Spring 2025

Communication 3444

Advertising & Society

Online Course

Professor

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Online office hours: **By appointment via Zoom**

Graduate Teaching Assistant

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Online Office hours: via Zoom

Course Description

This course will be delivered 100% online. This class is designed to introduce you to the ways in which advertising influences and is influenced by society. In this class we will consider economic, legal & regulatory, ethical, and social issues that surround advertising. We will look at both intended and unintended effects of advertising on society. For example, we will address such issues as the history of advertising, regulation of advertising, and how advertising impacts our economy, our culture, perceptions of various groups within society, children and adolescents, health and risk behaviors, and politics.

Course learning goals and outcomes

Students will understand the impact of advertising on a variety of institutions in society as well as how it impacts individual members of society. Students will be able to understand the interrelated system of players such as advertisers, the media industry, and consumers to better grasp advertising and its impact on society.

Mode of delivery

This course will be presented fully online. Course content will take the form of required readings, asynchronous lectures and videos, weekly asynchronous small group interactions with other students and the instructor and/or graduate teaching assistant.

How this course works

Each week, students can go to the modules tab on the Carmen course website to begin. Each week will have its own module wherein all required content and assignments for that week can be found. The "start here" section of the weekly module will begin with an introduction video from the professor explaining what the topic of the week is and what to expect. From there, students will find a roadmap explaining all the requirements of the week and can click through to complete everything needed for that week in one place.

Required Readings

*Sheehan, K. (2014). *Controversies in Contemporary Advertising (2nd Edition)*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.

Additional required readings posted on Carmen.

Grading & Course Requirements

Course Requirements

Readings

Please read the assigned material for each week before going through the online module (i.e., lectures, quizzes, assignments). This will allow you to see connections and better understand the related material presented in lectures.

Weekly Reflection Assignment

Each week you will be asked to respond to a prompt that will allow you to reflect on some aspect(s) of that week's content. This will be a brief written assignment that will require you to spend some time thinking about the content from that week before writing a brief response. Some of these reflections are designed to help you identify questions you may have or areas where the week's content is a little unclear. When these are identified, you are encouraged to raise them on the "ask the professor" online discussion heard for clarification.

Weekly Group Interaction Assignment

In this course, you have been randomly assigned to a smaller learning group (roughly 15 people) with whom you will have an opportunity to interact each week via the course discussion board set up for your group. Each week you will be given specific instructions within the module for how you can discuss that week's content with your group members. These assignments may include a series of prompts to respond to, an asynchronous debate, or an opportunity to share an example of a case study or sample ad you've found that relates to course concepts. In each case, you'll be expected to post your responses and interact with those posted by several of your classmates in order to complete the weekly discussion assignment.

Weekly Content Quiz

Each week you will be given an assignment to complete that will enhance your understanding of the topic(s) covered that week. You will be asked to complete a brief quiz to help you assess what you've learned from the weekly lecture videos and readings and assist you in preparing for exams. These assignments are due each week. (Specific due dates are posted on the syllabus and Carmen).

Exams

There will be two exams based on material covered in class and in the assigned readings. The exams are not cumulative. Lecture material, external course videos and examples, and reading assignments will be tested. Exams will be composed of multiple-choice questions.

Grading

Following are the percentages for each assignment category There will <u>NOT</u> be opportunities for any student to re-take exams, re-complete assignments, or complete additional work in order to raise their grade outside what is laid out in this syllabus. **Providing extra assignments for one student or** "bumping up" a grade for one student invalidates the standards applied to the class and is unfair to every student. For this reason, please do not ask me to reconsider your grade when the semester is over unless there has been an error in how it was calculated.

Reflection assignments	20%
Group interaction assignments	20%
Weekly content quiz	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%

Grading scale

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
Α	93%-100%	С	73%-76%
A-	90%-92%	C-	70%-72%
B+	87%-89%	D+	67%-69%
В	83%-86%	D	63%-66%
B-	80%-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77%-79%	E	<60%

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.

Grading and feedback

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

Late assignments

Assignments & Deadlines: Each assignment is due on the designated date. Late assignments are marked down 10% per day including weekends. In an online course, it is your responsibility to have consistent access to a reliable Internet connection and all required software noted above. You should build in extra time to resolve technical problems so that you are able to do that while still meeting deadlines. For assistance with tech issues, please contact OCIO (details provided below in section on technology). Deadlines will <u>not</u> be extended for technological problems. If, however, you have an emergency or illness that precludes you from meeting a deadline, please let us know that right away. Provided that the emergency is brought to my attention within 24 hours of the deadline and can be documented, late penalties may be waived.

