will aid in all assignments (preferably 2020 or newer). You can also access *The AP Stylebook* as an online publication through apstylebook.com

Classroom format

This class will be presented through lectures, multimedia, writing workshops and group activities both in class and utilizing online platforms. This class will meet in person twice a week in room 212. Regular attendance and participation in class is expected and will affect your grade. We will often complete exercises and activities in class that are pertinent to learning the material. We will also sometimes complete work in class to make the most of our time. While the files of my presentations will always be uploaded, as well as details for assignments that are due outside of class, in class activities and information given during class will not always be replicated in the online course shell. It is the responsibility of each student to communicate with classmates and myself about missed information and questions about the course/assignments.

Respectfully, this is college. In order to get all you can from this class, you'll have to put in effort. I'm laid back and enjoy creating a fun and engaging classroom experience, but I also expect excellence and quality in assignments.

Class discussions as well as any written assignments taking place both online and in person should remain respectful and professional, and show respect to all people regardless of background, sex, race, or any other factor. Hate speech will not be tolerated in my classroom and I reserve the right to ask any student to leave if they violate this boundary. Remember: Public relations is all about creating and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships and our classroom should be no different.

Please read all assignments and prompts thoroughly and respond to all parts of assignments. It is common for my assignments in this course to have more than one part/element.

Our class will be based around different aspects of writing for advertising and public relations. Concepts such as content marketing, target audiences, AP Style, and media relations will be discussed. You will write a variety of pieces and begin to develop a portfolio of work.

You also have an exciting opportunity this semester: We'll be creating work for a couple of real world clients. Not only will you get hands-on experience creating a variety of PR and advertising pieces you can put on your portfolio, but you'll also get the experience of learning what it's like to conduct client meetings and cater your work to a client's request. The best of student work will be published by our nonprofit partners on their websites, social media pages and other formats. This experience could give you an extra accomplishment for your resume, however, it will also mean making sure your final writing assignments are publish/client ready.

Students will upload all required assignments to Canvas, and feedback will be given to encourage student improvement. Access to a computer or an electronic device will be required. Please be sure to read the instructions for each assignment carefully, as requirements for each assignment will vary. Assignments being turned in will all need to be submitted as a .doc, .pdf or .pptx file unless otherwise noted. Reach out in class or via email if anything is unclear to you. All out-of-class assignments and quizzes will be due Sunday nights at 11:59 p.m. central time unless otherwise noted. To allow time for response and clarification, please reach out with any assignment questions at least 48 hours prior to the deadline.

In order to succeed in this course, it's imperative to attend class and stay engaged in all coursework. If at any point you are concerned about your grade or struggling to grasp course concepts, I encourage

you to make an appointment during my office hours so we can work to find a good solution. Remember, it's easier to get caught up the faster we recognize the problem.

Accessing the course website

1. Go to the University of Memphis online learning home page:
<http://memphis.instructure.com>
2. Log in using your University of Memphis username and password.
3. Click on the link for STRM 3210 to enter our course

Quality of Work

All work in this course should follow AP Style, including proper spelling, grammar, and language. A large part of public relations and advertising is having a polished written concept of what you are communicating. This includes all class work and presentations. Problems in these or other areas will result in the deduction of points.

I expect your work to be good and original, meaning it's yours. If you quote anything or get information from any other source, it should be fully cited. If you need help with writing and citing sources, please see me for resources.

Chat GPT/AI

Any AI/Chat GPT use should be disclosed on each assignment. I encourage you to use all tools available to you to better your work - including AI tools - but the tools should be used ethically. Be prepared to submit any prompts you used for assistance with your assignment as well as the original ChatGPT output and to be able to explain/show how you fact-checked and improved upon the AI's work. Using tools for AP style/grammatical checking, idea generation and assistance in research is encouraged, but using it to complete assignments without revision and effort is not permitted. Many assignments will be run through TurnItIn and other AI detection software. Students could be asked to redo a project/given a warning if there is repeated AI abuse or significant matching scores.

