

SYLLABUS: COMM 2367

PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION

IN-PERSON AUTUMN 2022

This course is designed to increase your understanding of persuasive communication, or messages intended to influence people's attitudes and behaviors. As a second-level writing course, it is also designed to improve your writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through an exploration of persuasion as it relates to the American experience.

Instructor

INSTRUCTOR: Kristie Sigler
 OFFICE: Journalism Building 317
 EMAIL: Sigler.35@OSU.EDU
 OFFICE HOURS: W 11:30a—1:30p in Journalism 317
 TH 1:30p—3:30p on Zoom
 Or by appointment

Course prerequisites

English 110, 111, or equivalent, and sophomore standing. This course fulfills the GEC Second Course in Writing requirement *for non-communication majors* and fulfills a major requirement *for communication majors*. (If you are admitted to the School of Communication as a major, or plan to be, you will have to take another course to fulfill the GEC Second Course in Writing requirement.)

Course learning outcomes

Communication 2367 is a GE second level writing course categorized under 1A: Writing and Related Skills. The goal of these courses is to develop skills in writing, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression. This course will satisfy the following GE Course Outcomes through assigned readings, group discussions and activities, individual research and writing activities, and an oral presentation:

Writing and Related Skills

Students build upon skills in written communication and expression, reading, critical thinking, and oral expression.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students apply basic skills in expository writing.

COMM 2367 fulfills this GE requirement by presenting opportunities for students to research, explain, and inform an audience through written assignments as part of the process of persuasion.

2. Students demonstrate critical thinking through written and oral expression.

COMM 2367 fulfills this GE requirement by presenting multiple lectures on theories and techniques to effectively persuade an audience. Students will evaluate information about their topic and select appropriate theories and techniques to write a persuasive paper and deliver a persuasive speech.

3. Students retrieve and use written information analytically and effectively.

COMM 2367 fulfills this GE requirement by providing opportunities for students to find and evaluate material from the library, research databases, and online. Students learn to select and analyze information to build effective persuasive arguments.

Second Writing Course Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Through critical analysis, discussion, and writing, students demonstrate the ability to read carefully and express ideas effectively. (ELO1)

COMM 2367 fulfills this requirement by scaffolding information across the semester. Students begin by analyzing and discussing information about their topics. They will demonstrate an ability to read carefully and express sophisticated ideas clearly through written persuasive communication, discussion, and critical analysis.

2. Students apply written, oral, and visual communication skills and conventions of academic discourse to the challenges of a specific discipline. (ELO2)

COMM 2367 fulfills this requirement by providing opportunities for students to use communication skills to write and present persuasive arguments. Students will also understand the conventions of academic discourse to express original ideas in a persuasive paper and both an informative and a persuasive speech.

3. Students access and use information critically and analytically. (ELO3)

COMM 2367 fulfills this requirement by providing opportunities for students to find and evaluate material from the library, research databases, and online. Students will use highly credible and relevant sources to analyze and build effective persuasive arguments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who complete this course will also:

1. Understand and apply knowledge of persuasion theory and research.
2. Analyze persuasive messages in society to become more critical consumers of persuasion.
3. Understand the role of ethics in persuasion.
4. Observe and critique the effectiveness of persuasive strategies.
5. Express ideas in writing projects and oral presentations that are action-oriented, socially-conscious, and/or community-involved.

Mode of delivery

This hybrid course meets in the assigned classroom and/or on Zoom for all scheduled class sessions. More information can be found in the “Student Participation Requirements” section below. Please see the course schedule on the last two pages of the syllabus and check with your instructor for weekly details.

Course materials

Required

Sigler, K. (Ed.). (2021). *Persuasive communication* (2nd ed.). Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

*Print or e-books: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/osupersuasivecomm>

Recommended

American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.

