Course Description
Examines steps of the writing process from sight to insight: perceive, identify, analyze, discover, write, rewrite, and edit. Critical thinking, library research, peer conferencing, and art of argument integral to course.

This is a fully online, eight-week course. We will not meet face-to-face at any time.

Course Prerequisites
None.

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills through persuasive research writing techniques.
2. Distinguish library research techniques by using online library databases and collecting relevant articles from credible and academic sources.
4. Interpret secondary sources such as articles and essays written by experts in the field so that direct in-text quotations or paraphrases may be incorporated into writing.
5. Organize a persuasive research paper so that it collectively and comprehensively flows tightly and smoothly, leaving no room for flawed reasoning.
6. Argue a stance in a persuasive research paper by providing strong and sufficient reasoning and evidence such as statistics and facts throughout the essay so that the paper carries weight and validation.

Writing Style:
Ottawa University requires the use of APA style writing in all disciplines with the exception of most English courses. In this course, if you are an English major, you will be required to write in MLA style. If you are a non-English major, compose your papers in APA format (required). Please refer to the course materials for further guidelines and resources.

Required Text

ISBN: 9781111839086
**Course Assignment Descriptions**

You will have several opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the principles taught in this course. The primary means of evaluating your work will be through practical application of the material. In the event that you have difficulty completing any of the assignments for this course, please contact your instructor immediately. Please refer to the **Weekly Materials** section of the cyberclassroom for complete details regarding the activities and assignments for this course. The following is merely a summary.

**Discussion contributions (160 points)**

(three postings per question @ 20 points per question)

**Initial Substantive Posts:** Submit an initial response to each of the prompts provided each week by your instructor. Your initial post should be substantive (approximately ½ of a page in length) and must be posted by midnight, Central Time by Wednesday of each week. In your substantive post you are encouraged to use references (you may use your textbook); show evidence of critical thinking as it applies to the concepts or prompt and/or use examples of the application of the concepts to work and life. Proper punctuation, grammar and correct spelling are expected. Please use the spell-check function.

**Required Replies:** You must reply to at least two different peers per prompt. Your replies should build on the concept discussed, offer a question to consider, or add a differing perspective, etc. Rather than responding with, "Good post," explain why the post is "good" (why it is important, useful, insightful, etc.). Or, if you disagree, respectfully share your alternative perspective. Just saying "I agree" or "Good idea" is not sufficient for the posts you would like graded.

**Posting Guidelines:** Overall, postings must be submitted on at least two separate days of the week. It is strongly recommended you visit the discussion forum throughout the week to read and respond to your peers’ postings. You are encouraged to post more than the required number of replies.

(Please review the Policies section of Blackboard for further details.)

**Persuasive Research Paper**

Throughout this course you will complete a series of assignments that build up to a complete, final draft of a persuasive research paper. These assignments are:

**Paper Topic Assignment (25 points)**

After reading the noted chapters in the Sundance Writer, the article readings, and other material for Week 1, choose a topic from the list provided on pages 751-752 of your text for your argument/research paper. In a couple of paragraphs, please explain why you chose this topic and how you plan on exploring and developing this topic. Complete this assignment on a Word Document and upload your assignment in the Assignments section of the Blackboard classroom.

**Reference Page Assignment (25 points)**

Conduct research using the OU online library databases to find sources that align with your chosen topic. Please find at least 5 sources and list them according to APA format (i.e. proper title on page, spacing, punctuation). Three out of five must be
scholarly periodicals/journals (such as The Journal of Management or The Journal or Teaching and Learning). Peer-reviewed articles are preferred. Please consult with your instructor on any sources from the Internet.
This is a working draft of your References page, which you will use in your final paper, and this list may change throughout the course. This assignment should be one page. Complete this assignment on a Word Document and upload your assignment in the Assignments area of the Blackboard classroom.

**Thesis Statement Assignment (25 points)**
Draft a thesis statement that captures your chosen topic and your stance on it. Your thesis statement may either be in a statement or question form. Please write in third person. Underneath your thesis statement, explain your reasoning for your argument. In other words, why do you believe your position and how does your thesis statement capture your main idea and stance? Thesis statements may be one or more sentences, although they are generally one concise sentence.

**Full Sentence Outline (75 points)**
Create a full-sentence outline following the alphanumeric pattern discussed in this week's text readings and web links. Your full-sentence outline should be at least one whole page. If you are referencing the sources you found on the online library databases, please make sure your articles are cited in APA format.

**Introduction and Conclusion (50 points)**
Write your introduction and conclusion following the APA documentation standards for all in-text citations or sources cited. Your introduction should roughly be 5-7 complete sentences, but you are not limited to only 5-7. Your introduction may be longer depending on your sources and information you provide. The same instructions apply to your conclusion. Your conclusion should restate your introduction in different words and phrases. However, your conclusion should focus on summarizing your topic and why it's important, why readers should accept your argumentative position, and suggest a call for action or future research possibilities. Your conclusion should leave the reader feeling influenced or persuaded by your argument.

**Rough Draft (75 points)**
Your rough draft should be at least 1500 words, all in APA format, which includes a title page, Abstract, body paragraphs, and References page. Refer to the Sample APA Paper and APA Word Template provided to format your paper according to APA standards. Your goal is for your paper to look exactly like the Sample APA Paper and APA Word Template. Every detail counts so be sure to pay close and careful attention to the formatting and documentation specifics. Remember that your references page should have at least 5 sources listed in alphabetical order.