Repetition of Courses and Coursework

Students may not use or submit work from a previous course, even if it is the same course being repeated, to fulfill requirements for assignments in another course. If students wish to substantially rework the original submission, or to work with the same general idea, that may be permissible upon discussion with and written approval from the professor of the current course. When in doubt, ask. If I catch work that seems eerily similar to something from a previous class and you have not discussed it with me, it will be an automatic zero. All written work will be checked for policy adherence via TurnItIn.com. All creative work will be checked for policy adherence by the professor and judged against previous submissions. The only exception to this policy is the student's online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the resume and logo).

Questions about Grades

If you would like to ask about a grade, let's set up a Teams or office meeting so we can talk about it with clarity. I'm often flexible about allowing students to redo an assignment they may not be satisfied with *if* they come to me about it in a timely manner and show significant improvements in the work and understanding.

I will not discuss grades or disputes via email - this must be done in a scheduled meeting or phone call setting where we can have a conversation.

Additionally, you are responsible for tracking your assignments and meeting with me early in the semester if you are concerned about your overall grade. Meeting early and often can help both parties involved find ways to improve student-instructor understanding and quality of work.

Course & Campus Resources

Students with disabilities & accommodations

If you will need accommodations through [Disability Resources](#) to meet any of the requirements of this course, please let me know as soon as possible. I'm happy to work with you to make sure you are able to be successful in this course.

Support: If at any point in the semester you are struggling with the course load or a specific assignment, please reach out to me for a meeting so we can work to get you back on track. I'm happy to help in any way I'm able, but you must be an advocate for yourself by communicating with me and making me aware of any problems. It's impossible for me to help if I don't know there's a problem.

I am happy to meet with you outside of class, hop on a Teams call, or provide support over email. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you find yourself falling behind, feeling overwhelmed, or struggling.

Meeman Lab Availability: Open labs 9:30-4:30 Monday-Friday. In addition to Meeman, labs are available in the Tech Hub and the Library. We also have equipment rental available. Check your university email for details.

Campus and Community Resources: <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/>

Resources specific to physical health and wellness:

[Mental health Services](#)

[UofM Student Health Center](#)

[Sexual, domestic, and intimate partner violence resources](#)

If you are affected financially because of COVID-19:

There are many resources available through the Dean of Students including:

Dr. Rosie Phillips Bingham Student Emergency Fund
Emergency Food Resources, which includes Tiger Pantry

Academic Services:

[Writing Center](#)

[Tutoring](#)

Communities & Inclusion:

[Multicultural Affairs](#)

[LGBTQ+](#)

Grading

There are 1,000 possible points in this class. At the end of the semester, your class points will be calculated and rounded up to the nearest whole number. Letter grades will be determined according to the scale below. If additional points are added or subtracted from this possible point total, the letter scale will be adjusted.

A+ = 967 – 1,000 points, **A** = 934 – 966, **A-** = 900 – 933 points

B+ = 867 – 899 points, **B** = 834 – 866 points, **B-** = 800 – 833 points

C+ = 767 – 799 points, **C** = 734 – 766 points, **C-** = 700 – 733 points

D = 667 – 600 points

F = 600 and fewer points

Grading Philosophy. A=Professional quality work that could be use with little or no modification

B=Good to excellent work and exceeds requirement, but would require revision to be used professionally

C=Satisfactory work and adequately meets requirement, but would need significant revision

D=Barely satisfies minimum requirement and below average quality

F=Unsatisfactory work and does not meet minimum requirements

Assignments

Individual Assignments: 150 points

Quizzes: 200 points

In Class Activities & Discussion: 200 points

Writing Projects & Usage Guides: 450 points

Total: 1,000 points

Assignment Breakdown

More in-depth guidelines posted to Canvas.