<u>Technology issues:</u> Technical failure does not constitute an excuse for submitting work late. This rule is critical in online courses. You are, per course requirements, expected to have regular access to a working computer/laptop and high-speed internet access. It is your responsibility to make sure your devices are in working order, which includes hardware and software. Technical problems which are documented by the University's Office of the Chief Information Officer (https://osuitsm.service-

now.com/selfservice/system_status) will be permitted as these are outside of your control. If you experience a problem with an OSU system (email, Carmen) which OCIO have not reported, it will be your responsibility to raise a ticket with them. Only after they confirm your situation was out of your control will an accommodation be made. Note that a situation like this is extremely rare. If you find yourself experiencing a technical issue that impacts your ability to take part in essential class activities, your first response should be to make alternate arrangements.

Exams: All exams are to be taken online, using Honorlock, on the designated exam dates. You are required to take the exam alone on the scheduled day. The exam will be open for a 24-hour period on the date listed on the schedule below starting at 12 a.m. and closing at 11:59 p.m. The exam may be taken at an alternative time when approved by the instructor for one of the following reasons: (a) the absence is a university excused activity, necessary documentation is provided, and arrangements for make-up are made in advance; or (b) the absence is due to a medical or family emergency, necessary documentation is provided, and arrangements for makeup are made within 24 hours of the missed exam. If the requirements for (a) or (b) are not fully met, you will receive 0 points for the exam. Please note that make-up exams may be of a different format or cover course content in a different ratio than the original.

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. <u>ASC Honors</u> provides an excellent guide to scheduling and study expectations.

Student participation requirements

Because this is a 100% distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. We do not have any in-person lectures or exams as the course can be done completely online. Recorded lectures will be uploaded to Carmen each week by Monday. The lectures should be viewed within the week that they are posted to be sure you are up to date with the course materials.

The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

Viewing lectures and other posted videos:

These can be found on Carmen within the weekly modules. In some cases, you will find a link
within the Carmen module that will take you to another site to view a video (i.e., Kanopy).
 More than one lecture video may appear in the upload. The videos are short to provide the
most optimal viewing experience and to increase attention and engagement.

- The lectures will be my voice over a PowerPoint presentation, to make it easier to access, but please make certain you have a strong Internet connection for watching the lectures and audio equipment (headphones are helpful).
- Per the Code of Conduct, you may not share recorded lectures. This is a copyright violation

Weekly assignments

As noted above, assignments will include weekly content quizzes, reflections, and group interaction. The details, expectations, and due dates for each assignment will be found in the weekly module on Carmen.

Readings

Required readings are listed on the syllabus a well as within each weekly module on Carmen. These readings include chapters from your textbook as well as additional articles posted online.

How to Communicate with the Professor

"Ask the Professor" online discussion board: If your question is something that you believe may be of interest to others in the class, please use the "Ask the Professor" online discussion board on Carmen. Unless your question is something of a private nature or something very particular to your situation, ask me by posting to the "Ask the Professor" discussion board. The graduate teaching assistants and I will check these questions daily and you can expect a reply within 24 hours on weekdays (longer on weekends).

Email: For private questions, or those that are very specific to your individual situation, you can email the course TA (contact info above). TAs will respond to email within 24 hours on weekdays (longer on weekends). Please do not email with questions that can be answered by reviewing the syllabus or other official course documents.

*It is not feasible for me to help you with technical problems. **University Tech support can help you** (614-688-HELP).

<u>Office Hours</u>: For more in-depth questions, please use office hours. This is the appropriate way to review exams, ask questions about assignments, grading, or more involved questions about course content you may not understand. Office hours are digital via Carmen Zoom at the times indicated on page 1 of this syllabus (or by appointment).

<u>Use of Email and Carmen:</u> You are responsible for all information sent to you via your OSU email account and/or posted on the Carmen Website. Therefore, it is important for you to check your OSU email account daily and be sure to purge your account of unneeded email so that new messages can get through. Similarly, check the Carmen website regularly for any updates or announcements.

