

# Communication 3163

## Industry Research Methods

*Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:35-10:55 am, Stillman Hall #100*

**Instructor: Dr. Olga Kamenchuk**  
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### Course Description and Goals

What research methods do you need to know if you plan to work in communications industry? What do we start with when we want to introduce a new product into the market? What do we begin our political campaign with? How can we maximize the return from our investment in PR and advertisement? How do we know if our promotion campaign reached its goals?

This course answers these and many other questions by providing a broad overview of the methods and approaches to research used in communication industry (e.g., journalism, PR, advertising, integrated marketing communication). By participating in this class, you will gain an understanding of how to conduct research and have hands-on experience with the research process that you will need if you plan to build your career in communication.

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Become familiar with classic and emerging methods in the social sciences and specifically – in communication, as well as application of these methods in the industry setting.
2. Articulate a formal research hypothesis or question.
3. Create a rigorous research design in order to answer your or your client's question(s).
4. Conduct, analyze, interpret, and share the results from a quantitative or qualitative study.

- Complete a showpiece research proposal based on real quotes from marketing and communication industry clients that you can learn from and use to demonstrate your expertise during job interviews.

**Course Format:**

The course is composed of **lecture sessions and a lab section**. During lecture, I will discuss a large amount of information that goes beyond the assigned readings (such information will also appear in the exams). Thus, it is important that you attend each session and take good notes.

**Required Textbook & Readings**

There is one required text for this course that should be available from the book store:

Wimmer, R.D. & Dominick, J.R. (2014). *Mass Media Research. An Introduction*. (10<sup>th</sup> Edition)\*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

\*Previous editions are available for discounted prices, but may not contain 100% of the material covered in this course.

In addition, for specific lectures I will assign supplementary readings in addition to the assigned chapter from the text. These readings and lectures are noted below.

**Grading Policies**

You need to 1) read the assigned materials on Carmen and 2) attend class regularly as the exams and assignments will focus on the book chapters and lecture equally. The breakdown of assignments and portion of your overall grade is as follows:

<b>Final grade break down:</b>		
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>4 exams (top-3 out of 4)</b>	<b>45%</b>
	<b>10 practices:</b>	<b>25%</b>
	*3 skills	9.0%
	*3 documentaries	6.0%
	* 2 in-class practices	4.0%
	*2 special training certificates:	
	(a) IRB-Human Subjects Protection CITI training course	3.0%
	(b) Google Analytics Academy - Beginners	3.0%
	<b>*lecture attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>LAB</b>	<b>lab work and 1 paper</b>	<b>20%</b>
	*research presentation	5%
	*final research proposal	10%
	*lab attendance	5%

**Exams (45%) – top-3 out of 4.**

There will be 3 in-class exams and one exam during finals week. Cumulatively, the exams will account for 45% of your overall grade. Each exam will consist of 45-60 multiple choice questions using scantron sheets. Each in-class exam will cover the material in the preceding weeks as noted in the syllabus. The fourth exam during finals week will be a cumulative exam that covers all the course material since the beginning of the class. A study guide for each exam will be made available at least 4-5 days before the exam.

**I WILL DROP YOUR LOWEST EXAM GRADE OUT OF THE FOUR.** This means I will take your 3 best scores out of the four exams to calculate your exam portion of your course grade. In addition, if you have taken the 3 in-class exams and are satisfied with your final grade based on those two exams, you are not required to take the fourth cumulative exam during finals week if you do not wish to do so.