Writing Projects: The biggest part of your grade in this class will be the independent writing projects you do. These projects will include, but not be limited to, a creative brief, media pitches, news releases, fact sheets, blogs and social media posts. In addition to writing projects, you'll complete a couple of "usage guides" for our nonprofits explaining how to best use the tools/strategies you are providing them with/learning in this course.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given throughout the semester to test your understanding of course concepts, as well as one final comprehensive quiz. Quizzes will be given on Canvas with a time limit of 45 minutes. You will have two attempts for each quiz with the highest grade taken. You are welcome to use your notes or book to help assist you on the quiz, but working with another student is prohibited.

Individual Assignments: Students will work independently on assignments in order to demonstrate understanding of course concepts and present individual client ideas. These assignments will vary in nature and be assigned via Canvas.

In Class Activities: To help reinforce learning outcomes as well as lighten the load of out-of-class assignments, a number of in class activities and discussions will take place during our course time and be counted for course grades.. These activities will often be scheduled in advance, though it is possible for a graded in class activity to crop up without warning. These activities will vary in nature and will often include gamified learning, flipped classroom style or group collaboration. Based on the nature of these activities, you must be present in class to receive a grade for these activities. Bonus point opportunities will be given throughout the semester that will help even out points for students who have to miss a couple of these activities, however please note that you will not be permitted to complete an in class activity if you are absent from class that day regardless of the reason you are missing class. This is not to punish you, but it is simply not possible based on the nature of the things we'll be doing. Attending class regularly is the best way to ensure success in this course. There are online sections of 3210 available if regular attendance is not possible for you.

Miscellaneous Policies

Late Work: In strategic media deadlines are imperative. In the field, we are often creating work for clients or pitch meetings with hard deadlines. As such, try to turn everything in on time. I do recognize life happens, and as such if you have to turn something in late, the following late policy will apply with the exception of quizzes and discussions which will not be accepted late.

<24 hours late: 5% off

<48 hours late: 10% off

<One week late: 20% off

One to three weeks late: 30% off

Over three weeks late: No credit

Student Responsibility: This is college; you have to have responsibility and work ethic in order to be successful at this level of your academic career. It will be your responsibility to keep up with work, double check assignment requirements and use all the resources that are given to you within the class. I cannot chase you or beg you to participate. If you have questions, concerns or any confusion regarding any class requirement, announcement, assignment or concept it is your responsibility to reach out and ask the question in a timely manner. I have provided a number of ways to contact me and encourage you to use them. "I was confused" will not be an accepted excuse for not performing at the appropriate level (nor will it be when you enter your career.) *Please, please* clarify anything you are uncertain about.

Additionally, it will be your responsibility to stay in communication with me over the course of the semester if there is anything that is happening that is hindering your ability in my class.

I cannot extend grace or help if I don't know about something until the end of the semester.

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed based on course needs and unexpected circumstances. Course changes will be communicated in class as well as in the online course shell. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions if you are ever unsure of an announcement.

Course Calendar

Week 1, Aug. 25 - 31: Welcome to strategic media!

Read/Listen/Watch: Syllabus, strategic media lecture

Activities & Assignments: A strategic media precursor (individual assignment)

Syllabus quiz (individual assignment)

Introduction activity (in class - Monday)

Lecture discussion (in class - Wednesday)

Week 2, Sept. 1 - 7: AP style & ethical AI

Read/Listen/Watch: AP lecture

Client meetings

Activities & Assignments: Client assessment (individual assignment)

AP style activity (in class - tbd)

Week 3, Sept. 8 - 14: Wrapping up strategic media

Read/Listen/Watch: Strategic media lecture

Canvas articles (2)

Activities & Assignments: Tenets of strategic media (individual assignment)

Success discussion (in class, Monday)

Quiz one over strategic media and AP rules

Week 4, Sept 15 - 21: Paid media and copywriting

Read/Listen/Watch: Paid media presentation

Buyer persona best practices article

Activities & Assignments: Newsletter paragraph (writing project)

