

# SYLLABUS: COMM 2367

## PERSUASIVE COMMUNICATION

### ONLINE SUMMER 2020

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

## Instructor

INSTRUCTOR: Kristie Sigler

OFFICE: Journalism Building 317

EMAIL: Sigler.35@osu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Wed. 9am—10am // Thurs. 2pm—3pm // Or By Appointment

## Course prerequisites

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

## Course learning outcomes

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

### Writing and Related Skills

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

### Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students apply basic skills in expository writing.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Second Writing Course Expected Learning Outcomes:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students who complete this course will also:

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

## **Course materials**

### **Required**

Sigler, K. (Ed.). (2017). *Persuasive communication*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

\*To purchase print or e-books: <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/persuasive-communication>

### **Recommended**

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

## 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 24/7.

- **Carmen:**
  - Carmen, Ohio State's Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. To access Carmen, visit [Carmen.osu.edu](https://carmen.osu.edu). Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not set up a name.# and password, visit [my.osu.edu](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](#)
- **Secured Media Library:**
  - Media materials for this course will be made available via the Secured Media Library. [go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary](https://go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary)
  - To obtain additional help for use of the Secured Media Library, please email [emedial@osu.edu](mailto:emedial@osu.edu)
  - Frequently Asked Questions and support can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/secured-media-library>
- **CarmenZoom**
  - Office hours will be held through Ohio State's conferencing platform, CarmenZoom.
  - Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within CarmenZoom for the student to live chat with the instructor in the virtual office hours room.
  - Help guides on the use of CarmenZoom can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenzoom>
- **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
- **Proctorio**
  - Proctorio is the online exam proctoring tool integrated into Carmen. Use of Proctorio is **required** for the Comprehensive Exam. Visit the Student Guide to Proctorio to get started before the exam: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmencanvas/getting-started-proctorio-students>

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

# Grading and Faculty Response

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

## ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

### Essays

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

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

### **Discussion Posts**

- Three prompts for discussion will be presented and completed within your groups. These prompts ask you to think critically and apply the theories and concepts presented in readings and lecture. You will be expected to create an initial post with your own ideas and then respond to the post of at least 2 group members.
- Guidelines for a successful discussion post can be found in the Welcome Module for this course.

### **Quizzes/Exams**

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

### **Speeches**

- *Introduction Speech:* 1-2 minute video introduction. You will introduce yourself, your hometown, your major, and one interesting fact about yourself.
- *Media and Persuasion Speech:* This 2-4 minute speech will develop your ability to make connections between textbook material and media you encounter daily.
- *Persuasive Speech:* In this culminating assignment, you will use the knowledge you have gained from the textbook, class discussions, and previous assignments to deliver a 5-6 minute persuasive speech to your peers on the Carmen discussion board.

### **Participation**

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

## Grades

### GRADING

Following are the point values for each assignment:

Assignment	Points
Annotated Bibliography Paper	30
Problem Analysis Paper	50
Audience Analysis Paper and Online Discussion	40
Problem, Solution, and Barriers Paper	20
Reflection Paper	15
Discussions (3@ 10 points each)	30
Introduction Speech	5
APA Quiz	10
Comprehensive Exam	75
Media and Persuasion Speech	15
Media and Persuasion Speech Participation	10
Persuasive Speech & Participation	70
Peer Reviews (3 @ 10 points each)	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400</b>

### Extra Credit:

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

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

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

## Late assignments

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

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

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

## Grading scale

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

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

## Faculty feedback and response time

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

### Grading and feedback

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

### E-mail

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

### Discussion board

I will check and reply to messages in the discussion boards every **24 hours on school days**. For our Q&A Board, feel free to assist other classmates if you know the answer to a question 😊

# Attendance, Participation, and Discussions

## Student participation requirements

Because this is a distance-education course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Viewing lectures:**  
Recorded lectures and supplemental lecture materials will be posted to the module one to two times per week. The complete listing for the week will be found in the weekly overview. More than one lecture may appear in the upload. The videos are short to provide the most optimal viewing experience and to increase attention and engagement. Watch a lecture, take a break, and come back to the next. The lectures should be viewed within 24 hours of posting to be sure you are up to date with the course materials.
- **Office hours:**  
I am available to help you to learn, understand, and grow as individuals. If your question is something that you believe may be of interest to others in the class, please post to the "Course Q&A" discussion board. Office hours are held virtually by appointment. Please email me to schedule.

