

**SYLLABUS: COMM 3413-0010 (29859)  
MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT**

**(3 CREDITS)**

**SPRING 2025**

**TU/TH 3:55PM TO 5:15PM**

**JOURNALISM BUILDING 216**

Instructor: Matthew Grizzard
Email: <a href="mailto:grizzard.6@osu.edu">grizzard.6@osu.edu</a>
Office hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30pm on Zoom (see Carmen for link). Also, by appointment.

**Course Overview**

This course examines and explores speculation, theory, and research regarding the effects and appeal of media entertainment, emphasizing emotional reactions. Major topics related to the social scientific study of media entertainment will be discussed including definitions of media entertainment, audiences as defined by taste and commercialization, the influence of entertainment on emotional and psychological processes, and features/effects of specific genres. The course will focus primarily on narrative entertainment.

**Format of Instruction**

This course is an in-person course with an enrollment of approximately 50 students. Class will meet in person on Tuesdays and Thursday during the 2025 spring semester from 3:55pm to 5:15pm in 216 Journalism. Lecture will include in-class activities such as “think-pair-share” in order to facilitate student engagement.

**Course Description**

Entertainment media, such as television dramas/comedies, video games, movies, and books, are a driving cultural and economic force of not only Western society, but of the world. The media entertainment industry is one of the largest and most profitable industries in the world. People dedicate large amounts of their leisure time and money to suspenseful movies, interesting books, humorous television shows, pleasurable art shows, and thrilling video games. This class will provide an overview about the most important theoretical models and empirical findings in the field of media entertainment research and more recent theorizing on media use from an entertainment perspective. The class will focus on the psychological underpinnings and effects of media entertainment

and primarily narrative entertainment.

Presented through in-person format, this course will present lectures coupled with in-class activities. Students will work with other students in groups and pairs to debate central questions of media entertainment reception and their reactions to their own media entertainment consumption.

### **Course learning goals and outcomes**

At the end of the course, students will have a clear overview of most important and well-discussed issues regarding media entertainment uses and effects. They will be able to answer important questions about media entertainment that have intrigued the public for decades in a competent and scientifically appropriate way. By studying significant theories and the results of empirical studies published in the domain of media entertainment, students will develop a better idea of how knowledge is generated within social scientific research, in particular media studies and communication, both theoretically and methodologically. Students will improve their skills to critically reflect on and scientifically substantiate their opinions and choices regarding media entertainment.

As a result of taking this course, you will:

- Be familiar with current thinking about the reasons why people use media entertainment and the effects of media entertainment.
- Be able to apply theoretical thinking to the design of media entertainment.
- Be a more sophisticated critic and consumer of entertainment media.

Students will develop these competencies through a group podcast assignment, peer review of other students' work, a midterm, and a final group presentation and paper.

### **Course materials**

#### **Required Readings**

Readings for this class will be drawn from academic articles, book chapters, and popular press articles. Readings per week will be approximately 20-30 pages.

**You do not need to purchase a copy of any texts; all readings will be provided to you in PDF format through Carmen.**

#### **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](http://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/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](mailto: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](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733)

### Grading and faculty response

#### Grading scale

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

#### Notes on Grading:

- 1) Carmen is terrible at calculating grades. It generally weights scores inaccurately and applies strange rules to grade calculations within a category. Do **NOT** rely on Carmen to tell you an accurate grade.
- 2) I will round final grades to the nearest whole number based on the rule of significant digits. A grade less than .5% will be rounded down while a grade of .5% and above will be rounded up. For example, an 86.49% would be rounded down to 86% while a 86.50% will be rounded up to a 87%.

## Grading

Final class grades are derived from the following assignments.

Assignments	Percent of Final Grade
<b><u>Individual Work</u></b>	<b><u>60%</u></b>
Introduction Post	10%
Attendance/Participation	15%
Midterm	25%
Podcast Peer Review	10%
<b><u>Group Work</u></b>	<b><u>40%</u></b>
Group Podcast Assignment	15%
Group Presentation	15%
Group Paper	10%
Total	100%

\*\*\*Up to 3% extra credit may be offered in this course. Extra credit opportunities will be announced on Carmen.

## Assignments

### Introduction Post

To help us get to know one another (and especially to help me learn your names), you will create a post on our Carmen website that includes a recent photo of you and a brief description of your favorite types of movies and TV shows. The photo of you must be clear, a [medium close-up](#), and recent enough that classmates would be able to identify you in class.

### Attendance/Participation

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 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 maximum points for the attendance/participation portion of your final grade.

### **Midterm**

An open-book/note midterm will be administered during the semester. The midterm covers all material preceding it and is designed to assess your understandings of the fundamentals of the course.

### **Group Podcast Assignment**

Students will work in groups of up to 4 students to record a structured discussion based on materials from Weeks 1 through 5. Each group will discuss the general topic “What are narratives and how do they elicit emotions from us?” This discussion will center around a film that you will watch as a group. I will provide access to the films on Carmen. (Note: You do not have to watch it together, but all group members should watch the same film). Groups should generate 5-10 discussion questions and discuss these questions in a roundtable talk-show style podcast recording. Each student should actively participate and bring in one piece of material not presented in class (e.g., a journal article, a popular press article). The podcast should be 15 minutes (no less than 13 minutes, no longer than 17 minutes). More information regarding the assignment and the grading criteria will be provided on Carmen.