Buyer persona activity (in class; Wednesday)

Week 5: Sept. 22 - 28: Appropriate creative briefs

Read/Listen/Watch: AIDA techniques and customer journey articles

Activities & Assignments: AIDA activity (in class; Monday)

Quiz two over paid media

Creative brief (writing project)

Week 6: Sept. 29 - Oct. 5: Journalist relationships

Read/Listen/Watch: Earned media presentation

Good v. creepy pitch exploration

Activities & Assignments: Good media relationship activity (in class; Wednesday)

Media pitch (writing project)

Week 7: Oct. 6 -12: Earned media and the art of the release

Assignments due Friday, Oct. 10 (Start of Fall Break)

Read/Listen/Watch: News release examples

Activities & Assignments: News release (writing project)

It's like a puzzle (in class, Wednesday)

Extra credit opportunity

Week 8: Oct. 13 - 19: Creating an earned strategy

No class Monday or Tuesday for fall break

No class Wednesday for fall break recovery

Read/Listen/Watch: Review earned media presentation for quiz

Activities & Assignments: Earned media guide (writing project)

Quiz three over earned media

Week 9: Oct. 20 - 26: Shared media

Read/Listen/Watch: Social media presentation

Brand voice article

Activities & Assignments: Brand voice and style guide (writing project)

Social media scavenger hunt (in class, Wednesday)

Extra credit opportunity

Week 10: Oct. 27 - Nov. 2: Social media post creation

No class Wednesday

Read/Listen/Watch: N/A

Activities & Assignments: Social media posts

Quiz four over shared media

Week 11: Nov. 3 - 9: Digital media collaboration & content marketing

Read/Listen/Watch: Posted articles

Activities & Assignments: Examples, debate & blog pitch (in class, Monday)

Partnerships and user generated discussion (in class, Wednesday)

Digital guide (writing project)

Week 12: Nov. 10 - 16: Owned media

Please note that spring registration begins Nov. 10. You will have need to met with your advisor about a spring schedule and been cleared in order to register.

Final drop day for full-term classes is Nov. 15.

Read/Listen/Watch: Owned media presentation

Activities & Assignments: Blog (writing project)

Extra credit opportunity

Week 13: Nov. 17 - 23: Strategic storytelling

Read/Listen/Watch: Posted articles

Activities & Assignments: Publish with purpose (in class, Monday)

Fact sheet (writing project)

Week 14: Nov. 24 - 30: Eat and be happy

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 26 - 30; Class will not meet this week

Read/Listen/Watch: N/A

Activities & Assignments: N/A

Enjoy a reprieve! You're almost to the end.

Week 15: Dec. 1 - 7: Wrapping it up

Last day of class is Wednesday, Dec. 3. Study day is Dec. 4 - no assignments/formal activities can be due Dec. 4.

Read/Listen/Watch: TBD

Activities & Assignments: Client convo's (in class, Wednesday)

Final quiz (comprehensive with emphasis on owned media)

Reflection

Extra credit opportunity

Please note that you will not have an in person final for this course and our last meeting day will Dec. 3. Any final exam and assignment will be due via Canvas on Sunday, Dec. 7. Your last day to submit any late work for the semester is also Sunday, Dec. 7.

This schedule may be changed as needed for course needs.

ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES

Professional Values and Competencies in STRM 3210

- Apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press, both in a global context and in the United States.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the multicultural history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.
- Demonstrate culturally proficient communication that empowers those traditionally disenfranchised in society, especially as grounded in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and ability, domestically and globally, across communication and media contexts.

