

**SYLLABUS: COMM 1101-0020 (22536)
HISTORY OF COMMUNICATION**

(3 CREDITS)

SPRING 2025

TU/TH 12:45PM TO 2:05PM

HITCHCOCK HALL 131

Instructor Contacts

Matthew Grizzard, PhD (grizzard.6@osu.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30pm through Zoom (see Carmen for Zoom link). Office hours also available by appointment.

Teaching Assistant/Course Administrator: Lucy Brown

(brown.8728@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

Office Hours: 11:15am-12:15pm through Zoom (see Carmen for Zoom link).

Graders:

- Katherine McKeown (mckeown.46@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

Course Overview

In this course, we'll survey the history of human communication from the beginning of spoken and written communication to modern mediated and mass communication. Modern humans have existed on earth for several 100,000 years, yet our ability to communicate through written communication is only around 5,000-6,000 years old, and the communication technologies that have made the Internet possible have existed for only the last 100 years or so. How did humanity progress from cave paintings to the modern Internet and what were the steps along the way? This is the major question we'll address in this course.

Format of Instruction

This course is a large enrollment course and will be delivered in lecture format. Class will meet in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the 2025 spring semester from 12:45pm to 2:05pm in 131 Hitchcock Hall (see "Course Schedule" in this document for specific meeting times). Lecture may include in-class activities (such as "think-pair-share") and polls/quizzes through Tophat in order to facilitate student engagement.

Communication Policies

The enrollment size of this course requires certain policies be in place for efficient communication. See the chart below for contacts regarding specific topics.

Question Topic	Who and How to Contact
Upcoming Assignments	Post your question to the Carmen Discussion Board.
Lecture Materials	Post your question to the Carmen Discussion Board.
“I missed class and want to know what I missed.”	Ask a fellow student for notes.
Personal/Private Concerns	Attend Dr. Grizzard’s office hours
Grade Concerns	Attend Lucy Brown’s office hours
C-REP	Email Jessica Ryu (ryu.205@buckeyemail.osu.edu)
Technical Issues	Call the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357

General Education Course

COMM 1101 is a General Education (GE) course. The course fulfills the GE category GEN Foundation “Social and Behavioral Sciences” as well as the legacy GEL Category “Social Science: Individuals and Groups.” Please see below for information regarding the goals and expected learning outcomes related to each as well as a description of how the course satisfies these goals and meets the expected learning outcomes.

Goals of the GEN Foundation: Social and Behavioral Sciences:

- (1) Successful students will critically analyze and apply theoretical and empirical approaches within the social and behavioral sciences, including modern principles, theories, methods, and modes of inquiry.
- (2) Successful students will recognize the implications of social and behavioral scientific findings and their potential impacts.

Expected Learning Outcomes of the GEN Foundation: Social and Behavioral Sciences:

Successful students are able to:

- 1.1 Explain basic facts, principles, theories, and methods of social and behavioral science.
- 1.2. Explain and evaluate differences, similarities, and disparities among institutions, organizations, cultures, societies, and/or individuals using social and behavioral science.
- 2.1. Analyze how political, economic, individual, or social factors and values impact social structures, policies, and/or decisions.
- 2.2. Evaluate social and ethical implications of social scientific and behavioral research.

2.3. Critically evaluate and responsibly use information from the social and behavioral sciences.

Goals of the GEL Category Social Science: Individuals and Groups

Students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Expected Learning Outcomes of the GEL Category Social Science: Individuals and Groups

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.

Satisfying Expected Learning Outcomes:

To fulfill these goals and satisfy the expected learning outcomes, the course will provide introductory knowledge essential for the systematic study of human behavior and cognition through the social science discipline of communication. Thus, the course content will review the history of human communication focusing on the development of major advances in communication technologies (e.g., the development of written language; the introduction of the printing press). The course will describe and explore the impact of how the introduction of these technologies altered political, social, economic, individual, and ethical concerns within human society through a social and behavioral science lens. Comparisons of the similarities and differences of the impacts of various communication technologies will be explored (e.g., the introduction of the printing press democratized knowledge in a manner similar to Web 2.0). The epistemological assumptions of communication research and central findings as they relate to course topics will be described for students. The knowledge imparted through the course content will provide students with the ability to critically evaluate and responsibly use information from the social and behavioral sciences in general, and the discipline of communication specifically.

