# MKT 372/382 The Influence of Marketing in Society

###### Fall 2022

**Instructor:** Dr. Rowena Crabbe

# Course Description

### University Catalog Course Description:

Brands are increasingly involved in socio-political debates. It is important for consumers and marketers to critically engage with and understand the role of brands as agentic and influential social actors who can reflect, perpetuate, and challenge societal values and norms. Leveraging real-world case studies and classroom discussion, students will have the opportunity to examine how marketers' decisions about segmenting, targeting, positioning, product design, pricing, distribution, and communication may challenge or perpetuate social hierarchies. The course will also cover topics such as how companies navigate profit and social responsibility, varying types of activism, consumer reactions and responses to brand activism, and the role of identities (e.g., race/gender) in marketing. The course will end with a final group project focused on understanding and then reimagining a company's brand activism and corporate social responsibility strategy

### SAMPLE LIST OF TOPICS COVERED

* Brands' role in creating and maintaining norms as agentic and influential social actors
* Types of brand responsibility (e.g., corporate social responsibility, brand socio-political activism; corporate political activism)
* Consumer reactions and responses to brand activism
* The role of identities (e.g., race/gender) in marketing
* Navigating profit and responsibility

# Policies

## Classroom Policies

##### Statement on Learning Success

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to reach out to the student resources available through UT. Many are listed on this syllabus, but I am happy to connect you with a person or Center if you would like.

### **Student Rights & Responsibilities**

* You have a right to a learning environment that supports mental and physical wellness.
* You have a right to respect.
* You have a right to be assessed and graded fairly.
* You have a right to freedom of opinion and expression.
* You have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
* You have a right to meaningful and equal participation, to self-organize groups to improve your learning environment.
* You have a right to learn in an environment that is welcoming to all people. No student shall be isolated, excluded or diminished in any way.

With these rights come responsibilities:

* You are responsible for taking care of yourself, managing your time, and communicating with the teaching team and with others if things start to feel out of control or overwhelming.
* You are responsible for acting in a way that is worthy of respect and always respectful of others. • Your experience with this course is directly related to the quality of the energy that you bring to it, and your energy shapes the quality of your peers' experiences.
* You are responsible for creating an inclusive environment and for speaking up when someone is excluded.
* You are responsible for holding yourself accountable to these standards, holding each other to these standards, and holding the teaching team accountable as well.

### Personal Pronoun Preference

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name different than what appears on the roster, and by the gender pronouns you use. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

## University Policies

### Academic Integrity

Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity." **Plagiarism is taken very seriously at UT**. Therefore, if you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in previous class), you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course. You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty and the University Honor Code which can be found at the following web address: [deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/)

### Q Drop Policy

If you want to drop a class after the 12th class day, you'll need to execute a Q drop before the Q-drop deadline, which typically occurs near the middle of the semester. Under Texas law, you are only allowed six Q drops while you are in college at any public Texas institution. For more information, see: [ugs.utexas.edu/vick/academic/adddrop/qdrop](http://www.ugs.utexas.edu/vick/academic/adddrop/qdrop)

### University Resources for Students

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. There are also a range of resources on campus:

##### Services for Students with Disabilities

This class respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds, identities, and abilities. If there are circumstances that make our learning environment and activities difficult, if you have medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need specific arrangements in case the building needs to be evacuated, please let me know. I am committed to creating an effective learning environment for all students, but I can only do so if you discuss your needs with me as early as possible. I promise to maintain the confidentiality of these discussions. If appropriate, also contact Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329- 3986 (video phone). [diversity.utexas.edu/disability/about](http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/about/)

##### Counseling and Mental Health Center

Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. [cmhc.utexas.edu/individualcounseling.html](http://cmhc.utexas.edu/individualcounseling.html)

##### The Sanger Learning Center

Did you know that more than one-third of UT undergraduate students use the Sanger Learning Center each year to improve their academic performance? All students are welcome to take advantage of Sanger Center's classes and workshops, private learning specialist appointments, peer academic coaching, and tutoring for more than 70 courses in 15 different subject areas. For more information, please visit  [ugs.utexas.edu/slc](http://ugs.utexas.edu/slc) or call 512-471-3614 (JES A332).

Undergraduate Writing Center: [uwc.utexas.edu](http://uwc.utexas.edu/)

Libraries: [lib.utexas.edu](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/)

ITS: [it.utexas.edu](http://www.utexas.edu/its/)

Student Emergency Services: [deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/)

## Important Safety Information

If you have concerns about the safety or behavior of fellow students, TAs or Professors, call BCAL (the Behavior Concerns Advice Line): 512-232-5050. Your call can be anonymous. If something doesn't feel right – it probably isn't. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

### Title IX Reporting

Title IX is a federal law that protects against sex and gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misconduct, dating/domestic violence and stalking at federally funded educational institutions. UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. When sexual misconduct occurs in our community, the university can:

1. Intervene to prevent harmful behavior from continuing or escalating.
2. Provide support and remedies to students and employees who have experienced harm or have become involved in a Title IX investigation.
3. Investigate and discipline violations of the university's [relevant policies](https://titleix.utexas.edu/relevant-polices/).

Faculty members and certain staff members are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. **I am a Responsible Employee and must report any Title IX related incidents** that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one. Before talking with me, or with any faculty or staff member about a Title IX related incident, be sure to ask whether they are a responsible employee. If you want to speak with someone for support or remedies without making an official report to the university, email advocate@austin.utexas.edu For more information about reporting options and resources, visit [titleix.utexas.edu](http://titleix.utexas.edu/) or contact the Title IX Office at titleix@austin.utexas.edu.

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, [operations.utexas.edu/units/csas](http://operations.utexas.edu/units/csas/)

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

* Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
* Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
* In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
* Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at:

[emergency.utexas.edu](http://emergency.utexas.edu/)