# MEJO 730 - Principles of Strategic Communication - Fall 2021 edition

Classroom: Carroll 128 [aka Halls of Fame]

Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11 am-12:15 pm

**Instructor:** Lois Boynton

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# Stop by! Office and Zoom

Mondays 10-11:30 am and 2-5 pm Tuesdays/Thursdays 3:45-5 pm Wednesday 3-4 pm **on Zoom only** And, by appointment

\*Zoom links and passwords on Sakai



**About MEJO 730:** Principles of Strategic Communication provides an introduction to strategic communication used by corporations, government agencies, and nonprofits to build and grow relationships with stakeholders. Students explore communication leadership skills by assessing goals-based research, critiquing strategic effectiveness of campaigns, and developing an original case study that meets the criteria for a national competition. Competency class for MA students; PhD students must have instructor permission.



Whatever communication area you're interested in, I hope that this class will provide you with the concepts and tools you need to accomplish your goals.

Today, organizations – corporations, government agencies, nonprofits, or something in between – must deal with increasingly challenging relationships with their stakeholders.

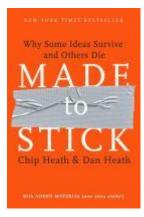
Strategic communication practitioners also need to have the ears of their organization's top leaders. And, ultimately, you become leaders, too!

As we explore the ever-evolving world of strategic communication, you'll see one thing hasn't changed: the management of important relationships is at the heart of all strategic activities.



Since objectives are key to successful strategic communication, I thought we should have a few! By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- Be knowledgeable about the professional world by following a strategic communication leader;
- Critique the strategic effectiveness of strategic communication campaigns through written and oral case analysis;
- Research, write, and present an *original* strategic communication case study that meets the criteria of the Arthur W. Page Society Case Study Competition; and
- Practice effective team building and presentation skills



#### da book −

Made to stick: Why some ideas survive and others die. By Chip Heath and Dan Heath. Random House, 2007/2008.

Purchase at bookstore. Also on reserve at the Park Library and at Davis Library (2hour check-out).

And, other readings and cases in <u>Sakai</u> – Resources Folder.

Be ready to discuss, ask questions, offer opinions, disagree, argue, share knowledge, updates, etc. That's what'll make this class fun!

Need some foundations? Need a refresher? Here are 2 books that may help.

- Planning and managing public relations campaigns by Anne Gregory, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Park Library: HD59.G69 2015)
- Hey Whipple, squeeze this: The classic guide to creating great ads. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. by Luke Sullivan, Edward Boches. Access eversion at library.unc.edu with ONYEN and password

# And speaking of Sakai... here's what you'll find!

- **Syllabus:** Subject to updates, cuz, 2021! I'll keep you posted if anything changes.
- Resources: Look here for readings and handouts
- **Assignments**: both homework and in-class assignments will reside here.

#### Got the curiosities?

Please keep up with what's going on in the world and in strategic communication through regular reading/viewing of traditional and evolving media channels.

Share news we all can use about public relations, marketing, corporate communications, investor relations, advertising, social media and strategic communication as you come across them.

#### Some resources:

<u>The Skimm</u> – you may also sign up for daily e-blast (M-F) <u>Commpro</u> – also has a daily e-blast <u>Ragan's PR Daily</u> <u>O'Dwyer's Inside News of PR & Mktg Comms</u>

PR Week

**Public Relations Today** 

Ad Week and more!!



**Special Accommodations:** If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. If you need information about disabilities, visit the **Accessibility Resources & Service Office** website, call 919/962-8300, or use NC Relay 711.



**Attendance** *and* **Participation:** You're expected to attend and *actively* participate in each class period. This is not a lecture class; we will use class time to talk about and apply what you find through readings, research, experiences, following a professional and working on your cases.

There are not a certain number of classes you are permitted to miss; however, if you are ill or have an emergency, please let me know so I may work with you.



# And, speaking of assignments...

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class (aka no later than 11 a.m.).