## Discussion and communication guidelines

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

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

## Other Course Policies

### Student Academic Services

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

<http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>



## Student Services

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition and fee payments. Please see their site at: <http://ssc.osu.edu>

## Writing Center

All students, especially those who have difficulty writing, are encouraged to visit the *OSU Writing Center*. Their web address is <https://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center> and their phone number is 688-5865. The Writing Center offers two kinds of tutorials: 1) Scheduled, 50-minute tutorials in 4120A Smith Lab and 2) Drop-in, 20-minute tutorials at our satellite centers (First floor Thompson Library and 114 Smith-Steeb Residence Hall)

## 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)

## 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/>

## Mental Health Statement

### PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

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

If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS)** by visiting [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)**

## Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

### Requesting accommodations

**The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know via email immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely**

**fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu) ; 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu) ; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.**

#### **DISCLAIMER**

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

#### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Because COMM 2367 is a GE course, the School of Communication requires that all graduate teaching associates use a common syllabus, textbook, assignment descriptions, rubrics, and due dates. (Exams, quizzes, and participation points will vary by instructor.) Instructors are expected to be consistent and fair across all sections to ensure that all students are meeting course outcomes. If you have any concerns, you may contact the Course Supervisor, Kristie Sigler, at [sigler.35@osu.edu](mailto:sigler.35@osu.edu)

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

\*Schedule and due dates are tentative

Week	Date	Topic and Activity	Reading(s) Due	Assignment(s) Due
Week 1	5/13	Overview of course and assignments Introductions <i>The Concept of Persuasion</i>	Chapter 1	Join a Group 5/15 Introduction Speech 5/15
Week 2	5/18	<i>Writing: Myths and Expectations</i> <i>APA Style Introduction and Practice</i> <i>Finding Good Sources</i> <i>Evaluating and Working with Sources</i>	Chapters 10, 11, 12	APA Quiz 5/18 Discussion Post 1: Writing Myths & APA Practice Initial Post 5/20 Response Posts 5/22
Week 3	5/25	<i>Attitudes: Definition, Formation &amp; Measurement</i> <i>Classical Rhetoric</i>	Chapters 2, 3	Annotated Bibliography Draft 5/25 Peer Review 5/27 Final 5/29
Week 4	6/1	<i>Source Factors</i> <i>Message Factors</i> <i>Film: To Tell the Truth: A History of Documentary Film</i>	Chapters 4, 5	Discussion Post 2: To Tell the Truth Initial Post 6/3 Response Posts 6/5
Week 5	6/8	<i>Social Judgment Theory</i> <i>Consistency and Cognitive Dissonance Theory</i>	Chapters 6, 7	Problem Analysis Paper Draft 6/8 Peer Review 6/10 Final 6/12
Week 6	6/15	<i>Survey Design</i> <i>A Reasoned Action Approach</i>	Chapter 8	

Week 7	6/22	<i>Elaboration Likelihood Model; Persuasive Speaking Analyzing your Audience</i>	Chapters 9, 13	Audience Analysis Discussion:  Initial Post 6/24  Response Posts 6/26
Week 8	6/29	<i>Practicing and Delivering Public Speeches</i>  Media and Persuasion Speeches	Chapter 14	Media and Persuasion Speech Due 6/29  Peer Reviews 7/1  <b>Comprehensive Exam 7/3</b>
Week 9	7/6	<i>Presenting Your Problem</i>		Problem, Solution, and Barriers Paper  Draft 7/6  Peer Review 7/8  Final 7/10
Week 11	7/13	<i>Making Ideas Impressive Listening and Critiquing Speeches Speaking Activity Discussion</i>	Chapter 15	Discussion Post 3: How to Win at Losing an Argument  Initial Post 7/15  Response Posts 7/17
Week 12	7/20	Persuasive Speech		Persuasive Speech Posted by 7/22
Week 13	7/27	Persuasive Speech Viewing and Response		Persuasive Speech Responses 7/27
Finals	7/31	Course Wrap Up & Final Reflection		Reflection Paper 7/31