- Present images and information effectively and creatively, using appropriate tools and technologies.
- Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity.
- Apply critical thinking skills in conducting research and evaluating information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work.
- Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness.
- Apply current 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)

- Understand how public relations writing tactics can tell stories and build relationships across a variety of disciplines and careers.
- Recognize the importance of understanding the diversity (gender, race, ethnicity, etc.) of stakeholder groups and audience to developing content for public relations products
- Structure messages on the appropriate channels to reach diverse target audience.
- Explain how the writer's purpose, intended public and requirements of the medium affect style and content.
- Recognize legal and ethical problems associated with public relations writing, including within the freedoms of speech and the press.
- Recognize potential problems and solutions in media relations.
- Understand the differences between writing for various media.
- Evaluate their own and other's public relations writing for accuracy, clarity, grammatical correctness and appropriate use of AP style, as well as suitability for specified medium.
- Understand their own role as a content creator influences culture, norms, and discourse.

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

- Earn a passing score on written assignments, quizzes and engagement exercises.
- Define an organization's stakeholders and target audiences and the channels that can be used to communicate and engage with them.
- Identify appropriate multimedia components to accompany public relations writing based on medium, platform and target audience.
- Name and illustrate common legal and ethical problems associated with public relations writing.
- Write a press release, fact sheet, media pitch, and email, in addition to participating in a Twitter chat, drafting a personal bio, and completing the necessary engagement exercises (quizzes and introductions and reflection pieces).
- Apply Associated Press guidelines to written public relations materials.

- Proofread and edit their own work and the work of others.
- Create public relations products using appropriate software and hardware ensuring that products are formatted correctly selected media channels.

How assessment of student learning will be met

Awareness

- Learn the important role of writing in public relations, including journalistic news values, AP style and the various forms of writing for different media.
- Associate successful outcomes with the importance of understanding the diversity and cultural differences of an organization's stakeholders and target audience when developing public relations content.
- Give examples about the ethical and legal problems associated with public relations writing.

Understanding

- Understand how to be strategic in public relations writing.
- Recognize how the diversity and cultural difference of an organization's stakeholders and target audience inform the development of public relations content.
- Examine potential ethical and legal problems associated with public relations writing.
- Understand how to proofread their own and other's writing for clarity, grammatical correctness and appropriate use of AP style.
- Identify which public relations products are appropriate based on the platform and how to create specific public relations products.

Application

- Write a press release, fact sheet, media pitch, and email, in addition to participating in a Twitter chat, drafting a personal bio, and completing the necessary engagement exercises (quizzes and introductions and reflection pieces).
- Proofread and edit their own work and the work of others for clarity, grammatical correctness and appropriate use of AP style.
- Create public relations products using appropriate software and hardware ensuring that products are formatted correctly selected media channels.

JOURNALISM AND STRATEGIC MEDIA POLICIES

Portfolio requirement

As an undergraduate student in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media, you are required to develop and maintain an active portfolio of your work. Portfolios begin in JRSJ 3900/3905. The portfolio should contain samples of coursework and/or professional experiences and should develop as you build skills. Portfolios will undergo a final, external review while you are enrolled in your capstone course.

You may use any type of web hosting for your portfolio, but it must have an independent and professional URL. You may use any content management system, but you are encouraged to use WordPress, Wix, or SquareSpace. It is also encouraged to purchase a URL if you plan to use the portfolio long term. You must keep the portfolio active for six months following graduation from the University of Memphis.

You should have a professional email address you plan to use throughout your professional life, via a common email service, such as Gmail.

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

Professional social media links (minimum LinkedIn)

You may wish to include a blog, video reels, photograph galleries, presentations, design PDFs, audio files or writing pieces as examples of professional work. The professional work should ultimately be tailored to the career you seek after graduation. Your portfolio should show a unique blend of work.

Email

You must have your UofM email account activated. If you are using another provider, such as Google, you are required to have all UofM emails forwarded to that account. Go to the [account management website](#) for information about implementing email forwarding. You are required to check your email daily.

Electronic devices

Some classes require a tablet, laptop or a smartphone. Others do not. Instructors will set the policy for their specific classes.