Students' mastery will be assessed through a variety of assignments including quizzes, exams, in-class discussions/activities, and papers.

Course Description

The course examines the history of communication through three sections, each devoted to a specific time in human history. Section I (Week 1-4) covers humanity during prehistory

and includes (a) how communication is defined in the social science literature, (b) the interactive influence of communication technologies on societies, and (c) psychological capacities when communication technologies are present versus absent. Section II (Week 5-9) covers humanity from the development of writing (circa 6000 BCE) to the beginning of the 20th century and includes (a) comparisons between manuscript cultures and print cultures, (b) the impact of the development of scrolls and codices, (c) the printing press and how industrialization of printing altered societal functioning, and (d) the foundations of modern communication technologies (e.g., telegraphy, photography, broadcasting) and their influence on society. Section III (Week 11-15) covers modern communication technologies and specific modes of communication and their industries (e.g., persuasion, advertising, propaganda). It also provides a foundation for understanding how communication is currently studied from a social scientific approach.

Course Materials

Required Texts

- Kovarik, B. (2016). *Revolutions in communication: Media history from Gutenberg to the digital age* (2nd Edition). Bloomsbury Academic.

This course takes part in CarmenBooks, meaning you will have access to a digital copy of this book through course fees. You may opt out of this through:

<https://teaching.resources.osu.edu/toolsets/carmencanvas/guides/getting-started-carmenbooks/carmenbooks-opt-out>

Also available from the OSU bookstore and other retailers

(<https://www.amazon.com/Revolutions-Communication-History-Gutenberg-Digital/dp/1628924780#customerReviews>)

- Additional readings with PDFs or hyperlinks made available through Carmen (see Course Schedule).

Required 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 at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.
- **Tophat:**
 - We will be using Top Hat (www.tophat.com) for class participation. Please see OSU's documentation on how to get started with TopHat: <https://teaching.resources.osu.edu/toolsets/top-hat>.
 - You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. For instructions on how to download the Top Hat app, please refer to the OSU's Getting Started Guide (<https://teaching.resources.osu.edu/toolsets/top-hat>).

[hat/guides/getting-started-top-hat-students](#)). Please note you cannot create an account through mobile applications.

- If you already have a Top Hat account, go to the course within Carmen and click the TopHat 1.3 link in the course page. If you are new to Top Hat, you will be prompted to create an account once you click on the TopHat 1.3 link.
- IMPORTANT: If you do not click the launch link within the Carmen page for this course, then you will be removed from the course roster every night when the sync happens. In this case, you simply need to access Top Hat using an LTI link. If you completed any assignments using a Top Hat account with the same email address as the email address you use to log into Carmen, then your answers and grades will be restored.
- Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.
- **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. Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not setup a name.# and password, visit my.osu.edu.
 - Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.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](#)
- **Carmen Zoom:**
 - Office hours will be held through Ohio State’s conferencing platform, Carmen Zoom. A separate guide to accessing Carmen Zoom and our office hours is posted on the course Carmen page under Files.
 - Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within Carmen Zoom for the student to live chat with the professor or TA in the virtual office hours room.
 - [Carmen Zoom](#) help guide
- **Self-Service and Chat support:** <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)
- **Email:** 8help@osu.edu

- **TDD:** 614-688-8743

Necessary equipment

- Computer: Current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Web cam and microphone
 - Webcams or devices with webcams may be available to our grad students. The School of Communication has a small pool of iPads and laptops that are available for faculty/staff/grad students needing a device to check out. If you need such a device, submit a request to the School of Communication's technical support personnel (asctech@osu.edu).

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://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733

Assignments

Below is the list of assignments for the course. Due dates for the assignments are presented in the grading information section and the course schedule section.

Syllabus Quiz (3% of total grade)

An open-note syllabus quiz of ~10 multiple-choice/true-false questions will be administered online through Carmen. The quiz is untimed and may be taken multiple times.

Content Quizzes (12% of total grade)

Three open-book, open-note content quizzes will be administered online through Carmen. Each quiz may be taken twice. The higher grade will be kept. You may NOT consult or work with another person on your quizzes.

