



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

CONSCI 2910: Consumer Problems & Perspectives (3 units)
Autumn 2020 | August 25 – December 11, 2020
Distance Learning Course
www.carmen.osu.edu

Instructor: Deborah M. Sharp
265 Campbell Hall
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Office Hours By appointment. Since this is an online class, questions can be answered via email, phone, or Zoom meeting. *Suggested phone appointments: Monday - Friday 1:00 -2:00 PM.*

Course Description

Study of common imperfections in the market which manifest themselves in safety, fairness, quality, information and education concerns for consumers.

Course Format

CONSCI 2910 is a fully online course via Carmen. There are no class meetings in-person or online. There is not a textbook required in this class. Each module on Carmen has videos/readings, a PowerPoint lecture, and two assignments to complete (a reflection and an activity). There is also one midterm exam and a final exam.

Course Objectives

Following successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Recognize consumer problems and link them to potential private and public solutions.
- Apply lessons from history of consumer culture to current consumer problems.
- Articulate the rights and responsibilities of consumers and the political journey to establishing and preserving these rights.
- Understand the role of consumer driven solutions in improving the quality of the consumer/producer exchange, namely the roles and influences of social responsibility, fair trade, green strategies, and sustainability.

Required Course Materials

Readings will be available on the Carmen course website.

Course Requirements and Grading

Course Requirement	Percent of final grade	Points possible
Weekly Reflections (12 total; drop lowest two scores)	10%	40 points
Activities (12 total; drop lowest two scores)	30%	120 points
Midterm Exam	30%	120 points
Final Exam	30%	120 points
Total	100%	400 points

Course Grade Grades are based on the Standard OSU Grading Scheme, which does not round grades up.

Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points				
A	93-100%	372-400	B+	87-89%	348-359.9	C+	77-79%	308-319.9	D+	67-69%	268-279.9
A-	90-92%	360-371.9	B	83-86%	332-347.9	C	73-76%	292-307.9	D	60-66%	240-267.9
			B-	80-82%	320-331.9	C-	70-72%	280-291.9	E	59% or less	Below 240

Weekly Emails

Students will receive a weekly email detailing the expectations of week. Each week students will be expected to visit Carmen, click on the Modules tab, and scroll down to the weekly module. Under the weekly module, students will read articles, watch videos, download the lecture, complete a weekly reflection, and complete a weekly activity.

Weekly Readings/Videos

Under each weekly module will be readings and sometimes videos. Students are expected to read the articles, and if applicable, watch the videos prior to viewing the weekly lecture. These materials will reinforce concepts discussed in online lectures. All assigned readings and videos will be covered in the exams.

Lectures

The lectures corresponding to each module are provided in a PowerPoint format. Students are to download the PowerPoint file from Carmen. There are two options in reviewing the PowerPoint lectures:

- 1) You may view the PowerPoint in "slide show" mode and listen to the audio OR
- 2) You may view the PowerPoint in "normal view" and read the notes below the slides

Weekly Reflections

Over the course of the semester there will be 12 weekly reflections worth four (4) points each. The weekly reflections with the lowest two grades will be dropped, leaving 10 weekly reflections with the highest scores counting toward the course grade. The weekly reflections will be administered via the Carmen course website and will include five questions asking students to reflect on what they have learned. *No late submissions will be accepted and a grade of zero will be given.*

Weekly Activities

Over the course of the semester there will be 12 weekly activities worth ten (10) points each. The weekly activities with the two lowest grades will be dropped, leaving 10 weekly activities with the highest scores counting toward the course grade. The weekly activities will be administered via the Carmen course website. *No late submissions will be accepted and a grade of zero will be given.*

Examinations

There will be two online examinations during the term administered via the Carmen course website. Each examination will consist of 60 multiple choice questions (each question worth 2 points) covering the untested content up to the date of the examination. The questions will test recall and application of course content from the readings, lectures, class quizzes, and class discussions. No examination is cumulative.

Each examination will be available for one designated day from 6:00 AM – 11:59 PM. The time limit on each examination is 1 hour 45 minutes. The examination window will close at 11:59 PM regardless of the time at which the student began the examination. Once a student begins the examination, he/she must complete the examination. **Only one attempt is allowed.** It is suggested to take the examination during regular business hours in case of technical difficulties. If difficulties occur, it is recommended to contact Carmen Help (614-688-4357).

Make-up Examinations

Students who miss an examination without prior approval by the instructor will receive a grade of zero on the missed examination. Prior approval to miss an examination will be given in the event of extenuating circumstances and the student will be expected to present proof of such extenuating circumstances. All make-up examinations may be timed, closed book, short answer/essay examinations. Make-up examinations will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor.

