**Course Description**

An application of the public relations process (including primary and secondary research, goals and objective development, the selection of proper strategies and tactics for implementation, and an evaluation of campaign effectiveness) through the production and presentation of a public relations campaign for a local organization.

**Student Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Apply each stage of the public relations process including planning, implementation, and evaluation,
- Understand and explain ethical, cultural, and legal aspects of public relations,
- Create a successful public relations campaign (program book & presentation) for a community organization, and
- Understand and critique the use of social media in public relations

**Required or Recommended Readings**


**Website:** Course assignments, discussion notes, and other pertinent messages will be posted on Blackboard. Students should verify that they receive Blackboard notifications and should check for messages daily.

**Major Course Requirements**

*Assignment descriptions appear on the 4th page of this syllabus*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Agreement</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Book</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation to Client</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (14 days at 5 points)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Points:** 500

**Grade Calculation:**

- A: 90% of the total points (450 points – 500 points)
- B: 80% of the total points (400 points – 449 points)
- C: 70% of the total points (350 points – 399 points)
- D: 60% of the total points (300 points – 349 points)
- F: 50% of the total points (000 points – 299 points)

**A Successful Course Experience**

A successful experience in this course will depend on your individual commitment and work ethic. I encourage all students to visit with me frequently throughout the semester, rather than waiting until the end of the semester to ask questions or express concerns. As in most courses, students should be proactive about their work and ready to discuss concepts and share examples during class. Furthermore, a professor who is familiar with their students is better able to help their students accomplish their personal goals, so make yourself known! If you have suggestions that will enrich your learning experience, please let me know.
Course Policies

Am I required to attend this course?
- Prompt arrival, attendance, and participation are all vital to your success in this course. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and contribute to the classroom experience by actively listening, asking questions, sharing examples, participating in discussions, and taking part in class activities.
- Attendance and participation will be graded. Each student will earn 5 points for every class session that they attend. If students attend but do not participate in class, I reserve the right to assign 0 points for the day. In all fairness, students will be notified that their lack of participation will result in 0 points before points are assigned.

What are your expectations for my assignments?
- It should go without saying that quality work is an expectation. As a Communication student, it is expected that you will have effective writing and speaking skills and that you will seek my help if you need assistance in these areas. It is also expected that your work will be free from plagiarism and will show that you are thinking “beyond the textbook.”
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date shown on the course syllabus, unless otherwise noted. If otherwise noted, assignments are due on the exact date and at the exact time noted on the assignment. If an assignment is late or missed, the student will not receive credit for the assignment.
- Assignments should be turned in as a hard copy unless otherwise noted. If an assignment is turned in using a means other than hard copy, the student will not receive credit for the assignment. Students should complete assignments on time to reduce the risk of emergencies, such as running out of ink, paper, losing their work, or not having access to a printer or computer.

What should I do if I am going to be absent?
- In the event of an absence, I must be notified before the missed class period in order for the absence to be excused. If I am not notified before the missed class period, the absence will be considered unexcused unless the student provides documentation for an excused absence (i.e., athletics, family emergencies, illness, university-sponsored travel). In this case, I reserve the right to determine whether an absence is excused.
- Late work will only be accepted for excused absences and must be completed within 7 days of the missed deadline.
- Regardless of the status of an absence, students are responsible for obtaining the information that was missed during class in a timely manner. Students should visit Blackboard to obtain notes and assignment pages. Students may also wish to select a classmate(s) at the beginning of the semester that will agree to help with this task.

I have a question about one of my grades, what should I do?
- Should a student have a question about their grade on a particular assignment, I follow the 24/7 rule: students must approach me no sooner than 24 hours and no later than 7 days after the assignment has been returned. Once 7 days have passed, the topic will be closed for discussion.

What type of citations should I use in my writing and speaking assignments?
- All assignments that require scholarly citations should adhere to the most current edition of the AP Stylebook.

I need help with my work, what should I do?
- Should any situation arise, where I can be of assistance (i.e., you do not have a printer; you do not understand the assignment guidelines, etc.), please e-mail me or come talk to me.
- I am happy to help students with their understanding of assignments by reading through one draft of each class assignment; however, I will not be able to provide adequate assistance within 48 hours of a deadline, so students should be proactive about starting their assignments and seeking feedback early.