### **Podcast Peer Review**

Each person will conduct a peer review of 2 other groups’ podcasts. You will evaluate them based on their discussion and application of course materials. You will provide them with a short explanation of your evaluation noting two things they did well, and two things you think they can improve on. Max length is 1000 words per peer review. More information regarding the assignment and the grading criteria will be provided on Carmen.

### **Group Presentation and Paper**

At the end of the semester, you and your group will watch another movie from a list of approved films and analyze it similar to the podcast: You will analyze the plot of the film and your perceptions/responses to plot elements based on the theories we discuss in class. Your analysis will compare the films (and the responses produced by each) to one another describing similarities and differences. You will present your analysis to the class in a 12-minute presentation followed by 3-4 minutes of questions and discussion.

After your presentation, your group will turn in a final report (5-pages of text) that highlights directions for research studies based on your analysis.

More information regarding the assignments and the grading criteria will be provided on Carmen.

**Course schedule (tentative\*)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1	Jan.	7 - 9	Intro - What is Communication? What is entertainment?	Ch. 1 - Eden, Bowman, & Grizzard (2019) Grizzard & Francemone (2020)	Introduction Post due Jan. 10 11:59pm EST
2	Jan.	14 - 16	What are narratives?: Understandings from communication and beyond	Altman (2008) – “What is narrative?” Grizzard et al. (2025) – Affective disposition theory	
3	Jan.	21 - 23	Characters: The Change Agents of Narratives	Eden & Grizzard (2022) – The Character Engagement and Moral Adjustment Model Ch. 7 - Eden, Bowman, & Grizzard (2019)	
4	Jan.	28 - 30	Entertainment and Emotions	Ch. 6 - Eden, Bowman, & Grizzard (2019) Zillmann (2006) Empathy	
5	Feb.	4 - 6	Stories as “Dramaturgy for Emotions”	Zillmann (2006) Dramaturgy for Emotions	
6	Feb.	11 - 13	Feb 11 – Podcast preparation day Feb 13 – Podcast recording day ** No in-person class **		Coordinate with your group to organize and record your podcast
7	Feb.	18 - 20	Feb 18 – Podcast evaluation day ** No in-person class ** Feb 20 – Podcast debriefing day		Feb 18 - Evaluate two other groups’ podcasts



Week	Month	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignments
8	Feb.	25 - 27	Genres: Differentiating story types	Ch. 8 - Eden, Bowman, & Grizzard (2019) Kjeldgaard-Christiansen (2025) Horror as entertainment	
9	Mar.	4 - 6	Section I review, catchup, and Midterm		Midterm due by midnight on Mar. 6
10	Mar.	11 - 13	Spring Break		
11	Mar.	18 - 20	Narrative persuasion: Can stories change our beliefs?	Moyer-Gusé & Wilson (2024)	
12	Mar.	25 - 27	Taste, audiences, and entertainment markets	Ch. 12 - Eden, Bowman, & Grizzard (2019) Lewis (2025) Analytics in the Entertainment Industry	
13	Apr.	1	In-class presentation workday		Coordinate your presentation with your group
13	Apr.	3	Student final presentations	Groups A-D	
14	Apr.	8	Student final presentations	Groups E-H	
14	Apr.	10	Student final presentations	Groups I-L	
15	Apr.	15	In-class paper workday		
15	Apr.	17	Final Paper Submission Day ** No in-person class **		Final Paper due Apr. 17 by 11:59pm EST

\* 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.

## 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.

## Late Assignments

The following policies apply to each category of late assignment.

Midterm - Cannot be made up after the due date. If the midterm 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.

Group Podcast Assignments – If a group podcast is missed due to a documented emergency, an alternative paper will be assigned.

Final Presentation and Paper – 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).

Attendance/Participation – Attendance/Participation is cumulative. You may miss 20% of activities/attendance checks and still earn full credit. No make-ups are allowed.

## 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.)

### General Questions

If you have questions about course content, please attend office hours or ask during class.

### Grading and feedback

For assignments, you can generally expect grading to be completed within 10 days. Online quizzes and tests will be graded immediately and will be posted once all students have completed the quiz/test.

## Communication Policies

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

- **Writing style:** This course is intended to prepare you for future communications as a professional. Assignments should be approached in this manner. Please proofread, edit, and include appropriate language.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone

feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Furthermore, rude or impatient communications are generally not appreciated in professional situations. Please consider your words as if you were a professional when communicating with other students, the instructor, and the teaching assistant.

- **Citing your sources:** When requested, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)

## 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 so long as you (1) cite your usage in your assignment/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](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 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](https://equity.osu.edu),

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

Or Email [equity@osu.edu](mailto: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](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; or [slds.osu.edu](http://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://cbasc.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.