Course technology

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 and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- **Carmen:**
 - [Carmen](#), Ohio State's Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. To access Carmen, visit [Carmen.osu.edu](https://carmen.osu.edu). Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not set up a name.# and password, visit my.osu.edu.
 - Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odde.osu.edu/carmen>
 - **This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.**
 - [Carmen accessibility](#)
- **CarmenZoom**
 - Office hours will be held through Ohio State's conferencing platform, CarmenZoom.
 - Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within CarmenZoom for the student to live chat with the instructor in the virtual office hours room.
 - Help guides on the use of Carmen Connect can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odde.osu.edu/carmenzoom>
- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** 8help@osu.edu
- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Baseline technical skills necessary for in-person courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen

Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Web cam and microphone

Necessary software

- Word processor with the ability to save files under .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Most popular word processing software programs including Microsoft Word and Mac Pages have these abilities.
- OSU students have access to Microsoft Office products **free of charge**. To install, please visit <https://ocio.osu.edu/blog/community/2015/08/18/free-microsoft-office-for-ohio-state-students>

Grading and Faculty Response

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The overall design of the course centers on the persuasive speech assignment that will take place at the end of the semester. With the exception of the exams, quizzes, and the reflection paper, all course assignments are integrated and culminate in a speech to be posted on the Carmen discussion board. The goal of *each* speech is to:

- Present a problem (e.g., poverty) in a particular region (e.g., Ohio).
- Deliver speeches to persuade the audience to volunteer at, or donate to, or advocate for a particular nonprofit organization that is actively and effectively addressing the problem (e.g., Ohio Poverty Law Center).
- View the speeches and provide feedback.

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

Essays

- *Annotated Bibliography Paper*: This assignment requires you to begin researching your problem. In this paper, you will develop your ability to access, evaluate, and use credible information by identifying and summarizing highly credible sources.
- *Problem Analysis Paper*: This persuasive essay requires you to explore the problem in your region. You will consider what it means to demonstrate the severity of a problem and create an exigence for change.
- *Audience Analysis Paper and Online Discussion*: In this essay, you will summarize, analyze, and apply information from the audience survey and textbook material to develop a persuasive message that will appeal to your audience. You will also participate in a group discussion to critically analyze the original ideas of your peers and improve the effectiveness of your own persuasive arguments.
- *Problem, Solution, and Barriers Paper*: You will have an opportunity to revise your Problem Paper based on previous feedback from your instructor and peers. This assignment requires you to write a persuasive paper wherein you refine your problem arguments and advocate a

solution. You also need to consider counterarguments and address these barriers to persuade your audience to enact your solution.

- *Reflection Paper:* In this paper, you will reflect on what you learned through the class readings and assignments to consider how your experience this semester might be personally, academically, and professionally applicable.

Quizzes/Exams

- *Quizzes:* Two quizzes will be presented on the syllabus and APA materials and may include short answer, multiple choice, true-false, and/or matching items.
- *Comprehensive Exam:* The exam will cover required readings and may include multiple choice, true- false, and/or matching items.

Speeches

- *Introduction Speech:* 1-2 minute video introduction. You will introduce yourself, your hometown, and your major. You'll also answer one of these questions: 1) What is something you've done that you think no one else in the class has done? OR 2) What is the bravest thing you've ever done? OR 3) What would you do if you knew you would not fail?
- *Media and Persuasion Speech:* This 2-4 minute speech will develop your ability to make connections between textbook material and media you encounter daily.
- *Persuasive Speech:* In this culminating assignment, you will use the knowledge you have gained from the textbook, class discussions, and previous assignments to deliver a 5-6 minute persuasive speech to your peers.

Participation

- *Media and Persuasion Speech Participation:* You will have an opportunity to ask questions or provide peer feedback on presentations.
- *Persuasive Speech Participation:* You will have an opportunity to actively participate by asking questions, engaging in discussion, and offering peer feedback on presentations.
- *Peer Reviews:* For some of the writing assignments, you will be required to provide detailed feedback about another student's draft.

Grades

GRADING

Following are the point values for each assignment:

Assignment	Points
Annotated Bibliography Paper	30
Problem Analysis Paper	50
Audience Analysis Paper and Online Discussion	40
Problem, Solution, and Barriers Paper	20
Reflection Paper	15
Introduction Speech	5
APA Quiz	10
Comprehensive Exam	75
Media and Persuasion Speech	15
Media and Persuasion Speech Participation	10
Persuasive Speech & Participation	70
Peer Reviews (3 @ 10 points each)	30
TOTAL	370

Extra Credit

C-REP (Communication Research Experience Program) Research Credits: All students enrolled in COMM 2367 may participate in the Communication Research Experience Program (“C-REP”) for extra credit. C-REP is designed to give students direct exposure to the topics, goals, methods, and ethical issues of communication research. Participation can take the form of:

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

You should NOT wait until the last minute to sign up for participation. It is wise to complete this as early as possible, when demands on your time are the lightest. Please take the time to read the detailed C-REP Student Guide posted on the course website listed under Important Documents/Links. Please direct any questions regarding C-REP to the contact person identified in the Student Guide.