**VERY IMPORTANT: BRING AT LEAST ONE #2 PENCIL TO EACH EXAM; NO PENCILS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PROFESSOR OR TA.**

**VERY IMPORTANT: BRING A VALID OSU ID (I.E., YOUR “BUCK•I•D” CARD) OR A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE ON EXAM DATES AS YOU WILL NEED TO SHOW PROOF OF IDENTITY TO TURN IN YOUR EXAM.**

**VERY IMPORTANT: WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO WITHHOLD THE EXAM IF YOU ARRIVE MORE THAN 10 MINUTES LATE ON EXAM DAYS (I.E., YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE EXAM). AND, IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER THE FIRST PERSON HAS COMPLETED/LEFT THE EXAM, YOU WILL ABSOLUTELY NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THAT EXAM (I.E., YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE EXAM). PLEASE USE THE REST ROOM BEFORE THE EXAM; STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM ONCE THE EXAM HAS BEGUN UNTIL THEY TURN IN THEIR EXAM.**

### **EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY**

Exams are given only once at the time scheduled in the syllabus. No make-up exams are given for any reason. Exams will not be given early or late. If you miss an exam, you receive a zero, no exceptions. If you talk during the exam with another student, I will assume that your discussion is about the exam itself, and this will be treated as a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Other forms of academic misconduct will be prosecuted according to accepted University procedures (see below).

The only exceptions to these rules are tragic, extraordinary, and totally unforeseen personal circumstances that are convincingly documented to your TA or the Professor no later than 24 hours after the date the exam is scheduled. Buses not running on time, car problems, misbehaved pets, missed or cancelled airline flights, job interviews, attendance at family social functions, sporting events, and previously scheduled vacations are not valid excuses for missing an exam. Do not approach me or the TAs at the end of the quarter with a medical excuse for poor performance or missing exams or assignments earlier in the quarter. The time to talk to us is when the problem first arises. We follow this policy strictly, and documentation produced more than 48 hours after the exam simply will not be accepted, regardless of how valid or compelling it seems to you.

**Lecture and Lab Attendance (15%=10%+5%)**

You are expected to attend lectures and lab sessions regularly. Attendance will be taken regularly during the course of the semester and account for 15% of your final grade (10% for the lectures, 5% for the labs). There is no need to inform me or a TA if you can't make it to a lecture or a lab. Regardless of the reason, if attendance is taken and you aren't there, you are considered absent. I recognize that there are times you will have to miss a lecture. However, a more than decent percentage of the material on the exams is presented only during the lecture period of the class and practiced during your lab sessions. **If you don't attend the lectures and labs consistently, you will not do well in this course.**

**Research paper (15%)**

During your lab sessions you will be working on your research project in groups of 5 students. You will receive a list of 10 problems based on real quotes from clients in the marketing and communication industry. You will have to pick a problem that your group will work on (6 groups – 6 topics), get an approval from your TA and start working on:

- research design
- research design presentation
- final research proposal

The idea of this part of your course work is to prepare you to work in real life marketing and communication industry setting. You will need to come up with a suggestion to solution of a problem that your client addressed you with – suggest a research design, present it, get feedback, correct it if/where necessary, prepare a final research proposal. This section of your work will account to ¼ of your final grade. Please, make sure you attend lab sessions regularly as attendance will be taken and will affect your overall attendance score for the course.

**Practices (25%)**

You will have 8 practices to work on your home computer or in an OSU computer lab and 2 in-class practices (10 – total). They are not designed to be taken collectively (unless specifically noted), as a group, or to share quiz answers with other classmates. Sharing or distributing quiz answers to other classmates or providing other assistance is punishable under the Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct up to and including failure in the class and/or suspension from OSU.

The purpose of the practices is to help you learn and try to apply the information and skills in research methods and approaches that are necessary in your future career in communication industry.

- You will have to obtain **2 certificates** (IRB and Google-Analytics – Beginners). Please, plan taking those well in advance as it may take from several hours up to a half a day to finish the work on those and to receive the online certificate. Timely submission of the certificate will bring you the scores for those practices.
- During the course, we will be reviewing **3 documentaries** that illustrate topics or issues in communication industry research. The titles and dates of the course documentaries are provided on the course schedule. You will be responsible for the content of these documentaries on exams and assigned online discussion boards (you will need to ask one

meaningful questions based on the documentary and to provide one substantive answer to someone else's question).