Tests (39% of total grade)

Three open-book, open-note tests will be administered online through Carmen during the semester. Each test will consist of 30-40 multiple choice/true false questions. Tests may be taken only once. You may NOT consult or work with another person on your tests.

Career Research Assignment (21% of total grade)

Three career research assignments will be completed during the semester. Each assignment asks students to research a career in a communication industry/field and

develop a plan for their chosen career. Each assignment will be a type-written report by the student of 2 double-spaced pages.

In-person Attendance and Participation (20% of total grade)

Because this is an in-person lecture course where most information will be presented during lecture, in-person attendance and participation represents a significant portion of the grade. Participation will consist of in-class activities through TopHat and may include responding to surveys, think-pair-share activities, or other in-class activities where you interact with one or more students. Attendance/participation in 80% of activities will result in earning the total amount of the grade.

C-REP (5% of total grade)

C-REP stands for Communication Research Experience Program. C-REP is based, in part, on the premise that students in Communication who participate in research studies will learn first-hand about communication research and how it is conducted. COMM1101 students are assigned to five C-REP credit hours. This requirement can be completed by participating in studies, doing alternative assignments, or completing a combination of studies and alternative assignments equaling five hours for each class. Students enrolled in both courses must complete ten hours total.

Grading and faculty response

Grading

Final class grades are derived from the following assignments. Due dates and points associated with each assignment are included below.

Assignments	Due Date	Percent of Final Grade
Content Quiz 1	Jan 23, 11:59pm EST	4%
Syllabus Quiz	Jan 28, 11:59pm EST	3%
Test 1	Jan 30, 11:59pm EST	13%
Career Research Assignment Pt 1	Feb 6, 11:59pm EST	7%
Content Quiz 2	Feb 20, 11:59pm EST	4%
Career Research Assignment Pt 2	Feb 27, 11:59pm EST	7%
Test 2	Mar 6, 11:59pm EST	13%
Content Quiz 3	Apr 3, 11:59pm EST	4%
Career Research Assignment Pt 3	Apr 10, 11:59pm EST	7%
Test 3	Apr 17, 11:59pm EST	13%
Participation	Throughout the semester	20%
C-REP	TBD	5%
Total		100%

*** Up to 3% Extra Credit may be offered in the course. Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class or through Carmen.

Grading scale (all numbers represent percentages)

93–100: A	77–79: C+
90–92: A-	73–76: C
87–89: B+	70–72: C-
83–86: B	67–69: D+
80–82: B-	60–66: D
	<59: E

Late and Missing Assignments

The following policies apply to each category of late assignment.

Syllabus Quiz – The syllabus quiz will be open for multiple weeks and cannot be made up after due date for any reason.

Content Quizzes – Content quizzes will be open for a week and cannot be made up after due date for any reason.

Career Research Assignments – Assignments turned in after the time the assignment is due will receive an initial 5% penalty. Assignments turned in a week or more after the assignment is due will receive an additional 20% penalty (25% penalty in total).

Tests – Cannot be made up after the due date. If a test is missed due to an emergency, an alternative assignment (e.g., a written essay) may be substituted for equivalent credit if documentation of the emergency is provided. If you miss a test due to an emergency, you should contact the TA for the course.

Participation – Participation is cumulative. You may miss 20% of activities/attendance checks and still earn full credit. Because of this fact, any missed participation points cannot be made up for any reason.

C-REP – C-REP policies are determined outside of this class.

Course Schedule*

Section I (~300,000 BCE to ~5,000 BCE) Defining Communication, Exploring Its Relationship to Society, and Human Communication in Pre-history					
Week	Month	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1	Jan.	7	Intro		
1	Jan.	9	Defining Communication	Hanson (pp. 2-17) – See Carmen	
2	Jan.	14	Technological Determinism	Myth and Mass Media, Marshall McLuhan (See Carmen)	
2	Jan.	16	Media and Society	McQuail’s Theories of Media and Society (See Carmen)	Career Research Assignment 1 assigned
3	Jan.	21	Human Communication in Pre-history	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_modern_human ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behavioral_modernity	
3	Jan.	23	Psychological Capacities of Humans Absent Communication Technology	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_communication	Content Quiz 1
4	Jan.	28	Unit 1 Review		Syllabus Quiz
4	Jan.	30	Unit 1 Assessment ** No In-person Class **		Test 1

