

**University of Texas at El Paso - Department of Communication
Official Course Outline & Information – Fall 2018
COMM 4330 - Media Planning**

NOTE: This course syllabus serves as an official agreement between the instructor, Professor Natalie Vidalis, and the enrolled students. You will be held to the policies, procedures and standards stated within this syllabus. Therefore it is your responsibility to read it no later than the first day of class. Please print this document and keep a copy for your records.

Section – 16909	First Class Session: Mon., August 27, 2018
Instructor: Ms. Natalie Vidales	E-Mail: nvidales@utep.edu
Online Office Hours:	Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. (Mountain Standard Time)
Cell (in case of emergencies):	915-201-8364

NOTE: Responses to email, discussion forums, and telephone messages may not be instantaneous except as noted for the online office hours. During that time period your instructor will be online and available to answer your questions. Please factor in additional response time when communicating with your instructor outside of the in-person and online office hours.



COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Senior standing and completion of COMM 2330 with a grade of “C” or better. It is recommended that COMM 3332, 3333, and 3338 also be completed. If these courses have not been completed, you will need instructor approval to take this course.

COURSE FUNDAMENTALS:

To successfully navigate the online portion of this course you must be computer competent in the following:

- Microsoft Word/Office
- Adobe Flash
- E-mail, including sending and receiving attachments
- The Internet using a Web browser

NOTE: If you do not have Microsoft Office, check with your University of Texas branch store for the special Microsoft Office package which includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Contact the UTEP Bookstore (915)747-5594 for more information.

BLACKBOARD LEARN COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

You must use Blackboard Learn to participate in this course. You will need a computer with access to the Internet. Wi-Fi is available free at UTEP, and computers are also available for students to use in campus wide computer centers. In order to use any UTEP Computer Lab you must have a valid UTEP Student I.D. card.

- PC users: use the most current version of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox
- Mac users: use the most current version of Safari.

Your web browser should display frames, run the latest version of Java and JavaScript, and have cookies enabled. You must also be able to view:

- view pop-up windows;
- PowerPoint presentations;
- Word documents;
- PDF files;
- flash files; and
- and be able to listen to sound.

It is recommended that you take the time to read the HELP screens and student support information available at: <https://help.blackboard.com>. (click on the STUDENT tab close to the bottom of the screen).

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

The University of Texas at El Paso provides free 24/7 Helpdesk support to registered students through the Tech Support Company. The Helpdesk can provide answers to questions about using technology and services, as well as technical support. Please visit the technical support page for more information.

REQUIRED TEXT:

One textbook will be used throughout the semester and is available through the UTEP bookstore. **The Media Handbook: A Complete Guide to Advertising Media Selection, Planning, Research, and Buying** (Routledge Communication Series) (Paperback) by Helen Katz (Author); Publisher: Taylor and Francis; 5th edition (2014); ISBN-13: 978-0-415-85671-3

Likewise, there will be a number of documents posted online throughout the semester. It will be your personal responsibility to review these and utilize the information when appropriate.

ADDITIONAL READING/VIEWING ASSIGNMENTS:

Throughout the course, you will be asked to read advertising periodicals and other publications that contain print advertising such as daily and/or weekly newspapers, and consumer and business magazines. Likewise you will be asked to watch commercial television broadcasts, to listen to selected radio programs, and to review identified websites. You should have access to these media.

You also should take advantage of popular online advertising periodicals which are available at www.adage.com and www.adweek.com.

I. COMM 4330 COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to provide you with a basic understanding of the mass media in the United States and how they are incorporated into the advertising process. We will discuss the planning, selection and evaluation of all major advertising (commercial) media and consider the various decisions and problems that arise in those processes. In addition to gaining a broad knowledge of the various factors that influence the mass media, you will learn specifically how advertisers plan and implement media decisions. In its simplest form, this class will introduce you to the skills and concepts necessary to place advertising messages in the various mass media types. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify the major mass commercial media and how each works and obtains advertising results;
- Distinguish between various key advertising media concepts from rating and share to effective reach and frequency distribution;

- Evaluate media markets, types and vehicles;
- Recognize the commonly used formulas and calculation techniques associated with media math, and
- Develop a complete media plan complete with strategies and selected media vehicles to achieve media goals--- on time and within budget.

II. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Online lectures will be provided for reading along with selected online articles and textbook chapter assignments. Additionally, online discussions will be combined with planned exercises to provide opportunities for personal growth and understanding. The exercises require students to respond as they might in real situations, thus providing a "safe" environment in which to try out new communication behaviors, refine behaviors, and discover a variety of ways of approaching important communication problems. Opportunities to view video material will be provided along with online blogs from individuals in the professional arena. All class material and lectures will be presented in a variety of formats, including Word documents, PDF documents, Flash presentations with sound, and interactive flash presentations with sound.

III. EVALUATION: Point values are assigned to the following:

Written unit tests (2 @ 250 points each)	up to 500 points
Introduce Yourself Discussion Board (1 @ 25 pts)	up to 25 points
Syllabus Quiz (1 @ 25 pts)	up to 25 points
Online discussion boards (6 @ 50 pts each)	up to 300 points
Graded Assignments (5 @ 100 points each)	up to 500 points
Media Plan	up to 700 points

Total	up to 2050 points

Grading:

Grammar, spelling, and style will be taken into account when grading written assignments. Please check your spelling and grammar *before* submitting your work. You are expected to use proper English grammar. IM, chat, and email slang and abbreviations are not acceptable forms of communication in this course. Please do not use them in homework, the discussion forum, or in emails to your instructor.

Computer related problems are never a valid excuse for not completing or submitting an assignment on time. Therefore it is advisable to complete the assignments early enough to take into account any problems that may occur. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Two exams will be given online in Blackboard during the semester on the textbook and lecture material. Dates of the tests are announced well in advance, therefore no makeup tests will be given. **Exams cannot be taken after the designated test date.**

During the semester, you will be assigned a variety of exercises. Some exercises will be practice activities and others will be graded assignments. All activities will be explained in detail and due dates will be designated in advance. Each graded assignment must be your original work.

The class requires the preparation of a national media plan from a case study provided by the instructor. It will represent the proposed recommendations and rationales associated with a real-life client. Do not wait until the last minute to begin the media plan. It is the heart of the course and will be reviewed critically. Make allowances for unexpected catastrophes such as printer problems, a backlog in the lab, projects for other classes among other situations. Further explanation and detail of the media plan will be provided on a class handout.

Letter grades will be based on these scores:

A = 2050 - 1800
 B = 1790 - 1600
 C = 1590 - 1400
 D = 1390 - 1200
 F = 1190 and below

Student Withdrawal:

The last day for students to drop a class or completely withdraw with an automatic "W" is **October 5, 2018**. After the student drop deadline, students may be dropped from a course with a grade of "F". A grade of "W" can be assigned only under exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor and academic dean. The student must petition for the "W" grade in writing and provide the necessary supporting documentation.

A grade of "I" for "Incomplete" will be given only when unusual circumstances have prevented a conscientious student from completing the requirements of the course in a timely manner. An "I" is a rare grade, and if used, the student and instructor must fill out and file an incomplete grade contract form prior to the end of the semester.

IV. ONLINE LEARNING:

If this is your first online class, this section is very important reading. Even if you have taken an online class before, please review this information.

Often students new to online learning perceive and expect online courses to be easy and involve little to no work on their part. This is a misperception, and in fact, online courses may be more demanding than a face-to-face course depending on the learning style of the student.