- You will have **2 in-class practices** summarizing and applying the knowledge of 2 major course blocks: (a) research processes; (b) research approaches. You will work individually on the short assignments in class. Assignments will be uploaded on Carmen, will be available during the class time only and will include watching short videos, answering questions and solving problems in writing. We will discuss the assignments in class after you finish working on them. Part of this applied material will appear on the exams.
- You will have to fulfill **3 skills assignments** applying the knowledge from class in 3 major areas: (a) survey instrument design, (b) research for SMM, (c) evaluation of research design and findings. The aim of each assignment will be to apply principles of industry research methods discussed in lecture and the text to specific case studies or your future career tasks.

Specific details for each practice assignment will be provided in later assignment summaries to be distributed in class and provided on Carmen. The tentative dates of the assigned skills and when they are due are listed in the course schedule.

### Extra Credit

During the course of the semester there will be an opportunity to receive an EXTRA credit for this course through the Communication Research Experience (C-REP). You will have the opportunity to participate in experiments or surveys conducted by School of Communication faculty or graduate students for extra credit toward your final grade. CREP is designed to give students direct exposure to the topics, goals, methods, and ethical issues of communication research. You may earn a MAXIMUM of 3% credit toward your final grade through participation in CREP.

Participation can take the form of:

- Completing up to THREE hours (1 hour = 1% extra credit) of C-REP research studies, OR
- Completing up to THREE C-REP alternative written assignments (1 assignment = 1% extra credit), OR
- Completing a combined total of THREE hours of research studies and alternative writing assignments.

You must complete at least 1 hour/credit of CREP in order to receive extra credit. Completing your C-REP requirement must take place during the semester. You should definitely NOT wait until the last minute to sign up for participation for extra credit because people tend to procrastinate and research opportunities will be limited. In fact, it is probably wise to complete your C-REP requirement as early as possible in the semester when demands on your time are the lightest. The C-REP Student Guide on the School of Communication website tells you everything you need to know about this requirement: <http://www.comm.ohio-state.edu/images/stories/PDFs/crepstudentguideupdate.pdf>

Both COMM 1100 and COMM 1101 require C-REP participation, and thus you may be enrolled in CREP for those courses simultaneously or another communication class for extra credit. The same C-REP participation CANNOT be counted for more than one course. Please direct any questions regarding C-REP to **Shannon Poulsen** ([poulsen.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:poulsen.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu))

Overall extra credit score cannot be more than 3% towards your final grade.

### Course Grading Scheme

Points/Percentage	Letter Grade
93-100%	A
90-92.9%	A-
87-89.9%	B+
83-86.9%	B
80-82.9%	B-
77-79.9%	C+
73-76.9%	C
70-72.9%	C-
67-69.9%	D+
60-66.9%	D
Less than 60%	E

### **Cell Phones and General Politeness**

A ringing cell phone during a lecture or discussion is annoying to the instructor (i.e., me) and others in the room. Please be respectful of those around you by turning off your cell phone prior to the start of lecture. If you anticipate that you will need to leave the lecture hall before the end of a lecture, please select a seat near the edge of a row or in the back of the room to avoid disrupting others when you leave. To maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, please be courteous to other members of the class and treat them with the dignity and respect that you expect from others.

### **Professor and Teaching Assistant's Use of Electronic Mail and Messaging**

There may be occasions where I or one of your TAs will need to get in touch with you outside of regular class hours. Email will usually be the first means by which contact will be initiated. It is important that you check your OSU email account regularly, and make sure you purge your account of unneeded email so that new email can get through. If you do not use your OSU email address as your primary email account, please arrange through OIT to have your OSU email forwarded to your preferred account. For instructions on how to have your email forwarded, see [http://8help.osu.edu/forms/mail\\_forwarding.html](http://8help.osu.edu/forms/mail_forwarding.html).

### **Some Words About Academic Honesty**

It is your responsibility to complete your own work as best you can in the time provided. 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, possession of unauthorized materials during an examination, and falsification of laboratory or other data. 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 at [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)

Academic misconduct is a serious offense, and it is my responsibility to make sure it does not occur. 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 (COAM). If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct, 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 this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact your TA or visit the COAM web page at <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

## **Special Accommodations**

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact the professor to arrange an appointment by the end of the second week of classes. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

The Office for Disability Services is located in: 098 Baker Hall 113 W. 12th Ave Phone 614-292-3307 <http://www.ods.ohio-state.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 Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)

### **School of Communication & 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

### **Supplemental Readings Posted on Carmen (see schedule below)**

*Research in the International Arena* in Dynamics of International Advertising. Theoretical and Practical Perspectives. Mueller, B. Peter Lang. 2017.