Section II (~6,000 BCE to ~1900 CE)					
How Printing Changed the World and Ushered in an Electronic Revolution					
Week	Month	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignments
5	Feb.	4	Development of Writing	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_communication	
5	Feb.	6	Systematized Communication		Career Research Assignment 1 due
6	Feb.	11	Manuscript Cultures ** Remote Instruction **	Textbook (pp. 1-67)	
6	Feb.	13	Printing Press ** Remote Instruction **		
7	Feb.	18	Industrialization and Communication ** Remote Instruction **	Textbook (pp. 68-104; 139-180)	
7	Feb.	20	News and Journalism		Content Quiz 2
8	Feb.	25	Visual Revolution	Textbook (pp. 249-280)	
8	Feb.	27	Electronic Revolution		Career Research Assignment 2 due
9	Mar.	4	Unit 2 Review		
9	Mar.	6	Unit 2 Assessment ** Remote Instruction **		Test 2
10	Mar.	11	Spring Break		
10	Mar.	13	Spring Break		

Section III (~1900 to Present)					
Why We Have the Media Systems We Have					
Week	Month	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignments
11	Mar.	18	Media Systems Today	Hanson (pp. 17-25; 50-71) – See Carmen	
11	Mar.	20	Persuasion: Media and Society Revisited	Textbook (pp. 217-248)	Career Research Assignment 3 assigned
12	Mar.	25	Film and Television	Textbook (pp. 181-216; 280-340)	
12	Mar.	27	Entertainment		
13	Apr.	1	The Digital Revolution	Bush "As we may think" – See Carmen	
13	Apr.	3	The Information Society	https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8rnshn	Content Quiz 3
14	Apr.	8	Communication as a Social Science Discipline	Jennings & Bryant (2009) – See Carmen	
14	Apr.	10	Communication as a Social Science Discipline		Career Research Assignment 3 due
15	Apr.	15	Unit 3 Review		
15	Apr.	17	Unit 3 Assessment ** Remote Instruction **		Test 3

* This syllabus represents a contract in the works. Events that transpire over the semester may require me to modify the administration of this course and therefore the syllabus. In the event I need to modify the syllabus, I will announce the modification in class and on Carmen. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to keep up with any such modifications and be aware of current policies, deadlines, etc. Please note that modifications will only occur that will increase the quality of learning.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct (<https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code>), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute Academic Misconduct.

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University or subvert the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

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.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Artificial Intelligence and Academic Integrity

There has been a significant increase in the popularity and availability of a variety of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, Sudowrite and others. These tools will help shape the future of work, research and technology but when used in the wrong way, they can stand in conflict with academic integrity at Ohio State.

All students have important obligations under the [Code of Student Conduct](#) to complete all academic and scholarly activities with fairness and honesty. Our professional students also have the responsibility to uphold the professional and ethical standards found in their respective academic honor codes. Specifically, students are not to use unauthorized assistance in the laboratory, on field work, in scholarship or on a course assignment unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor. In addition, students are not to submit their work without acknowledging any word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of writing, ideas or other work that is not your own, including work produced by AI. These requirements apply to all students undergraduate, graduate, and professional.

Use of AI in This Course – You may use AI tools in this course for your Career Research Assignments so long as you (1) cite your usage in your paper and (2) share your conversation with the AI. Any use of AI tools that is not cited will be considered an act of academic misconduct.

Content Warning Language

Some content in this course may involve media that may elicit a traumatic response in some students due to descriptions of and/or scenes depicting acts of violence, acts of war, or sexual violence and its aftermath. If needed, please take care of yourself while watching/reading this material (leaving classroom to take a water/bathroom break, debriefing with a friend, contacting a confidential Sexual Violence Advocate 614-267-7020, or Counseling and Consultation Services at 614-292-5766 and contacting the instructor if needed). Expectations are that we all will be respectful of our classmates while consuming this media and that we will create a safe space for each other. Failure to show respect to each other may result in dismissal from the class.