Discussion and communication guidelines

The following are my expectations for 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. The instructor and TAs 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 back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, please use APA style. For online sources, be sure to include a link.)

Encouraging an optimal learning experience

Previous distance learning courses have provided insights from students on how to improve the learning experience and optimize outcomes. Here are a few tips from previous students to encourage your success in this online course:

- Students kept up with the Schedule and assignment due dates.
- Students made sure they had access to a reliable internet connection.
- Students had access to at least one reliable device and a backup plan in case of a technological issue.
- Students have made plans to back up work. OSU provides free access to data storage through BuckeyeBox and Microsoft One Drive.
- Students reported that completing assigned readings before viewing lectures (or attending synchronous lectures) helped them to be prepared to follow along with lectures and participate in discussions.
- Students scheduled time to complete activities at a steady pace during the week. Keeping a schedule prevented a last minute rush and kept the workload manageable.
- Students approached the material by thinking about the connections between readings, lectures, and assignments.
- Students followed the instructor's preference for camera and microphone settings during online synchronous meetings.

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 at https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

• Self-Service and Chat support: http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice

• **Phone:** 614-688-HELP (4357)

Email: 8help@osu.edu
TDD: 614-688-8743

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.

Secured Media Library

- Some of the videos for this course will be posted in the University's Secured Media Library. The link will be posted on the class Carmen page and you will be automatically directed to the correct video.
- Help guides on the use of Secured Media Library can be found at https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/securedmedialibrary

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.
- <u>Carmen Zoom</u> help guide

Honorlock:

Honorlock, an online proctoring tool, will be used during this course. Honorlock offers you
flexibility to take your exams at the time and in the location of your choosing. Students are

required to have a webcam (USB or internal) with a microphone and a strong and stable internet connection. During the course of an exam, Honorlock will record the testing environment, therefore students should select private spaces for the exam session where disruptions are unlikely and where recording devices can be enabled.

- Instructions for setting up and using Honorlock can be found at: <u>Getting Started with Honorlock</u> for Students | Teaching and Learning Resource Center (osu.edu)
- Honorlock offers free 24/7 student support through web chat or email.

Baseline technical skills necessary for online 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://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733

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

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 Interim Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Molly Peirano, at titleix@osu.edu

Mental Health

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 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)

COVID-19 and Illness Policies

Student illness or absence

If you are too ill to participate in this course due to COVID-19 or another illness, please contact the instructor as soon as you are able. All materials are available on Carmen, including lecture recordings and slides. Alternate assignments or extensions may be arranged.

COVID-19 Accommodations. The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's <u>request process</u>, managed by Student Life Disability Services. 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. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Academic integrity policy

Policies for this online 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 http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's <u>request process</u>, managed by Student Life Disability Services. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic, or temporary medical conditions), please let the instructor 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. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Course Schedule

For each week, you should review the weekly "module" on Carmen. Within that module, you will find all the videos, articles, and assignment details needed to complete that week's assignments. Weekly modules are released by 9:00am on Mondays.

Week 1	Topic	Readings	What's Due? *All due dates are by 11:59pm unless otherwise noted here
1/6-1/10	Introduction: Course Overview & Syllabus What is Advertising?	The Syllabus Textbook Chapter 1: Advertising, Its Supporters, and Its Critics Chapter (posted on Carmen): Advertising	Interactive assignment (initial post Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 2			
1/13-1/17	History of Advertising	Chapter (posted on Carmen): A brief history of advertising Textbook Chapter 16: Online Advertising: The	Interactive assignment (initial post Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday)
		Ever Changing Landscape	Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 3			
1/21-1/24 *OSU Closed Monday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)	Economic function of Advertising; Constructing audiences	Textbook Chapter 3: Advertising and the Media: Changes and Challenges Chapter (posted on	Interactive assignment (initial position statement Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday)
		Carmen): <i>The</i>	nencetion (sunday)