Late assignments

Late submissions for most written assignments will incur a 10% penalty each day the submission is late. The first day begins one minute after the deadline, with an automatic loss of 10% of the points. Please do not email your paper to the professor. We will open the assignment window for you so that you can upload it for the plagiarism check. It will not be counted as submitted until you have submitted it to Carmen.

Speeches, discussion posts, and paper drafts will not be accepted late. If they are not submitted on time (11:59pm on the due date), you will receive a 0 on the assignment.

You must have a medical excuse or a note from Carmen/Canvas staff documenting an actual Carmen/Canvas problem that would have affected your submission to have a paper or post accepted with no penalty after the assignment period closes.

Grading scale

93–100: A
 90–92.9: A-
 87–89.9: B+
 83–86.9: B
 80–82.9: B-
 77–79.9: C+
 73–76.9: C
 70–72.9: C-
 67–69.9: D+
 60–66.9: D
 Below 60: E

Please note: Carmen Canvas, OSU's grading and class management software, does not round fractions up. Please take that into account in computing grades. I do not manually round up grades. There will be opportunities for extra credit for students who choose to earn those points.

Faculty feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

Grading and feedback

For large weekly assignments, you can generally expect feedback within **7-10 days**.

E-mail

I will reply to e-mails within **24 hours on school days**.

Communications

I will post class updates and/or additional materials as announcements on Carmen and/or to your OSU email. Please check Carmen and read your email regularly (at least 2-3 times per week) because you are responsible for this information, just as you are responsible for information in class.

Challenging a Grade

I am always willing to discuss your grades with you, but I will not do so during class time. To challenge a grade, you must meet me during office hours or make an appointment **within one week** of the assignment being returned to you. When we meet, you must present your concerns in writing and attach the graded speech, paper, or exam. Please note that a challenge may result in grades being raised or lowered.

Attendance, Participation, and Discussions

Credit hour and work expectation

This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy, students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average. [ASC Honors](#) provides an excellent guide to scheduling and study expectations.

Attendance

Attendance is expected at all class sessions whether in-person or synchronous online (see weekly schedule below). You may miss two class sessions without penalty. Because our class sessions are interactive and focused on writing and group work, your attendance and participation are essential. For every class session you miss beyond two, your grade will be lowered by 1/3 of your overall grade (e.g., B would become B-, C+ would become C, etc.). University approved absences with documentation are exempt from this policy (ex. religious holidays, university athletics, etc.).

Absences due to medical concerns will be excused with appropriate documentation, provided the documentation is submitted within one week of the absence. Please see the COVID-19 policy below.

COVID-19 and Illness Policies

University COVID policies

Please refer to current policies regarding COVID on the university website: [Safe And Healthy Buckeyes](#).

Student participation requirements

Because this is a hybrid course, your attendance is based on your online activity and in-class participation. The following is a summary of your expected participation:

- **Scheduled class time:**
Whether we are meeting in-person or on Zoom, you are expected to be available during our scheduled class time. Work and other commitments should not be scheduled during this class period.
- **Wi-Fi and Online Access:**
Have access to reliable Wi-Fi and take responsibility for ensuring you can access online resources such as discussion boards, video/audio materials and quizzes. You have access to course expectations and deadlines in advance, and the Carmen team and I are available to help with technical issues PRIOR to due dates. Assignments will not be accepted late regardless of problems with Wi-Fi access and other technical difficulties. Refer to <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmencanvas> for answers to many Carmen problems or questions for the Carmen support team.
- **Carmen activity:**
Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. I suggest logging in at least three times per week to make sure you are keeping up with announcements and course content. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.)
- **Office hours:**
I am always available to help you to learn, understand, and grow as individuals. If your question is something that you believe may be of interest to others in the class, please post to the “Course Q&A” discussion board. Office hours are held virtually via CarmenZoom.

Discussion and communication guidelines

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

- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. I work very hard to provide a positive learning experience. Please keep this in mind and remain civilized and respectful in your email and discussion board communications.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to support what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)
- **Discussion Guidelines:** A document outlining guidelines for successful participation in class discussions can be found in the Welcome Module for this course.

