



## **AEC 3071: Social Media Strategy and Leadership for Agricultural and Life Sciences**

### **Instructor:**

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### **Course Description**

Social media are changing the way we all communicate. With this in mind, this course aims to present students with the core concepts of social media acknowledging that this course's content will continually evolve. Students will learn how, when and why to use various social media tools. Students will also learn to measure the effectiveness of these tools in reaching audiences with agricultural and natural resources messages.

### **Course Objectives:**

Students will

- Describe the concepts and theories that inform the use of social media.
- Compare and contrast how various traditional and social media strategies and tools can contribute to organizational effectiveness.
- Provide strategic counsel to organizations, based on an understanding of core concepts of public relations and social media, about how, why and when to use social media tools.
- Develop digital messages for agriculture and natural resources.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of digital messages for agriculture and natural resources.

### **Required Textbook**

Freberg, S. (2021). *Social Media for Strategic Communication: Creative Strategies and Research-Based Applications*. Second Edition.



## Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Percent of Grade
Quizzes	25
Digital Content Assignments	25
Participation	25
Influencer Assignment (Group Assignment)	25

Unless otherwise noted, every component will be evaluated on 100 points. Your final grade for the course will be calculated on the previous percentages, which will then lead to your final letter grade as based on the following scale:

### Grading Scale:

A = 93 – 100%

B- = 80 – 82.99%

D+ = 66 – 69.99%

A- = 90 – 92.99%

C+ = 76 – 79.99%

D = 63 – 65.99%

B+ = 86 – 89.99%

C = 73 – 75.99%

D- = 60 – 62.99%

B = 83 – 85.99%

C- = 70 – 72.99%

E = below 60%

*Note:* For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

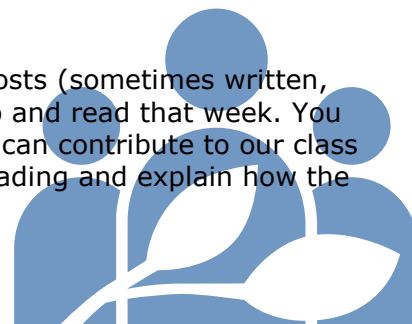
Please note: Under no circumstances will final grades be rounded. Please do not come to me at the end of the semester to negotiate your grade. If you want an A in this course, begin working toward that today.


## ASSIGNMENTS

**Quizzes** – Most weeks, you will have a quiz via Canvas on the assigned materials for the week leading up to class.

**Digital Content Assignments** – Each week, you'll be asked to use social media in one way or another to tell a story about an issue in agriculture or a life sciences field. Sometimes you'll be asked to attend an event and post live from/about the event. Sometimes you'll be asked to interview someone about an agricultural or natural resource issue and post a short video. These assignments are intended to help you learn to develop content for social media.

**In-class Participation** – You will be responsible for discussion posts (sometimes written, sometimes via video) wherein you apply what you watch, listen to and read that week. You should read the assigned readings for that week **first** so that you can contribute to our class discussions. You should be able to provide an overview of each reading and explain how the





readings relate to one another as a whole. High-quality participation means that you offer a number of informed comments and questions for each class period.

**On the whole, student participation will be evaluated according to the following criteria:**

- Meeting deadlines and expectations articulated by the instructor.
- Consistent participation and engagement with the class community.
- Listening and responding respectfully to ideas and questions posed by others.

**POLICIES & GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS**

**Professionalism**

The reality of this field is that people judge you by how you present yourself. Your use of language, the clarity of your speaking and your general appearance and professional bearing will shape the opinions of those who are listening to you. If you deliver a poor, unprofessional presentation, your grade will suffer. I will also grade you on the basis of the facts you assemble, the astuteness of your analysis of the problem and the soundness of your recommendations.

**Writing**

To be successful in today's world, it is critical that you write well. As such, your grade for each aspect of this course will be based on the quality of your thinking and writing. All assignments (including discussion posts) should be free of inaccuracies, weak thinking, typos, spelling errors and grammatical problems. Never turn in a first draft.

