

MEJO 371.002 Advertising Creative • Spring 2020

Description / Prerequisites / Meeting Times & Location

Application of findings from social science research; social responsibility of the copywriter and advertiser; preparation of advertisements for the mass media; research in copy testing. Previously offered as MEJO 271.

Class Notes: Majors and minors only. Enrollment Requirements:

Prerequisite, MEJO 137.

This course section meets 3:30-4:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in Carroll 021.

Instructor Contact Information & Office Hours

Joe Bob Hester, Ph.D Associate Professor

Office: 233 Carroll Hall Office hours are 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday or by appointment at other times. These hours are made available to provide you with time outside of the classroom for discussion of matters related to course work, as well as for academic and/or career advising.

Email joe.bob.hester@unc.edu

Twitter [@joebobhester](https://twitter.com/joebobhester) (Please use the #MEJO371 hashtag.)

Facebook [joebobhester](https://www.facebook.com/joebobhester)

LinkedIn [joebobhester](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joebobhester)

Required & Suggested Materials

- The required textbook for this course is *Hey Whipple, Squeeze This! The Classic Guide to Creating Great Ads* (5th Edition) by Luke Sullivan with Edward Boches (available at Student Stores or various online booksellers).
- Additional readings will be provided by the instructor.

- You will also need access to a dictionary and thesaurus (print or electronic: your choice).
- You will need a public Twitter account for this course as well as a [Canva](#) account.
- You will probably need some type of online/cloud storage, such as Dropbox.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to help you discover your own creativity and to learn how to express yourself in the form of effective advertising/strategic communication. The course will exercise, challenge and improve your ability to develop sound and coherent advertising strategies and to express those strategies creatively as ideas and messages that are compelling, interesting and persuasive. By the end of the course you should have greater knowledge and more skills in a number of areas that will be useful to you not only as a copywriter or art director, but also as an account manager, media buyer, or media sales representative.

Course Format

Regardless of the area of advertising you choose as a career, an understanding of the role of creative strategy in advertising is essential. In addition, there are certain skills that will improve your ability to not only create good advertising, but to work with creatives and evaluate creative executions. This course uses class meeting times to work on these skills.

NOTE: This course requires extensive time and effort outside of the classroom. On average, you should plan on at least 10 hours per week.

Assignments / Determination of Grade

Grades are primarily determined by performance on assignments. Grading criteria vary by assignment. There is a group project, which includes a peer evaluation component. There are no formal exams in this course; however, there are graded in-class quizzes/exercises and homework assignments. Assignments contribute to your final grade as follows:

10% - Strategy Assignment

10% - Headline Assignment

10% - Copy Assignment

10% - Art Direction Assignment

15% - Art + Copy Assignment

15% - Campaign (group) Assignment & Presentation

25% - Final Project

5% - In-class quizzes/exercises + homework assignments + participation

See Sakai course site for schedule of assignments and readings.

The final project serves in lieu of a traditional final exam and is due by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of classes (LDOC: Friday, April 24).

During the final exam period (Monday, May 4, 4:00-7:00 p.m.) we will meet for a review/critique of the projects. (*From the Registrar: "For a three-credit-hour course, the University has a required three-hour final examination period, which incorporates 180 minutes of required instruction in each semester. Thus, the University requires instructors to provide a full three hours of instruction for final assessment purposes (e.g., written final examination, presentations, portfolio review, performance, review and evaluation, or some combination of these assessments). It is up to the discretion of the instructor of record to determine the form, content, and function of the final examination period."*)

There are no extra credit projects available in this course.

Course grades are assigned using the University of North Carolina Grading System based on the following percentage scales.

Minimum Score	Letter Grade	Minimum Score	Letter Grade
93.0%	A	77.0%	C+
90.0%	A-	73.0%	C
87.0%	B+	70.0%	C-
83.0%	B	67.0%	D+
80.0%	B-	60.0%	D

NOTE: Percentage score of less than 60.0% = F

Attendance & Participation

This course operates under the University of North Carolina Class Attendance Policy (see [University Approved Absence Office](#)), which states “No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:

1. Authorized University activities
2. Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by [Accessibility Resources and Service](#) and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC)
3. Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#), [Gender Violence Service Coordinators](#), and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC).”

Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and there is no such thing as an “acceptable” number of absences. Each student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written work, of all class meetings. Make-up opportunities for assignments other than in-class quizzes/exercises or homework assignments are only available for University excused absences. Note that there is no opportunity to make up homework, quizzes, or in-class exercises for any reason; however, if due to a University excused absence, missing the assignment will not count against your grade.

Students are responsible for regular and punctual class attendance and should be in their seats before the start of class (students arriving more than 5 minutes late for class will be counted absent). Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions by sharing observations, insights and questions with the instructor and members of the class. Discussion will allow each student to benefit from all the other students’ insights and to work toward a final interpretation or understanding that may differ from the one he or she reached individually. This requires that assigned readings and/or homework exercises be completed prior to arrival to class.

Honor Code

Each student will conduct himself or herself within the guidelines of the University honor system (<http://honor.unc.edu>). All academic work should be done with the high levels of honesty and integrity that this University demands. You are expected to produce your own work in this class. If you have any questions about your responsibility or your instructor’s responsibility as a faculty member under the Honor Code, please see the course instructor or Senior Associate Dean C. A. Tuggle, or you may speak with a representative of the Student Attorney Office or the Office of the Dean of Students.

Seeking Help

If you need individual assistance, it's your responsibility to meet with the instructor. If you are serious about wanting to improve your performance in the course, the time to seek help is as soon as you are aware of the problem – whether the problem is difficulty with course material, a disability, or an illness.

Diversity

The University's policy on Prohibiting Harassment and Discrimination is outlined in the Undergraduate

Bulletin <http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/>. UNC is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community and does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Special Accommodations

If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in this course, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. If you need information about disabilities visit the Department of Disability Services website at <http://disabilityservices.unc.edu/>

Accreditation

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication's accrediting body outlines a number of values you should be aware of and competencies you should be able to demonstrate by the time you graduate from our program. Learn more about them here:

<http://www2.ku.edu/~acejmc/PROGRAM/PRINCIPLES.SHTML#vals&comps>

No single course could possibly give you all of these values and competencies; but collectively, our classes are designed to build your abilities in each of these areas. In this class, we will address a number of the values and competencies, with special emphasis on the following:

- Understanding concepts and applying theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
- Thinking critically, creatively and independently;
- Writing correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
- Critically evaluating their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
- Applying tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.