**Peer Review (50 points)**
Your instructor will provide you with a peer's rough draft. Once you have read the peer's draft, complete the peer review form. Your responses should be written in complete sentences and detailed information in the form of feedback is expected. In other words, indicate and specify where corrections should take place or where in particular editing should be done for improvement.
Final Draft: Persuasive Research Paper (150 points)

As you gather all your feedback from the instructor and peers, carefully revise your rough draft. You are expected to interpret the feedback gleaned from previous weeks and wisely incorporate it to create a careful and thoughtful final draft meeting APA documentation standards.

Course Schedule At-A-Glance*

Please refer to the Term Calendar in our cyberclassroom for specifics regarding dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Activities</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
<th>Date/Time Due**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1 | Week 1 Lecture Notes  
• Chapter 22, pages 462-510, Argument and Persuasion.  
• Chapter 23, pages 513-543, Conducting Research.  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Topic Selection Assignment | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 2 | Week 2 Lecture Notes  
• "APA Style", pages 573-590, OR  
• "MLA Style", pages 554-573  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Reference Page Assignment | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 3 | Week 3 Lecture Notes  
• Pages 60-62, 471  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Thesis Statement Assignment | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 4 | Week 4 Lecture Notes  
• Pages 76-85, 545-547  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Full Sentence Outline | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 5 | Week 5 Lecture Notes  
• Pages 471, 473  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Introduction and Conclusion | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 6 | Week 6 Lecture Notes  
• Review your readings from weeks 1, 2 and 3.  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Rough Draft | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 7 | Week 7 Lecture Notes  
• Pages 126, 271, 114-115, 347  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Peer Review | Midnight CT on Weds/Sun.  
• Sunday at midnight |
| Week 8 | Week 8 Lecture Notes  
• Review all readings from previous weeks  
• Articles as assigned | Course Discussion  
• Final Draft: Persuasive Research Paper | Midnight CT on Weds/Sat.  
• Saturday at midnight |

* All online weeks run from Monday to Sunday, except the last week, which ends on Saturday.

** All assignments are due at midnight Central Time. (All submissions to the Blackboard system are date/time stamped in Central Time).
Assignments At-A-Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic Selection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Page</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Statement</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Sentence Outline</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction and Conclusion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Draft: Persuasive Research Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>635</strong></td>
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*Please refer to the Policies menu for more information about our Course Discussions.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>572-635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>508-571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>445-507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>381-444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>&lt; 380</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To access your scores, click on Grades in the Student Tools area in Blackboard.

Important Policies

All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out here in this syllabus. However, additional university policies are located in the Policies section of Blackboard. You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course.

Editorial Format for Written Papers

All written assignments are to follow the APA writing style guidelines for grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This online course includes information regarding the APA style under “Writing and Research Resources” in the Resource Room on the course menu in Blackboard.

Please see the note under course objectives regarding the use of MLA style for English majors only.

Ottawa Online Late Policy

With instructor approval, assignments may be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but a minimum automatic deduction of 10% of the points will be assessed. The instructor also has the option of increasing this deduction percentage up to a maximum of 20%. Extenuating circumstances may be determined on rare occasions and an extension allowed without a deduction, but only at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Discussion board postings will not be accepted for credit when posted after the close of
the discussion week. There are no exceptions to this rule; however, solely at the discretion of the instructor, the student may be allowed to submit an alternative assignment to make up for the points under extenuating circumstances. If granted, this should be an exception to the rule.

No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the course (end of term) unless arrangements have been made and “approved” by the instructor at least one week in advance.

**Saving Work**
It is recommended that you save all of your work from this course on your own computer or flash drive. The capstone course you take at the end of your program may require you to have access to this work for culminating assignments and/or reflections.

**Academic Integrity**
Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated at any level on any assignment. The reality of cyberspace has made academic dishonesty even more tempting for some, but be advised that technology can and will be used to help uncover those engaging in deception. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of a source or a procedure you are considering using, ask your instructor. As the University Academic Council approved on May 29, 2003, “The penalty for plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be failure in the course in which the academic dishonesty occurred. Students who commit academic dishonesty can be dismissed from the university by the provost/director.”

Please refer to **Academic Honesty** in the **Policies** section of the online course menu for important information about Ottawa University’s policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, including examples and explanations of these issues.

**Student Handbook**
Please refer to your student handbook for all university regulations. The **Resource Room** on the course menu in Blackboard contains information about where to find the student handbook online for your campus.

Please see **Policies** in Blackboard for additional university policies.

**Blackboard Technical Support**
The Resource Room in Blackboard contains links to student tutorials for learning to use Blackboard as well as information about whom to contact for technical support. Ottawa University offers technical support from 8 a.m. to midnight Central Time for all students, staff, and faculty at no cost. See [www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp](http://www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp) for contact information.

**Ottawa University Mission Statement**
The mission of Ottawa University is to provide the highest quality liberal arts and professional education in a caring, Christ-centered community of grace which integrates faith, learning and life. The University serves students of traditional age, adult learners and organizations through undergraduate and graduate programs.