In some instances, you will be directed to post your assignment on Sakai; others may call for you to bring a printed copy. Please see the assignment instructions for details.

### The UNC-CH Graduate School's grading system is:

H = High pass – clear excellence, over the top, wow!

P = Pass – entirely satisfactory graduate work

L = Low Pass - inadequate graduate work

F = Fail

Additional fun reading available in the **Graduate School Handbook**.

### For ESC students, the grading scale is:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = <60

(and +/-as appropriate)

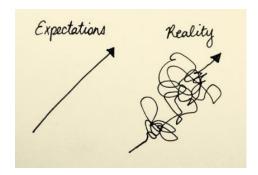
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#### Your final grade breakdown: Reflections 13% 15% Case study assessment, leading class discussion Original case study 35% • Written report = 25% • Presentation = Homework/in-class assignments 15% In-class participation 10% Follow a professional 12%

# **Basic guidelines**

I welcome your using your laptop in class to take notes, search for class-related information, complete in-class assignments, etc.

Please let your social media have a 75-minute rest while class is underway! There's evidence that multitasking means you're better prepared to screw up at least two things at a time [Psychological Science]. © Just sayin'...



#### Plus ...

Let me know of any questions or concerns you have. I know that balancing various coursework for a graduate program can be challenging. Don't succumb to the stress – let's work together to ensure you meet course requirements <u>and</u> have a good time.

## And please take advantage of campus and online resources (links also on Sakai – Resources folder):

- Counseling and Psychological Services (aka, CAPS)
- Multicultural Health Program
- Community Clinic, UNC Department of Psychology in-person & teletherapy services
- Student Care Hub ask a question
- <u>Carolina Cupboard</u> on-campus food pantry
- ◆ COVID-19 Emergency Grant Funding
- COVID-19 Update: New action items on vaccination and testing for Carolina community
- COVID-19 Community Standards
- The Graduate School CoVID-19 updates and information



# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

I strive to make this classroom an inclusive space for all students. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to improve; I appreciate any suggestions. More broadly, our school has adopted diversity and inclusion <u>mission and vision statements</u> with accompanying goals. These complement the University policy on <u>prohibiting harassment and discrimination</u>.

In summary, UNC-Chapel Hill 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, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

The Dean of Students (Suite 1106, Student Academic Services Building, CB# 5100, 450 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5100 or [919] 966-4042) has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies.

#### **Student Conduct**

You are expected to conduct yourself within the guidelines of the University honor system. 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. You may retrieve the full document, The instrument of student judicial governance, here.

The University's Policy on Prohibit Discrimination, Harassment and Related Misconduct is outlined here.



If you need assistance with a harassment issue or problem, bring it to my attention or The Office of the Dean of Students, odos@unc.edu, 919/966-4042 or NC Relay 711.

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 based on age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Discrimination violates the university's Honor Code, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and Title IX of the Educational Amendments.

**Professional values and competencies**: The Hussman School of Journalism and Media'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 <a href="here">here</a>. 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. The values and competencies in bold are most relevant for this course:

- Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which
  the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range
  of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and
  criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
- 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 communications;
- 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;
- Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
- 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 basic numerical and statistical concepts;
- Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

# Week by Week – MEJO 730.001 Fall 2021

<u>Please note</u>: This schedule may change ... you know... 2021, 'n' all. I will advise.