Course Expectations

Some of you have taken online courses previously, while for others this is your first experience in an online course. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course; in fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technological skill that can make them more demanding for some students. Students and the instructor share mutual responsibility for a successful learning experience!

Students are expected to:

- Review the course syllabus and the course website and ask for any clarification needed
- Log onto the course website regularly to access course material and announcements
- Read all assigned material and review all information required for each course module
- View/listen to the PowerPoint lecture provided for each course module
- Submit weekly reflections, weekly activities, and exams by the corresponding due dates
- Review grades posted to the course website and notify the instructor immediately of any errors; the deadline for communicating all grade related issues to the instructor is 5:00 PM on the last day of regularly scheduled semester classes (Official Academic Calendar <http://registrar.osu.edu/staff/bigcal.asp>)
- Notify the instructor immediately if extenuating circumstances interfere with participation in the course
- Have an active OSU e-mail account and check the account for course related email
- Take an active role in your learning – learning is a verb, not a noun!

Students can expect the instructor to:

- Develop and provide instructional material to facilitate student learning
- Provide clear guidance on the course expectations and requirements

- Provide criteria for evaluation of the learning activities and course project
- Visit the course website daily
- Send email weekly, summarizing upcoming due dates and deadlines, to assist with pacing course progress
- Respond to email within two business days, excluding weekends
- Meet with students during scheduled appointments (use OSU email to schedule appointments)
- Post grades for learning activities within two weeks of the due date

Required technology

FOR HELP: For help with your password, university email, or any other technology issues, 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. **Visit the [Technical Support page](#) for assistance.**

Necessary equipment:

- Reliable, current PC or Mac computer with high-speed internet connection and the following software installed:
 - [Microsoft Office](#), or a free alternative such as [LibreOffice](#)
 - [Adobe Reader](#), or an alternative PDF reader
 - [Microsoft Reader](#), or an alternative Microsoft reader

Baseline technical skills:

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating the course management system; [Carmen](#) help from the Office of Distance Education & eLearning

Technology skills for this course:

- Using Microsoft office to save power point presentations
- Communicating via email including sending attachments
- Communicating using a discussion board
- Submitting assignments and files online
- Navigating Carmen including using discussions, quizzes, inbox, and grades

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to the guidelines to follow while communicating online. Specifically in this course, netiquette covers the guidelines for posting to group discussions and writing email. We all know that it is important to be polite when talking to someone in person. Similarly, it is important to be polite when communicating electronically.

Posting to group discussions:

- Prepare appropriately for your participation in the group discussions by reading the instructions and all required materials.
- Post well-written information that follows the instructions and is relevant to the discussion topic.
- Carefully proof read your message before posting.
- Choose words carefully so that your point is expressed clearly.
- Always be constructive and tactful when responding to posts from other group members and when providing feedback.
- Remember that posts to a group discussion are read by all members of the group. Do not say anything in a post to the group discussion that you wouldn't say in public.
- Don't share confidential information in a group discussion.

Writing email:

- Use your OSU Buckeyemail account or the Inbox in Carmen for all correspondence with the course instructor.
- Put "CONSCI 2910" in the subject line when emailing the instructor.
- Carefully read email messages for correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization before sending.
- Be clear and specific so that I am able to understand your message and to respond appropriately.

The University Center for the Advancement of Teaching provides a more extensive list of recommendations for netiquette in electronic class discussions (<http://ucat.osu.edu/Old-Files/Publications/elecdisc/pages/netiq.htm>) from which the guidelines for this course have been adopted.

POLICIES RELATED TO ALL COURSE WORK

Academic integrity: You are expected to complete all course work with fairness and integrity. You are encouraged to review "Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity" <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/ten-suggestions.html>. In particular, acknowledge the sources that you use when completing assignments, do not fabricate information, do your own work, and protect your work and the work of others. If you have any questions, please ask!

Due dates: Due dates for all weekly reflections, weekly activities, midterm exam, and final exam are listed in the course syllabus and on the Carmen course website. Any necessary changes in due dates will be announced and each student is responsible for receiving such information. No late assignments or examinations will be accepted.

Grade posting and feedback on assignments: All grades will be posted to the Carmen course website. Students wishing to review an examination should schedule an appointment with Deborah Sharp.

Questions about grades: Students wishing to appeal the grading of any course work, including examinations, must make the appeal in writing to Deborah Sharp within seven calendar days after the grade is posted to the Carmen course website. The request must include a clear description of why the student believes the work was incorrectly graded.