What are the rules for classroom conduct?
- I treat my classroom as a small community; thus, we will maintain a harassment-free environment that is welcoming to different viewpoints and ideas. Any profane or inappropriate ethnic, gender, racial, age, appearance, and/or lifestyle-related comments will not be accepted. Any student who violates this policy will be asked to leave the classroom.
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of
other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to
disciplinary sanction outlined in article VIII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable
behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including
classrooms, online classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Where can I find class notes and assignment pages?
- In line with the University’s efforts to be more environmentally responsible, you will need to access our course
  page on Blackboard to download class notes and assignment pages. If you have concerns about this for any
  reason, please come visit with me so we can identify a solution together.

Where can I reach the instructor to ask questions about class?
- You may reach me in person or by phone in my office during office hours or via e-mail. I will respond to e-mail
  within 24 hours Monday-Friday. During the weekend, I will make every effort to respond to your e-mail, but
cannot guarantee a timely response.
- I am happy to be friends on social media, but please do not ask questions about class using social media channels.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a
major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit
system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and
requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA
Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466 or log onto
http://cla.tamucc.edu/advising/.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty.
Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of
examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the
presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of
academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade (0) on the assignment. Any student receiving
more than one “0” for academic dishonesty or plagiarism will fail the course and may be expelled from the program.
Note: All violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Dean and Office of Student Affairs who maintains
document of such offenses for at least 5 years.

Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil
rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with
disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in
Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus,
please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Dropping a Course
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make
dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before
you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to
drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and
participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, April 6 is the last day to drop
a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.
**Grade Appeals**

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Assignment Descriptions**

**Please do not use these guidelines to begin your work early, as they are incomplete. Full descriptions and grading rubrics will be provided to you in advance of the respective due dates.**

**Team Agreement (5 points)**
Each team will develop an agreement for the semester.

**Planning (100 points)**
Each PR team will be required to complete the “Planning” phase of PR. Students will be required to write their planning document resulting from the completion of 8 tasks: 1) a summary of background research gathered, 2) lists of priority audiences, 3) methods for primary research, 4) interview/focus group guide and/or survey instrument, 5) results of primary research, 6) description of goals and objectives, 7) lists of messages and themes, and 8) descriptions of channels and strategies chosen.

**Implementation (100 points)**
Each PR team will be required to complete the “Implementation” phase of PR. Students will be required to write a document that describes tactics and logistics of the campaign, and includes a set of appendices showcasing strategies (i.e., provide a link to a website created by the group; include pamphlets and text for email announcements, etc.).

**Evaluation (100 points)**
Each PR team will be required to complete the Evaluation phase of PR. Students will be required to write a that describes how evaluation should take place and includes a summative evaluation.

**Program Book (100 points) & Presentation to Client (25 points)**
Each PR team will be required to revise their planning, implantation, and evaluation documents with the feedback given by the professor to create an effective and useful program book. Program books are typically presented to clients and may be used by the student in a job interview.

**Participation (14 at 5 points = 70 points)**
Participation will be graded. Each student will earn 5 points for every class session that they attend and participate. If students attend but do not participate in class, I reserve the right to assign 0 points for the day. Students should sign the sign-in sheet before they leave the classroom—the professor will not be responsible for “remembering” that a student attended a class that they did not sign in for.
**COMM-4331_001 Schedule**

**This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All changes will be to the benefit of the student.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 17</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Course Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 24</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Planning (Chapters 2 &amp; 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Client Visit &amp; Team Agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 31</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Planning (Chapter 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 7</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Planning (Chapter 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 14</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Implementation (Chapters 6 - 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 21</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Implementation (Chapters 6 - 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 28</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Implementation (Chapters 6 - 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 7</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Implementation (Chapters 6 - 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 14 (No Class—Spring Break)</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Evaluation (Chapter 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Implementation Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 21</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Evaluation (Chapter 10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 28</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Evaluation (Chapter 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 4 (COMM &amp; Media Week)</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 11</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Group Meetings with Professor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evaluation Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 18</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 25</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: Practice Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Practice Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 2 (No Class—Reading Day)</td>
<td>READ &amp; DISCUSS: N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 9</td>
<td>Program Book Due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation to Client Due</td>
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