Date	Today's Topic/Goal	Readings/Assignments for this Day Heath & Heath = textbook Other readings are on Sakai – Resources tab Assignments – see Assignment tab on Sakai
Aug. 19	First day of class – introductions, what's up for the semester, "stickiness," and responding to a request for proposal  The first day of schoolThe day when the countdown to the LAST day of school begins.  somecards user card	<ul> <li>Before first class, please read</li> <li>Heath &amp; Heath, intro + chapters 1 and 2</li> <li>The ultimate guide to writing your first RFP response</li> </ul>
Aug. 24	Creating campaign plans – setting the foundations What do you know? What do you need to know? How will you find what you need to know?  Secondary research Deep diving – issues management	Readings  Heath & Heath, ch. 3-4  Issues management: Clarification of terms  SWOT analysis: Discover new opportunities, manage and eliminate threats – text/video  Homework assignment:  ID professional you'll follow on social media
Aug. 26	Tinkering with theory Trust me, it's fun!!	Readings  Heath & Heath, ch. 5 Standpoint theory basics Framing by Tom Bivins  Homework assignment  "Doing" theory – write up + be prepared to share and discuss findings for your assigned theories. See a few resources on Sakai for starting points.
Aug. 31	Doing research and evaluation  Primary research  Collecting data Analyzing results Reporting findings	Readings  Heath & Heath, ch. 6  14 market research examples  Brand Tracking 101 – p. 14 provides a synopsis of using different research techniques  Evaluating information: Applying the CRAAP Test  Homework assignment:  Reflection 1 – Researching about researching

Date	Today's Topic/Goal	Readings/Assignments for this Day
Sept. 2	Stakeholders, publics, and plans  Putting research to good use  Who will you target? How?  Goals, objectives, strategies and tactics  "People tend to confuse activity and results. At the end of the day, results are what really matter, not activities."  Lisa Borders, WNBA	Readings  Heath & Heath, Epilogue-What sticks  Who are stakeholders and why do they matter  What is an influencer? https://influencermarketinghub.com/what-is-an-influencer/ People are getting vaccines in secret  Homework assignments: Reflection 2 — storytelling: Racial disparities in drowning deaths persist, research shows + How I learned to swim Brief report on the professional you're following
Sept. 7	Why white papers: Establish organization's position Case study How to (or how not to) Backgrounder what else?	Readings  Heath & Heath, Sticky advice How to write and format a white paper  Homework assignments: Assess a white paper Fog Index (optional)
Sept. 9	Page 15% INVENTION, 6% PERSPIRATION, AND 15% LEADERSHIP	Readings  8 most common leadership styles & how to find your own  18 business leaders on creating an inclusive and equitable society  Homework assignment:  Reflection 3: Finding your leadership style
Sept. 14	CAROL, SEND AN E-MAIL TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH MY LEADERSHIP THOUGHT OF THE DAY.	Readings  Satya Nadella employed a 'growth mindset' to overhaul Microsoft's cutthroat culture  We analyzed 23 memos from CEOs responding to the US Capitol riot  Employees aren't as optimistic about company diversity efforts as managers.  Homework Assignment:  Reflection 4: Microsoft CEO's culture overhaul
Sept. 16	Case study foundations  Case components  Case uses – teaching, marketing and branding tools  Doing in-class case assessments  Sign up to lead discussion of an existing case study  Where to find cases to critique	Readings  A (very) brief refresher on the case study method  Case study writing guide (Types: pp. 4-5)  Case study discussion guide  Masks are the new boarding pass (Delta case study)  Homework assignments:  ID 1-ish idea for your original case study  see Arthur Page Society Case Study Competition for ideas

Date	Today's Topic/Goal	Readings/Assignments for this Day
Sept. 21	What can we do vs what should we do?     Ethics codes by professional associations and organizations	Readings  What is native advertising? Definition, components, benchmarks, & best practices with examples  Peruse the codes: PRSA code of ethics, AMA statement of ethics, Institute for Advertising Ethics principles and practices  Plus case(s) TBD by discussion host!  Homework assignment:  Submit topic for your original case study & at least 8 initial references
Sept. 23	Media relations cases  Pitching and catching  Working with media  Tracking the value of media coverage  Formulating a pitch  HARO	Readings  Cision's 2021 Global State of the Media Report Reveals Top Trends Impacting Journalists and PR Pros (News release) Pitching to the media  Plus Case(s) TBD by discussion leader(s)!  Homework assignment: Comparing a news release and subsequent news story
Sept. 28	Social media campaign cases  • Meeting organization goals	Readings  How to plan a social media marketing campaign, step by step  Cases anyone??   Homework assignment:  Update on the professional you're following
Sept. 30	More social media Roles of influencers (even the micros!)	Readings:  How TikTok is changing healthcare marketing  How to use micro influencer marketing to grow your business  And Case(s) to discuss!
Oct. 5	Sports marketing and communication  Broadening the player – and consumer - involvement	Readings:  10 new trends in sports marketing  And Case(s) to discuss!
Oct. 7	Sports marketing and communication again	Readings  • How brands are using Twitch for sports marketing  Case(s) TBD by discussion leader(s)!
Oct. 12 University day but we still have class!	Consumer relations, branding  Telling the story Protecting the brand's rep	Readings  US consumer sentiment and behaviors during the coronavirus crisis  Who's up? Discussioners unite!

