
Integrated Communications

Professor: Ana Varela/Linda Reichard

Course Type: Elective

Credits: 4 ECTS

Term: 2nd Term

Course Description

As the world evolves rapidly, changes effecting business models, media, technology, consumer behavior etc., make the management of Marketing and Corporate Communications more dynamic and challenging all the time. Communication seems like an easy field from a conceptual point of view, as it is accessible to everyone on a daily basis as a target, and even more in today's world where technology has provided with access in real time to big audiences to every individual just by participating in social media. Content is the clear feed for conversations, and traditional media has dramatically fragmented while new media appear everyday as a consequence of new touchpoints between brands and consumers, and or among different people in a global context.

In such a challenging and changing environment, the complex task of efficiently managing messages, content and all kind of media across all stakeholders requires specific knowledge, practical experience and continuous analysis and vision.

This course is designed for students participating in the MSc in Marketing & Management programs at UPF/BSM and who are especially interested in this subject, aiming to actively participate in the communications process of an organization, or as an external communication services partner. The aim is to provide you with an overview of current theories and frameworks of Integrated Communications, and insight into what might be developing in the future. At the same time, it is designed to guide you to develop you own criteria and analytical skills that will accompany you in your future business role.

Objectives

Integrated communication (IC) is a cross-functional process for creating profitable relationships with customers and publics by strategically controlling all messages sent to groups and encouraging dialogue. Students learn to integrate external communication elements (e.g., advertising, public relations, publicity, sales promotion, event marketing, direct marketing, e-communication, and selling) to advance an organization's success and brand equity. Case studies and exercises help students learn how to develop effective IC plans.

Specifically, this course aims to help students:

- Understand the strategic role played by communications within the company and its importance as a management tool;
- Know what the different tools and activities available are for marketing and corporate communications, what each one is, what each consists of, what it's for, and how it's managed;
- Understand the need to integrate the various types of communication as well as the need to coordinate the various activity managers;
- Acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to work as business communications managers;
- Know the processes to diagnose the company's needs, how to communicate these to communications agencies, and evaluate the latter's proposals;
- Understand the impact communications has on society and how important it is for the company to act in an ethically responsible manner; and
- Communicate effectively, both in writing and orally

Methodology

The sessions will be divided into two categories. Approximately half the sessions will be lectures covering the topics of the course, and the other half will be more practical sessions dedicated to case discussions.

The last session (3hours) will be for the presentation of the Group Projects. The students will be organized into groups in order to work together in two types of exercises: group analysis of cases and final project.

Notes and readings will be provided to the students on the content of lecture sessions. These readings may include articles appearing in a magazine or a specific chapter in a book.

Evaluation criteria

The main components and weights will be:

- Individual Participation in class: 10%
- Individual Exercises & Quizzes: 30%
- Group Exercises: 30%
- Final Group Project + Peer evaluation: 30%

Retake opportunity. If students fail the course, they have the right for a retake by attending to an exam

Students are required to attend 80% of classes. Failing to do so without justified reason will imply a Zero grade in the participation/attendance evaluation item and may lead to suspension from the program.

Reading Materials/ Bibliography/Resources

There is no required textbook. All readings and additional material will be shared in ECampus according to the needs of each session.

Bio of Professors

Linda Reichard.

BA in Economics, University of Maryland, College Park and master's in international management Thunderbird School of Global Management, Phoenix AZ. Currently collaborating Professor at ESADE, Universitat Abat Oliba CEU and CIEE (Council on International Educational Exchange), ETSEIB (UPC) and UPF.

Twenty years in Advertising in Account Services and Strategic Planning for Ogilvy, FCB and BBDO. International experience in Spain, France, USA and Mexico handling

The information contained in this document is for information purposes only and may be subject to change in the adaptations of each academic year. The definitive Guide will be available to students enrolled in the virtual space before the start of each subject.

large global Brands (Unilever, Coca Cola, Kimberly Clark, PepsiCo, Reckit), local SME Brands and Government Agencies (Generalitat de Catalunya).

Experience in independent communication consultancy for the real estate, entertainment and healthcare industry.

Ana Varela

BA & MBA at ESADE in Barcelona, master's in International Management at Thunderbird School of Global Management, Phoenix AZ; and Master's in Creative and Communications Strategy at the School of Communications in Blanquerna - URL at Barcelona. Currently working on her Ph.D. on Brand Communication at the School of Communications in Blanquerna.

Ana belongs to the Department of Marketing Management at ESADE Business School in Barcelona & Madrid, Spain since 2005. She's responsible for several courses in Marketing & Corporate Communications and Brand Management at different programs of the school (BBA, MSc, FTMBA, Executive Education...), and is the Director of the Marketing Lab at the FTMBA and of the Brand Institute. Ana is combining her academic experience with consultancy work in Marketing, Communication and Brand Management. Ana also holds a professional background in Communication & Advertising, focusing on Client Services, Brand Management, and Strategic Brand Planning at Ogilvy, where she worked for almost 20years handling all kinds of clients on a national and international level, big and small, and in different markets: food & soft drinks, banking, cosmetics, toys, real state, government... Previously, Ana had worked for Henkel Iberica.