Copyright

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.

Counseling and Consultation Services / Mental Health Statement

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 by dialing 988 to reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on

the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,

Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,

Or Email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Disability Statement (with Accommodations for Illness)

The university strives to maintain a healthy and accessible environment to support student learning in and out of the classroom. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

If you are ill and need to miss class, including if you are staying home and away from others while experiencing symptoms of viral infection or fever, please let me know immediately. In cases where illness interacts with an underlying medical condition, please consult with

Student Life Disability Services to request reasonable accommodations. You can connect with them at slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; or slds.osu.edu.

Diversity Statement

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity of people and ideas. We believe in creating equitable research opportunities for all students and to providing programs and curricula that allow our students to understand critical societal challenges from diverse perspectives and aspire to use research to promote sustainable solutions for all. We are committed to maintaining an inclusive community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among all members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach their own potential. The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment.

To learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion and for opportunities to get involved, please visit:

<https://odi.osu.edu/>

<https://cbsc.osu.edu>

Grievances and Solving Problems

A student who encounters a problem related to his/her educational program has a variety of avenues available to seek resolution. (Note: the procedures for grade grievances are explicitly covered in the faculty rules) Typically, a student is advised to resolve any dispute, disagreement, or grievance as directly as possible, engaging with the person or persons most closely involved. The faculty and staff of the departments and colleges are available to work with students in this regard. If this step does not produce acceptable results, the student should follow a logical stepwise progression to address the academic concerns.

According to University Policies, if you have a problem with this class, you should seek to resolve the grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor or professor. Then, if necessary, take your case to the department chairperson, college dean or associate dean, and to the provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-8-23. Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department.

Lyft Ride Smart (Previously Safe Ride Program)

Lyft Ride at Ohio State offers eligible students discounted rides, inside the university-designated service area (opens in new window) and has expanded service to the Short North area along High Street. Service runs from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Prices may be impacted by distance, traffic, time of day, special events and prime time surcharges. More information about the service and the Lyft App, and a link to get started using the Lyft Ride Smart services can be found at: <https://ttm.osu.edu/ride-smart>.

Religious Accommodations

Ohio State has had a longstanding practice of making reasonable academic accommodations for students' religious beliefs and practices in accordance with applicable law. In 2023, Ohio State updated its practice to align with new state legislation. Under this new provision, students must be in early communication with their instructors regarding any known accommodation requests for religious beliefs and practices, providing notice of specific dates for which they request alternative accommodations within 14 days after the first instructional day of the course. Instructors in turn shall not question the sincerity of a student's religious or spiritual belief system in reviewing such requests and shall keep requests for accommodations confidential.

With sufficient notice, instructors will provide students with reasonable alternative accommodations with regard to examinations and other academic requirements with respect to students' sincerely held religious beliefs and practices by allowing up to three absences each semester for the student to attend or participate in religious activities. Examples of religious accommodations can include, but are not limited to, rescheduling an exam, altering the time of a student's presentation, allowing make-up assignments to substitute for missed class work, or flexibility in due dates or research responsibilities. If concerns arise about a requested accommodation, instructors are to consult their tenure initiating unit head for assistance.

A student's request for time off shall be provided if the student's sincerely held religious belief or practice severely affects the student's ability to take an exam or meet an academic requirement **and** the student has notified their instructor, in writing during the first 14 days after the course begins, of the date of each absence. Although students are required to provide notice within the first 14 days after a course begins, instructors are strongly encouraged to work with the student to provide a reasonable accommodation if a request is made outside the notice period. A student may not be penalized for an absence approved under this policy.

If students have questions or disputes related to academic accommodations, they should contact their course instructor, and then their department or college office. For questions or to report discrimination or harassment based on religion, individuals should contact the [Office of Institutional Equity](#).

Policy: [Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances](#)

Weather / Short-Term Closing

Although Ohio State strives to remain open to ensure continuity of services to students and the public, extreme conditions can warrant the usage of the university's Weather or Other Short-Term Closing Policy. Please visit this webpage to learn more about preparing for potential closings and planning ahead for winter weather.