		economic impact of advertising: What's the controversy?	Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 4			
1/27-1/31	Regulation of advertising; Legal issues	Textbook Chapter 4: How Advertising is Regulated: Government and Industry Chapter (posted on	Interactive assignment (initial position statement Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday)
		Carmen): Puffery and Advertising: Puff the Magic Ad Man	Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 5			
2/3-2/7	Image-Based Advertising; Advertising and materialism	Textbook Chapter 2: Are Goods Bad? Living in a Consumer Culture Article (posted on Carmen): Child viewers may struggle to recognize adverts in videos from virtual play dates. Article (posted on carmen): How the power of persuasion goes way beyond mere advertising.	Interactive assignment (initial post Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 6			
2/10-2/14	Advertising & Politics	Textbook Chapter 14: Political Advertising: Do "We The People" Still Matter?	Interactive assignment (initial position statement Wednesday; Responses Friday)
		Article (posted on Carmen): TV political ads	Reflection (Sunday)

		are regulated but online anything goes Article (posted on Carmen): You'd be better off lighting your money on fire than giving it to a politician to spend on TV ads. Chapter (posted on Carmen): Political Advertising: Necessary, Necessary Evil, or Evil	Content quiz (Sunday)
Maria 7		Necessarily?	
Week 7		Study notes, videos, and	You must take the exam
2/17-2/21	Review & Exam 1	readings to prepare for exam	between 12:00am and 11:59pm on 2/21
Week 8			
<mark>2/24-2/28</mark>	Advertising & stereotypes	Textbook Chapter 6: Advertising Choices: Influences of Stereotypes and Taste Textbook Chapter 8: Advertising and Race: Examining the Melting Pot Article (posted on Carmen): Gender Stereotypes Banned in British Advertising Article (posted on Carmen): Ban on	Interactive assignment (initial post Monday; Responses Wednesday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)

Week 9		Harmful Gender Stereotypes in Ads Comes Into Force Article (posted on Carmen): Can the Advertising Industry Stop Perpetuating Harmful Gender Stereotypes?	
VVEEK 3		Textbook Chapter 7:	
3/3-3/7	Advertising and Gender/Beauty	Gender and Advertising: How Gender Shapes Meaning Textbook Chapter 9: Advertising and Age, Sexual Orientation, and Ability: Marginalized or Mainstreamed?	Interactive assignment (initial post Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)
3/10-3/14	OSU Spring Break: No Classes or Assignments		
Week 10			
3/17-3/21	Commercialization in Childhood	Chapter (posted on Carmen): Advertising to Children: Gimme, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme!!! Do Children Need More Protection from Advertising? Article (posted on Carmen): Understanding the YouTube Generation:	Interactive assignment (initial position statement Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)

		How Preschoolers Process Television and YouTube Advertising	
Week 11			
3/24-3/28	Children's perceptions of advertising; Cognitive development & persuasion	Textbook Chapter 10: Children and Advertising: Emerging Consumers, Problematic Strategies Article (posted on Carmen): Today's class brought to you by A report to the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood.	Interactive assignment (initial post Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 12			
3/31-4/4	Advertising and Product Placement	Textbook Chapter 5: Beyond Subliminal: The Pervasiveness of Persuasion Article (posted on Carmen): Future Product Placement in Films and Television will be Tailored to Individual Viewers	Interactive assignment (initial post Wednesday; Responses Friday) Reflection (Sunday) Content quiz (Sunday)
Week 13			
4/7-4/11	Advertising for controversial products	Textbook Chapter 11: Advertising Controversial Products: Bans and Beliefs	Interactive assignment (initial position statement Wednesday; Responses Friday)

			Reflection (Sunday)
		Textbook Chapter 12:	
		Tobacco and	Content quiz (Sunday)
		Alcohol Advertising:	
		Industries in Flux	
		Chapter (posted on	
		Carmen): <i>Direct-to-</i>	
		Consumer	
		Pharmaceutical	
		Advertising: A	
		Prescription for	
		Everything?	
Week 14			
		Textbook Chapter 15:	
	Advertising & Social Responsibility	Socially Responsible	Interactive assignment
		Advertising: Does a Brand	(Wednesday)
4/14-4/18		Have a Conscience?	(Weariesday)
7 = 1 7 = 2			Reflection (Sunday)
		Textbook Chapter 17:	Content quiz (Sunday)
		Advertising: Being Ethical	
		Advertisers in a	content quiz (sunday)
		Challenging Age	
Week 15			
		Study notes, videos, and	You must take the exam
4/21	Exam 2	readings to prepare for	between 12:00am and
		exam	11:59pm on 4/21

^{*} Note: Course schedule is subject to change. In such a case, announcements will be made via email and Carmen announcements.