

COMM 1101: The History of Human Communication
Spring, 2016, Online

Instructor: Morgan Schunn (schunn.1) Office: 3047 Derby Hall
In-person hours: Monday 2-4pm or by appointment Online hours*: Tuesday 8-9pm

Course Policies

Below are all the general guidelines for this course. You can see specific assignment details and due dates in the other documents on Carmen.

Course Description

This course provides a brief overview of the history of human communication. We'll focus primarily on more recent history (the last couple of hundred years), but will begin with the earliest known communication artifacts and progress rapidly from there. Most of what we'll cover is in the realm of mass communication.

Course Themes

More specifically you will notice certain themes emerge throughout the course. These will come up with the different forms of media and are relevant to areas outside of communication as well. These themes will also serve as the basis for your final project. These include:

- The evolution of media as society changes
- The role of media in societal and cultural change
- The role of regulation in shaping media
- The impact of media on freedom of speech and vice versa

Goals & Objectives

This course satisfies College of Arts & Sciences GE requirements under Social Science: Individuals and Groups. The Learning Outcomes for this area are:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of individuals and groups.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in social and cultural contexts of human existence, and the processes by which groups function.
3. Students comprehend and assess individual and group values and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

This course attempts to meet those learning outcomes by fulfilling the following objectives:

1. To provide you with an introduction to the history of communication.
2. To introduce you to the theory and methods of understanding history.
3. To explore the ways in which media presentations may have different impacts for differing ethnic or racial groups and the interplay between societal/cultural values and media content.
4. To develop your ability to comprehend and assess individual and group values as reflected in media content history, and to recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

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Course Text

Hanson, R. E. (2014). *Mass communication: Living in a media world* (4th edition). Washington, DC: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1452202990

*This book is on 2-hour reserve at Thompson Library. Request it at the circulation desk.

Accommodations

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, contact your instructor privately as soon as possible to discuss your specific needs. Discussions are confidential.

In addition to contacting the instructor, please contact the Student Life Disability Services at 614-292-3307 or ods@osu.edu to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at The Ohio State University. Go to <http://ods.osu.edu> for more information.

Technology Help

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- Self-Service and Chat support: <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- Phone: 614-688-HELP (4357)
- Email: 8help@osu.edu

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is any activity that compromises the academic integrity of the institution or subverts the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Violation of course rules as contained in this course syllabus or other information provided.
- Providing or receiving information during examinations, or providing or using unauthorized assistance on individual assignments.
- Fabricating research data.
- Plagiarism, including the use of information from any uncredited source.
- Alteration of grades or marks in an effort to change the earned grade or credit.
- Failure to report others' incidents of academic misconduct.

Also, note that fabricating research data is considered a breach of the student conduct code. This includes participation in C-REP, so please do not "blow off" any research opportunities in which you participate. Writing down random answers to research questions or completing a survey without reading the questions would be considered an instance of fabrication.

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If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

Assignments

For specifics about assignments see the details on Carmen.

Assignment	Due	Points Each	Total Points	Percent of Grade
C-REP		Varies	50	5%
Quizzes	Mondays	11* @ 20 each	220	22%
Discussion: Responses	Wednesdays	11* @ 20 each	220	22%
Discussion: Replies	Saturdays	11* @ 10 each	110	11%
Final Project: Response	4/24		300	30%
Final Project: Peer Review	5/3		100	10%

C-REP (Communication Research Experience Program) (50 points)

All students in COM 1101 are required to participate in the Communication Research Experience Program (C-REP). C-REP is designed to give students direct exposure to the topics, goals, methods, and ethical issues of communication research. Your participation in C-REP counts for 5% of your course grade—it is NOT extra credit. Participation can take the form of:

- Completing 5 hours of C-REP research studies, or
- Completing C-REP alternative written assignments, or
- Completing a combined total of 5 hours of research studies and alternative writing assignments.

The C-REP Student Guide is on Carmen. Both COMM 1100 and COMM 1101 require C-REP participation, and many students are enrolled in both courses simultaneously. The same C-REP participation CANNOT be counted for both courses. For each study, you will indicate what class you want the credit to go toward.

Please direct any questions regarding C-REP to Aysenur Dal (dal.1@osu.edu)

See Carmen "Content" for instructions and deadlines.

Quizzes (220 points)

There will be weekly multiple choice quizzes that are due Mondays by Midnight.

You will be allowed 3 attempts at each quiz and the highest score will be used. The questions are pulled from a bank of questions; therefore, you will likely get different questions each time. You will have 10 minutes for each quiz of 10 questions.

These quizzes will cover the book materials, the lecture videos, and any supplemental materials provided for that week. The quizzes are meant to test your basic understanding before you move

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on to the discussion post. Therefore, quizzes will focus on concepts, events, processes, inventions, etc. You will not need to know specific dates, but should know general timeframes and order of events.

You may use materials for the quiz, but you should not complete the quiz with others or share questions/answers. This would constitute academic misconduct and will result in a zero.

The best way to approach the quizzes is to first review all of the materials for the week. Then create outlines and/or highlight materials. Since your time is limited, the more organized you are and the better grasp you have of the material, the easier it will be to answer the questions.

The answers to the quiz will be available after the quiz closes for you to check understanding and to help you with other assignments.

Discussion (330 points)

You will have two posts each week. One is your response to the prompt due Wednesdays by Midnight. The second is a reply to another student due Saturdays by Midnight.