All online material is copyrighted and protected and only available for online viewing. No documents or lectures will be available for download. The online portion of this course will be conducted through UTEP's Blackboard Learning Management System. When participating in this course, you are expected to communicate online with your instructor and other classmates about specific assignments. Most of your work, however, is done on your own through reading assignments and accompanying lecture materials as appropriate. This course is *not* self-paced. You will have weekly assignments and activities with weekly due dates. In order to successfully complete this course, you must submit your assignments and activities on time. All posting deadlines expire as noted with the activities and assignments.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS:

When taking an online course you must take the initiative to ask your instructor questions if you do not understand the material. Your response from the instructor may not be instantaneous. You must learn to factor in the response time when completing your work. If you wait until the last day, you may not have time to receive a response before your assignment is due. Please review the online office hours for the instructor as noted on the first page of this document.

WEEKLY TIME COMMITMENT:

Although this course is taught online in seven weeks, your total time commitment will be the same as a traditional face-to-face full-semester (15 week) three-credit hour class. Each week you should expect to spend an average of 10-12 hours per week on this course. This includes online class time as well as study/homework per week. Multiple topics are discussed each week and multiple weekly assignments are required (refer to the "Important Dates to Remember" at the end of this syllabus for more information). Look carefully at your work schedule, school schedule, and family obligations and allow plenty of time for each.

V. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Scholastic Honesty and Student Discipline:

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

All alleged acts of scholastic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students for disposition. It is the Dean of Student's responsibility to investigate each allegation, dismiss the allegation, or proceed with disciplinary action in a manner which provides the accused student his or her rights of due process.

Students are expected to assume personal responsibility, to be socially mature and independent, and to function satisfactorily within a structured learning environment. Students participating in this online class should ONLY be those students OFFICIALLY enrolled in the course and section.

The obstruction or disruption of any teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, public service or other authorized activity on campus is prohibited; any student or group of students creating such an obstruction or disruption will be subject to disciplinary action.

Netiquette Rules

Online etiquette is important to keep in mind when communicating with others on the Internet. These core rules of netiquette are excerpted from the book *Netiquette* by Virginia Shea (Albion Books, 1997).

- Rule 1: Remember the Human
- Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life
- Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace
- Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth
- Rule 5: Make yourself look good online
- Rule 6: Share expert knowledge
- Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control
- Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy
- Rule 9: Don't abuse your power
- Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

For further information on each rule, go to: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Center for Accommodations and Support Services policy:

As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. If a student needs an accommodation then the The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at UTEP needs to be contacted. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of CASS. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. You can also contact them by email to cass@utep.edu. Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

V. CLASS POLICIES:

Assignments:

Due dates for assignments and activities are clearly indicated with each of the online assignments and activities. Students are expected to be ready for class by being prepared with reading assignments and/or discussion material. **Late work will not be accepted for any reason.**

Class Participation:

Participating in the weekly group discussions is extremely important. Students are expected to be prepared for each class. It is the constant participation and demonstration of knowledge in class activities and discussions that will be used as the main criterion for the evaluation of student's performance and participation.

Extenuating circumstances preventing class attendance, test taking and/or class assignments being turned in on time:

There may be situations arise that cause obstacles to students taking a test, participating in a discussion, or turning in assignments. Medical emergencies, a death in the family, and the like may pose a conflict to scheduled class activities. Students should contact the instructor directly, acknowledging and explaining the situation at hand, and be prepared to provide written documentation to support the absence. Students should contact the instructor directly at natalie.vidales@gmail.com and explain the situation. Contact should be as soon as possible and preferably 48 hours in advance. Personal business, out-of-town trips, advisor appointments, and the like should be scheduled at a time that does not conflict with class requirements.

Communication with Instructor:

Communication directly with your instructor is strongly encouraged. Please do not send messages to your instructor via another classmate. Please use the email address and telephone number on page one of this document as a means to contact the instructor outside of normal class meeting times or posted office hours.

VI. IMPORTANT 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 27	First day of COMM 4330 Media Planning and Buying class
September 17	Test #1
October 2	Test #2
October 5	Last day to drop the class with an automatic "W"
October 11	Media Plans Due
October 12	Last day of classes

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.