### **PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF (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 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](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614--292--5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766.

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

### **About your Professor**



Dr Olga Kamenchuk is an Associate Professor (Clinical) at School of Communication and a Co-Director of Eurasian Security and Governance Program at Mershon Center for International Security Studies. Her PhD is in Psychology, she teaches courses in strategic and political communication at OSU (*Strategic Communication; Communication and Conflict Management; Intercultural Communication; Industry Research Methods*) and conducts research in the areas of political psychology, international communication, public opinion and post-communist countries. She has taught graduate and undergraduate level courses in the leading universities of Austria, Germany, Italy, Russia and US. She also has conducted over 100 opinion research projects for organizations such as the World Bank, the European Commission, the United Nations, Cambridge University, University of Pennsylvania, Governments of such countries as Japan, France and Poland, as well as international media - BBG, Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters, and Asahi Shimbun.

Besides her research and teaching background, Dr Kamenchuk has over 15 years of her career to work as a director of communication and marketing, press officer, journalist, media editor and consultant, as well as often provided interviews and commentaries to international media (e.g. CNN, Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Reuters, ZDF, BBC, etc...)

**LECTURE/READING/EXAM SCHEDULE**

Week	Lecture date	Topic	Reading	Contents	Class activity and deadline	Lab activity and deadline
<b>I. Research Process in Communication Industry</b>						
1	Aug 20; Aug 22	<b>Introduction to concepts of research in communication industry. Concepts and constructs.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 1	<i>Why communication industry research methods are important for your future career?</i> Scientific method. Quantitative and qualitative methods. <i>What is causality?</i> <i>Independent and dependent variables.</i> <i>Models. Relationships.</i> <i>Induction vs deduction.</i>		
2	27-Aug	<b>Ethics of research.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 3	<i>How to conduct an ethical research study?</i> Ethical principles and dilemmas.		<i>Introduction to the Lab work, Research Paper requirements and practicing the concepts: causality, dependent and independent variables, etc...</i>
	29-Aug	<b>Validity and reliability.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 1 pp.25-31 + Carmen reading #1	<i>How to make sure your research and findings are valid and reliable?</i>		
3	3-Sep	<b>Measurement.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 2	<i>What are foundations of measurement in communication industry research?</i>	<b><u>IRB-certificate: Human Subjects Protection CITI course. (by Wed, Sep 4 11:59pm)</u></b>	<b>NO LABS Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Labor Day</b>
	5-Sep	<b>Sampling.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 4.	<i>What is sampling?</i> Types of sampling procedures. Sample size and sampling error. Generalizability.		

4	10-Sep	<b>Introduction to Secondary and Primary Data.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 7.	<i>How come a lot of data is already (often openly) available or what can you do for the client without launching the data collection at "the field"? Secondary qualitative and quantitative data. Types of data.</i>		<i>Form groups of 5 students and submit the topic of your study (by Monday, Sept. 9th).  Practice validity and reliability, measurement and sampling techniques</i>
	12-Sep	<b>In-class PRACTICE - I.</b>				
5	17-Sep	<b>Case studies. EXAM PREP #1.</b>				<i>Practice secondary vs primary data.</i>
	19-Sep	<b>EXAM #1</b>				
<b>II. Research Approaches and Analysis in Communication Industry</b>						
6	24-Sep	<b>Qualitative Research in Communication Industry.</b>	Textbook, Chapter 5.	<i>What are the major types of qualitative research that you will use if you work in communication industry? Field Observations, Focus Groups, Intensive Interviews, Case studies, Ethnography. How do you write a qualitative report for your client?</i>		<i>Check progress with the papers. Overview of past exam.</i>
	26-Sep	<b>Survey Research</b>	Textbook, Chapter 7	<i>How do you conduct a good survey study for your company/client? Pros and cons of survey research. Constructing questions. Questionnaire design. Piloting the instrument. Collecting the survey data. Response rate.</i>		
7	1-Oct	<b>Content Analysis and Longitudinal Research. Panel Studies in Communication.</b>	Textbook, Chapters 6&8	<i>Why panel designs are a battlefield in communication industry nowadays and how can you effectively use content analysis for your company's/brand's promotion?</i>	<b>Skill #1: survey instrument design. (by Oct 2, 11:59 pm).</b>	<i>Practice qualitative study designs. Practice survey design. Prepare for Skill #1.</i>