Other students' discussion responses will not be visible until after you post yours. Once you post your response, you should reply to the person who posted before you. If you were the first to post, you will reply *to the last person who posted before Wednesday at Midnight*.

*Note that discussions will remain open until the following Monday at Midnight. Any late response or reply (up to 48 hours) will receive half credit.

There are very specific criteria for each discussion post. See "Assignments" on Carmen for instructions, a rubric and example. Remember that these discussion posts replace all of the typical in-class discussion and assignments so it is important you take them seriously.

All posts are expected to be respectful. Replies should critique the content of the post, not the poster. Any unnecessary derogatory responses will result in a zero and potential disciplinary action. Refer "Assignments" under "Content" on Carmen for information on how to give appropriate and constructive feedback.

If at any time you feel uncomfortable from a post, please email me (Schunn.1@osu.edu) as soon as possible.

I will randomly choose half of your discussion posts to give you individual feedback on.

Final Project (400)

The first part of your final project will be due during Week 14. The peer review part of the project will be due during Week 15/finals.

This is a culminating project to test your understanding and incorporation of the materials learned based on the relevant themes (see Carmen for list). You will be given a choice of prompts that you will sign up for during the first weeks. The point of signing up early is so that

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you have the general question at the beginning and can take relevant notes throughout the course. Doing this will make your final project much easier.

The final project will consist of two parts: your response, and then a peer review of one of your classmates' responses. See Carmen for specific details on the final project.

Late Policy

Because each assignment in this class builds on the next, there is no room for assignments to be turned in late.

For quizzes you are allowed 3 attempts, therefore quizzes cannot be made up, except for under extreme extenuating circumstances. These circumstances will need to be documented to show that you were unable to do the quiz during the entire open window week. This will only count for the first attempt and no absence would allow you to make up attempt 2 or 3 should you miss them. *You should email me within 2 days of the last day of your absence if you feel that your extended absence qualifies you for a makeup. You will need to email me appropriate documentation.

For discussion posts, you can submit your posts up to 48 hours after the deadline for half credit.

For the final project you will receive the following deductions for a late assignment for each part:

0-1 hour late; -5%, 1-24 hours late; -15%, 24-48 hours late; -25%,
48-72 hours late; -50%, 48+ No credit

Grading Scale

The standard OSU Grading Scheme is used for this course as listed below.

Letter Grade	Points	Percent of 1000
A	930-1000	93-100
A-	900-929	90-92.9
B+	870-899	87-89.9
B	830-869	83-86.9
B-	800-829	80-82.9
C+	770-799	77-79.9
C	730-769	73-76.9
C-	700-729	70-72.9
D+	670-699	67-69.9
D	600-669	60-66.9
Failing	0-599	Below 60

Grade Disputes:

Any dispute about a grade must be done *within one week* of the grade posting, so please check your grades regularly. You should email me with information about the assignment and details (using the rubric and guidelines) of why you feel should receive a different score.

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Discussion and Communication

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** Because this is an online class and everything is open-book/materials, the only way to assess your true understanding is through written assignments. Therefore it is important that you treat all written discussions as important assignments (think of discussion posts as short essays). Therefore, all writing should be done in an academic style, citing sources and using academic support. Even if you are stating your opinion, it should be backed by material we discuss in this course.
- **Grammar and clarity:** Grammar and clarity will be important in every assignment for this course. As such it is important that you take the time to carefully review and edit your work. Because Carmen does not have spell check, it is suggested you first write your work in Word to enable reviewing. Then, after it has been edited, copy it over.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Any unnecessary derogatory or inappropriate posts may result in a zero and/or academic sanctions.

Questions

Because this course is online, students do not benefit from in-class discussion. This means you would not benefit if another student asks a question or if I clarify something for an assignment or lecture. Therefore, all general course and content questions will be answered via the Carmen discussion board.

When you have a question, you should first check all of the course materials and the Carmen discussion to see if the question was already answered. Then you should post your question in the appropriate forum. You will get a response to your question in approximately 24 hours. Via Carmen you can “subscribe” to questions to be notified of when the question is answered.

You should refrain from email unless you have specific questions about one of your assignments, grades, or any other personal issues. You are welcome to email to set up an appointment (in-person or virtually) if you still need further or different clarification than what is provided by the discussion board.

Email

As noted above, email should only be used for personal questions. Any other questions should be posted to the discussion board to be answered.

If you email me a general question, I will simply ask you to post it to the discussion board.

The only time I will use email is for personal communication and feedback. Any other time I will use the Carmen discussion board (to answer questions) or the Carmen newsfeed (to post updates, reminders, summaries, etc.). You can sign up for email notifications of updates, but you should plan to check Carmen multiple times per week for information.

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Office Hours

I am happy to meet with anyone virtually or in-person to address any questions/issues. Please see “Course Overview” on Carmen for my policies and availability.

Feedback

For quizzes, at first you will only see how many questions you got correct overall. After the quiz closes (Monday at Midnight), the answers will be made available for you to check your work.

For discussion, I will give individual feedback on half of your posts. I will try to have this feedback posted no later than Mondays at Midnight. If at any time you would like feedback on a post that wasn't chosen for feedback, please let me know. However, note it may take time to get you feedback depending on how many requests are made. Priority will be given to those who are struggling the most that way they can get the feedback to improve their posts. You generally should be able to understand your grade by comparing your score to the Discussions rubric used.