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Oct. 14	More with the consumer types	Readings  Interview: Zoom CEO Eric Yuan dishes on the difficulty of scaling the company through the pandemic  And case(s) for discussion!  Homework assignment:  Please submit at least 2 pages of your original case study draft
Oct. 19	Community relations  Good neighbor, good citizen, good will	Readings  4 ways to build your community relations strategy Community engagement tips  Case(s) TBD by discussion leader(s)!
Oct. 21-24	Woo hoo! It's fall break!	
Oct. 26	Activism  Moving forward, fighting back	Readings  Companies are struggling to engage with today's activists – a new survey explores why  In-class: We will watch the student-created documentary Silence Sam  Another case, too!
Oct. 28	Advocacy It's more than philanthropy	Readings  How your brand can take a political stand  The 5-minute guide to corporate social advocacy  and case(s)!  Homework assignment:  Update on the professional you're following

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Nov. 2  Election Day!!!!!!  EVERY COUNTS	Government relations, public affairs From local and state levels to national and international arenas	Readings  Government public relations Government relations (Public Affairs Council) International (Public Affairs Council)  And Case(s) to discuss!
Nov. 4	Case study check-in/work day  How's it goin'?  NEXT TIME YOURE AFRAID TO SHARE IDEAS REMEMBER SOMEONE ONCE SAID IN A MEETING LETS MAKE A FILM WITH A TORNADO FULL OF SHARKS	■ Submit updated draft of your case study
Nov. 9 When you're about to leave work and the boss says "Before you go"	Employee communication The forgotten stakeholder?	Readings  5 steps to a comprehensive internal communications audit  How to deliver meaningful, safe messages about mental health  Case(s) TBD by discussion leader(s)!
Nov. 11	Again with the employee thing	Readings  As Juneteenth becomes federal holiday, communication issues remain  Retailers are increasingly uncomfortable with employee influencers  Who's on today to lead the way (oooh! Poetry!!)
Nov. 16	Guest speaker TBD	Readings TBD  Homework assignment:  Final update on the professional you're following
Nov. 18	Crisis communication  ■ Are you ready? Are your stakeholders ready?	Readings  Situational crisis communication theory and how it helps a business (pp. 1-3, Tables 5, 6 & 7)  How leaders should address racially charged events  Case discussion host/hostess?  Homework assignments  Share (verbally) an update on your case study  Optional: Submit a draft of your case overview

Date	Торіс	Readings/Assignments
Nov. 23	Ack more crises!!	Readings  Community member webinar: Communicating through the coronavirus era - Please focus on the presentation by Prof. Valerie Fields (starts about 6:30 thru 24:40)  Case discussion!
GOBBLE TIL YOU WOBBLE	Happy Thanksgiving!!	Lef yourself rest.
Nov. 30 - LDOC!	Wrappin' it all up!  Case updates and feedback  Working on teaching notes  Course feedback	No readings!! We will watch a video, Women behind the Lines, about the 1969 UNC-Chapel Hill food services strike and discuss its implications today.
Dec. 6, midnight	Turn in final <u>written</u> case study online.	Early submissions cheerfully accepted! ©
Dec. 9, noon	it ALWAUS SEEMS iMPOSSIBLE UNTIL DITIS	Very last assignment!! Present your case study – 10 minutes Turn in your presentation materials