				Limitations, uses and steps in content analysis. Types of longitudinal studies. Panel studies and designs.			
	3-Oct	<b>Experimental Research</b>	Textbook, Chapter 9	<i>How can we successfully use experiments in communication industry? Types of experiments. Advantages and disadvantages of lab experiments. Designing and conducting experiments.</i>			
<b>8</b>	8-Oct	<b>Documentary #1 (Oct 8): qualitative research. DUE - by Oct 13, 11:59 pm. FALL BREAK - no class on Oct 10!</b>				<i>Practice experimental, content analysis and longitudinal research.</i>	
<b>9</b>	15-Oct	<b>In-class PRACTICE - II.</b>			<b>Skill #2: evaluation of research design and findings presented in the media. (by Oct 14, 11:59 pm)</b>	<i>Practice experimental, content analysis and longitudinal research. Prepare for Skill #2.</i>	
	17-Oct	<b>Case studies. EXAM PREP #2.</b>				<i>Present your research design. Get feedback.</i>	
<b>10</b>	22-Oct	<b>EXAM #2</b>					
<b>III. Data Analysis and Research Applications in Communication Industry</b>							
<b>10</b>	24-Oct	<b>Data Analysis - Part I</b>	Textbook, Chapters 10, 11	<i>What are the basic tools and procedures of data analysis? Descriptive statistics. Research questions and hypotheses.</i>		<i>Present your research design. Get feedback.</i>	
<b>11</b>	29-Oct	<b>Documentary #2. The Economist: The data revolution: privacy, politics and predictive policing. DUE - Nov 3, 11:59 pm.</b>					
	31-Oct	<b>Data Analysis - Part II</b>	Textbook, Chapter 12			<i>Present your research design. Get feedback.</i>	

12	5 Nov / 7 Nov	<b>Media: print and electronic.</b>	Textbook, Chapters 13&14	<i>What are the major types of research used in print and electronic media? Circulation. Ratings and nonratings studies. "People meters" vs mobile devices.</i>		<i>Present your research design. Get feedback. Prepare for Skill #3.</i>
13	12 Nov / 14 Nov	<b>Advertising and Public Relations</b>	Textbook, Chapters 15 & 16	<i>How can research help build a successful advertising campaign? Copy testing. Media research. Campaign assessment. How can research help create a successful PR campaign? Types of public relations research and their application.</i>	<b>Skill #3: research for SMM (by Nov 13, 11:59 pm).</b>	<b>NO LABS Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s Day</b>
14	19-Nov	<b>International Communication.</b>	Carmen Reading #3	<i>What if your company is going global - how can research be helpful in that? Types and specifics of research in international markets.</i>	<b>Practice-GOOGLE analytics certificate (beginners). (by Nov 17, 11:59 pm)</b>	<i>Practice research for Media, Advertising and PR. Prepare for GOOGLE analytics certificate.</i>
	21-Nov	<b>Case studies. EXAM PREP #3.</b>				<b>LAB-FINAL SUBMISSION</b> of a research proposal (by Monday, Nov 18, 11:59 pm).
15	26-Nov	<b>Documentary #3. Big Data - PBS. DUE - Dec 1st, by 11:59 pm. NO class on Nov 28 - Thanksgiving!</b>				-
16	3-Dec	<b>EXAM #3</b>				
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>						