**Deadlines**

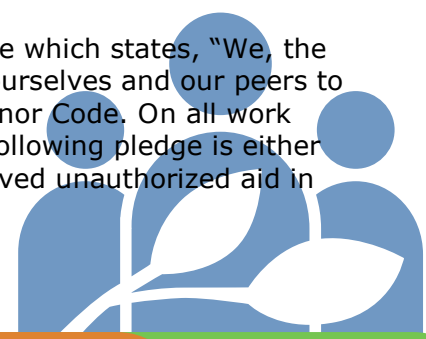
Deadlines will be given for all work; these deadlines will not be extended. Meeting deadlines is essential to be successful in this course and in our field. Your work must be completed and handed in by the specified date and time. Incomplete work turned in by the deadline will receive partial credit. If you miss a deadline without having a valid excuse, you will receive zero points on the late work.


**Absences:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Should you be unable to attend class, please contact me prior to the class session you will be absent from.

**E-Learning:** All students are expected to check E-Learning (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) on a regular basis. Please ensure that you have access to this service. Additional handouts, readings and supplemental material will be housed on E-Learning. This includes your grades.

**Academic Integrity:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."





The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

(Source: 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog)

**This policy will be vigorously upheld at all times in this course. This applies to using tools like ChatGPT to generate content. You are expected to write original content for which you are the only author.**

**Software Use:** All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

**Campus Helping Resources:** Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Health and Wellness and Academic Resources can be found below:

#### *Health and Wellness*

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

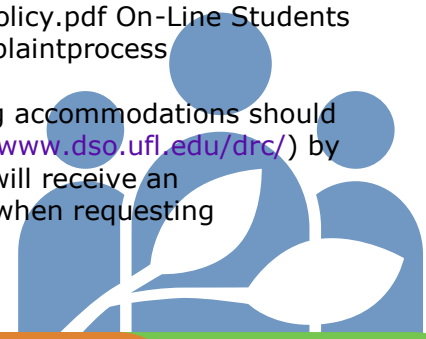
University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).


<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

#### *Academic Resources*

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learningsupport@ufl.edu](mailto:Learningsupport@ufl.edu). <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/> Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>
- Student Complaints Campus:  
[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf) On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaintprocess>

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting





accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Late Assignments:** Baring an unforeseen emergency, all work is due in class or via email to me by 11:59 PM on the assigned date. Should you fail to turn your work into me without contacting me, you will receive a grade of 0.

**Course Add/Drop:** Courses may be dropped or added during the Drop/Add period without penalty. The Drop/Add period is the first five days of classes during fall or spring semester, and the first two days of classes for summer terms. The specific dates are listed in each term's [academic calendar](#).

After Drop/Add, students may withdraw from a course up to the date established in the university calendar. A grade of W will appear on the transcript, and students will be held liable for course fees. All drops after Drop/Add must be submitted to the Office of the University Registrar by the deadline.

**Online Course Evaluation System:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

**\*\*Final Thought\*\***

I want you to be successful in this class, and I will do my best to help you succeed. I am happy to help you address any challenges you face this semester; please come visit me during office hours to discuss any concerns or challenges.



## Course Schedule

Week beginning with:	Topic/Textbook Chapter (readings and assignments posted in Canvas)
August 21	Course Introduction Syllabus Introduction to Social Media – Chapter 1
August 28	Ethical and Legal Fundamentals – Chapter 2 Personal and Professional Branding – Chapter 3
September 4	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Chapter 4 Industry Qualifications and Roles – Chapter 5
September 11	Research in Social Media – Chapter 6 Creating, Managing and Curating Content – Chapter 12
September 18	Strategic Planning for Social Media – Chapter 7
September 25	Influencer Marketing – Chapter 8
October 2	Paid Media – Chapter 9
October 9	Strategic Writing for Social Media – Chapter 10
October 16	Audience Segmentation and Analysis – Chapter 11
October 23	Measurement, Evaluation, Budget & Calendar – Chapter 13
October 30	How Social Media is Applied – Chapter 14; 15
November 6	How Social Media is Applied – Global Context
November 14 & 21	Social Media and Culture
November 27	What is New? – Chapter 16
December 4	<b>Influencer Assignments Due &amp; Peer Reviews</b>