Other Course Policies

Student Academic Services

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services' website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>

Student Services

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition and fee payments. Please see their site at: <http://ssc.osu.edu> As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Writing Center

All students, especially those who have difficulty writing, are encouraged to visit the *OSU Writing Center*: <https://cstw.osu.edu/our-programs/writing-center>. Located at 4132 Smith Lab, the Writing Center is also available online, via email at cstw@osu.edu and by phone at 614-688-5865. You can schedule an appointment here: <https://cstw.osu.edu/make-writing-center-appointment>

- Online Drop-Off Appointment: writers can upload their writing along with a few questions or concerns they would like a consultant to address. Consultants will provide feedback within 24-48 hours.
- Online Live-Chat Appointment: writers can upload a document and chat live with a consultant.

Copyright Disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Diversity

The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State interim Title IX Coordinator, Melissa Mahan, at 614-247-5838 or titleix@osu.edu

Mental Health Statement

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing.

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS)** by visiting <https://ccs.osu.edu/> or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766.

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24 hour emergency help is also available through the **Suicide Prevention Hotline (Columbus: 614-221-5445 / National: 800-273-8255); or text (4hope to 741741); or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org**

Academic integrity policy

Policies for this course

- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow **APA** style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.
- **Falsifying research or results:** All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code>

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

Requesting accommodations

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know via email immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu ; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu ; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue0.

Disclaimer

The information provided in this syllabus constitutes a list of basic class policies. I reserve the right to modify this information when deemed necessary for any reason. You will be notified in class, via email, and/or on Carmen if and when any changes occur.

Course Information

Because COMM 2367 is a GE course, the School of Communication requires that all graduate teaching associates use a common syllabus, textbook, assignment descriptions, rubrics, and due dates. (Exams, quizzes, and participation points will vary by instructor.) Instructors are expected to be consistent and fair across all sections to ensure that all students are meeting course outcomes. If you have any concerns, you may contact the Course Supervisor, Bethany Barker, at barker.332@osu.edu

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*Schedule and due dates are tentative

Week	Date	Topic & Activity	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
Week 1	(week of 8/22)	Overview of course & assignments Introductions <i>The Concept of Persuasion</i>	Ch 1	Join a Group 8/24 Introduction Speech 8/26 Respond to Speeches 8/28
Week 2	8/29	<i>Writing: Myths and Expectations</i> APA Style introduction and practice	Ch 10	APA Quiz 9/2
Week 3 (Labor Day 9/5)	9/5	<i>NO CLASS</i> <i>Finding Good Sources</i> <i>Evaluating and Working with Sources</i>	Ch 11-12	
Week 4	9/12	<i>Attitudes and Beliefs</i> <i>Classical Rhetoric</i>	Ch 2-3	Annotated Bibliography: Draft 9/12 Peer Review 9/14 Final 9/16
Week 5	9/19	<i>Source Factors</i> <i>Message Factors</i>	Ch 4-5	
Week 6	9/26	<i>Social Judgment Theory</i> <i>Consistency and Cognitive Dissonance Theory</i>	Ch 6-7	Problem Analysis Paper: Draft 9/26 Peer Review 9/28 Final 9/30
Week 7	10/3	<i>A Reasoned Action Approach</i> Survey Design	Ch 8	
Week 8 (Fall Break 10/13-14)	10/10	<i>Elaboration Likelihood Model</i>	Ch 9	
Week 9	10/17	<i>Audience-Centered Presentations</i> <i>Persuasive Speaking in Theory and Practice</i>	Ch 13-14	Audience Analysis Discussion: Initial Post 10/19 Response Posts 10/21

Week	Date	Topic & Activity	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
Week 10	10/24	<i>Practicing and Delivering Public Speeches</i>	Ch 15	Media and Persuasion Speech: Due 10/26 Response Posts 10/28
Week 11	10/31	Comprehensive Exam		Comprehensive Exam 11/4
Week 12	11/7	<i>Making Ideas Impressive</i> <i>Listening and Critiquing Speeches</i>	Ch 16	Problem, Solution, and Barriers Paper: Draft 11/7 Peer Review 11/9 Final 11/11
Week 13	11/14	Persuasive Speech		Persuasive Speech & Participation
Week 14 (Thanksgiving Break 11/23-25)	11/21	NO CLASS		
Week 15	11/28	Persuasive Speech		Persuasive Speech & Participation
Week 15	12/5	Persuasive Speech		Persuasive Speech & Participation
Finals	12/9	Final Reflection		Reflection Paper 12/9