AI/Chat GPT

The use of artificial intelligence software, such as Chat GPT, is prohibited in some courses and required in others in Journalism & Strategic Media. Please refer to specific guidelines for this course in the course-specific part of the syllabus.

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory in Journalism & Strategic Media. You may be assigned a failing grade for the semester for nonattendance or habitual tardiness.

Course repetition

Majors and minors who fail to earn the minimum passing grade (C-) in a class required by your program of study in Journalism & Strategic Media after three attempts will be dropped from the program.

You may not use or submit work from a previous course, even if it is the same course being repeated, to fulfill requirements for assignments in another course. Substantially reworking the original submission, or working with the same general idea, may be permissible upon discussion and with written approval from the professor of the current course.

Academic integrity

The University of Memphis expects all students to behave honestly and follow the policies stated in the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities. If you need more information about the University policy on academic integrity visit the [Office of Student Accountability's website](#).

In addition to University-wide policies, the Department of Journalism & Strategic Media considers making up quotes from sources, turning in substantially the same assignment for credit in two different courses or receiving any assistance from others for work assigned to be done on your own, as acts of cheating and punishable to the degree determined appropriate by the course instructor and department chair. Punishment may include grade reductions or seeking dismissal of the student from the University.

Further, you are expected to comply with copyright and intellectual property laws 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 rating originality of your ideas and to evaluate proper use and assignment of sources. All creative work may be checked for policy adherence by the professor. The only exception to this policy is your online portfolio and its attendant pieces (for example, the résumé and logo). By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may undergo this review process. The assignment may be included as a source document in Turnitin.com's restricted access database. It is solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Assignments not submitted according to the instructor's procedures may be penalized or may not be accepted at all.

Online SETEs

You are encouraged to complete the SETEs evaluation of this course. If completed, once the instructor has posted final grades, you can immediately see that grade. To access evaluation forms, log in to MyMemphis; click the "Student Pages" dropdown menu and select "My Resources" and find the SETE evaluation forms; complete an evaluation for each course listed and hit the "Submit" button at the bottom of the form. Completing the SETE will only take a few minutes. Faculty take the evaluations seriously and use them to improve courses and instructional quality. Your feedback is essential and is appreciated.

Deadlines

All deadlines are firm. Because Journalism & Strategic Media is a professional program, students are expected to understand and comply with deadlines. Students needing an extension on an assignment must receive approval from the instructor. Exceptions will be made for reasonable circumstances if the student notifies the instructor prior to the due date.

You may be permitted to make up missing work if it is for an absence because of illness or other catastrophic emergency, such as a death in the family that can be documented.

AP Style and grammar

All written work in this class must follow the AP Stylebook and accepted rules of grammar and punctuation. You are responsible for learning these rules and checking your work for errors.

Disability and accommodations

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact Disability Resources for Students at 901-678-2880 in 110 Wilder Tower Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Diversity and inclusivity

The Department of Journalism & Strategic Media values diversity in all its forms. Some of these forms include ability, age, appearance, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, language, nationality, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexuality, socio-economic status, and other personal identities and experiences. As such, students are expected to participate in fostering an inclusive environment that respects the differences of others.

Students are expected to approach their work through a diverse lens. Creating messages that resonate with diverse audiences requires an understanding of a variety of perspectives, which are carried out through multiple platforms, such as digital and traditional media outlets.

The department seeks to foster healthy and positive classroom discussions and experiences. As such, faculty and students are expected to remain respectful and professional at all times.

Weather policy

Always check with local media, the University of Memphis website regarding inclement weather.

Student support

If you are experiencing personal or academic challenges including, but not limited to food or housing issues, family needs, or other stressors, visit the Student Outreach & Support page to learn about resources that can help: <https://www.memphis.edu/deanofstudents/crisis/index.php> or contact the Dean of Students Office at 901-678-2187, or in person in Suite 359 in the University Center for

assistance. You may also talk with course instructors about the challenges you are experiencing. Instructors may be able to assist in connecting you with campus or community support.