Sending e-mail to the Instructor: When sending e-mail to the course instructor, put "CON SCI 2910" in the subject line.

Extra credit: Students may earn 2 points for completing the Week 1 Survey on Carmen.

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. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Course Accommodations

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact one of the instructors privately to discuss specific needs. The Office of Disability Services is relied upon for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 (V) or 614-292-0901 (TDD) in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Grievances and Solving Problems

According to University Policies, available from the Division of Student Affairs, if you have a problem with this class, "You should seek to resolve a grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by **speaking first with the instructor or professor**; then, if necessary, with the department chairperson, college dean, and provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-7-23, which is available from the Office of Student Life, 208 Ohio Union." "Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first **to the supervising instructor**, then to the chairperson of the assistant's department."

Statement on Diversity

The Department of Human Sciences affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

The Department of Human Sciences is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the College seeks to develop and nurture diversity, believing that it strengthens the organization, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches of the University's community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, health status, or veteran status.

Statement on 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 at titleix@osu.edu.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion provides holistic support for qualifying student parents enrolled at Ohio State. To learn more, contact the "Child Care Access Means Parents in School" (CCAMPIS) Program at 614-247-7092/ lewis.40@osu or visit odi.osu.edu/ccampis

Mental Health Statement

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

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.

- Course Audio and Video Recording: Video or audio recording of classes without the explicit written permission of the instructor/professor is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct or Students who wish to record their classes must first obtain written permission of the instructor/professor. Otherwise, such recording constitutes a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.
- Student Generated materials: Any materials generated by a student(s) is copyrighted. Permission must be obtained to use these materials other than the intended purpose inside the course.

Health and safety requirements

All students, faculty and staff are required to comply with and stay up to date on all university safety and health guidance (<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu>), which includes following university mask policies and maintaining a safe physical distance at all times. Non-compliance will be warned first and disciplinary actions will be taken for repeated offenses.

CONSCI 2910 fulfills the following GE category: Social Science - Organizations and Politics

Goals:

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

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of organizations and politics.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and politics and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

CONSCI 2910 satisfies the expected learning outcomes through analysis of the changing role of the consumer in society and examination of consumer issues, including identification of consumer interest, decision-making, and the role of policy and government. Students will understand theories pertaining to consumer decision-making and behavioral economics. They will learn how consumer protection laws and government regulations have developed and their effect on consumers.

CONSCI 2910 | Schedule for Autumn 2020

Week	Topic	Assignments	Due Date
Week 1 Aug. 25 - 28	Course Introduction	• Student Survey	Aug. 28 11:59 PM
Week 2 Aug. 31 – Sept. 4	Microeconomics I	• Reflection 1 • Activity 1	Sept. 4 11:59 PM
Week 3 Sept. 7 - 11	Microeconomic II	• Reflection 2 • Activity 2	Sept. 11 11:59 PM
Week 4 Sept. 14 - 18	Consumer Problems I	• Reflection 3 • Activity 3	Sept. 18 11:59 PM
Week 5 Sept. 21 - 25	Consumer Problems II	• Reflection 4 • Activity 4	Sept. 25 11:59 PM
Week 6 Sept. 28 – Oct. 2	Saving and Borrowing	• Reflection 5 • Activity 5	Oct. 2 11:59 PM
Week 7 Oct. 5 – Oct. 9	Solutions to Consumer Problems	• Reflection 6 • Activity 6	Oct. 9 11:59 PM
Week 8 Oct. 12 – 16	Midterm Exam – available October 16 (6am -11:59pm)		Oct. 16 11:59 PM
Week 9 Oct. 19 – 23	Fraud	• Reflection 7 • Activity 7	Oct. 23 11:59 PM
Week 10 Oct. 26 - 30	Education	• Reflection 8 • Activity 8	Oct. 30 11:59 PM
Week 11 Nov. 2 – Nov. 6	Housing	• Reflection 9 • Activity 9	Nov. 6 11:59 PM
Week 12 Nov. 9 – 13	Health	• Reflection 10 • Activity 10	Nov. 13 11:59 PM
Week 13 Nov. 16 – 20	Food	• Reflection 11 • Activity 11	Nov. 20 11:59 PM
Week 14 Nov. 23 – 27	No new content – Thanksgiving break November 26 - 27		No Assignment
Week 15 Nov. 30 – Dec. 4	Transportation	• Reflection 12 • Activity 12	Dec. 4 11:59 PM
Week 16 Dec. 7 - 11	Final Exam – available December 11 (6am -11:59pm)		Dec. 11 11:59 PM