

# GE Launch Seminar Syllabus

ACADAFF1201 [Term YEAR]

## Course Information

**Course times and location:** [example: "Tuesdays, 10:20 a.m.-11:15 a.m. in either Zoom or CL104; plus weekly Carmen interaction"]

**Credit hours:** 1

**Mode of delivery:** Hybrid

Instructor

[First and last name of instructor, with honorifics, pronouns, pronunciation]

- **Email:** [lastname.#@osu.edu]
- **Office hours for student questions and support:** [example: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1001D University Hal or Zoom (<https://osu.zoom.us/abc1234officehours>)]
- **Preferred means of communication:** My preferred method of communication for questions is **email**. My class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your [notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to be sure you receive these messages.

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

This course is first GE Bookend class. The Launch seminar provides a strong introduction for the broad goals of the General Education program, introduces key skills, and supports sustained growth in terms of attaining program goals.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Describe the integrative nature of the structural elements of the GE
- Demonstrate an appreciation for the purpose of the GE
- Use technology effectively to accomplish academic and personal goals
- Demonstrate basic familiarity with an ePortfolio system



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- Critically consider implications of information and technology use
- Articulate one's academic identity, motivations and curiosity
- Develop a plan to investigate a personal, societal, or global question within the GE from various disciplinary perspectives

## General Education Expected Learning Outcomes

As a core element of the bookends category of the General Education curriculum, all of the above course Learning Outcomes are also GE Expected Learning Outcomes.

## How This Course Works

**Mode of delivery:** This course is hybrid (find support for [navigating a hybrid class](#)). We have required sessions each week on **[Day of the week]** from **[time]**. Most weeks our required session will take place synchronously (real-time) in Zoom (See CarmenCanvas for link). Some weeks we will meet in person in **CL150**. The remainder of your work will take place in CarmenCanvas throughout the week. Refer to the course schedule and Carmen modules for specific course meeting schedule and dates for in-person meetings. The CarmenCanvas course is divided into **weekly modules** that are released one week ahead of time. Students are expected to complete all “before class” work before the required in-person or Zoom meetings.

**Credit hours and work expectations:** This is a 1 credit-hour course. According to [Ohio State bylaws on instruction](#) (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 1 hour per week of time spent on direct instruction (class sessions and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 2 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a Satisfactory grade.

**Attendance and participation requirements:** Research shows regular participation is one of the highest predictors of success. With that in mind, I have the following expectations for everyone's participation:

- **Participating in class sessions for attendance: at least once per week**  
You are expected to actively participate in our class session every week. You may miss one class with no effect on your grade, but you will still be responsible for the work you miss during that time. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss more than one class session or an entire week of class, discuss it with me *as soon as possible*.
- **Synchronous meetings and Zoom expectations:**  
During our Zoom sessions I ask you to use your real name and a clear photo of your face in your Carmen profile. During our full-group lecture time, you may turn your camera off if you choose. When in breakout rooms or other small-group discussions, having cameras and mics on as often as possible will help you get the most out of activities. You are always welcome to use the [free, Ohio State-themed virtual backgrounds](#) (go.osu.edu/zoom-

backgrounds). Remember that Zoom and the Zoom chat are our classroom space where respectful interactions are expected.

- **Office hours: optional**

My office hours are online and optional but I welcome you to drop in with questions, conversation, or concerns or else contact me by email anytime.

- **Respectful engagement:**

Your participation will be evaluated in part on your ability to communicate constructively and respectfully with other members of the class. In order to create a space that is welcoming to all learners, please maintain a respectful tone in your posts and responses, even when there is disagreement. Often when we disagree, asking questions of each other is an opportunity for us to learn more, challenge ourselves and grow in our ways of thinking.

## Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

### Required Materials

All course materials will be available in the Carmen course. There are no additional fees related to this class.

### Required Technology

If you do not have access to the technology you need to succeed in this class, you can review options for technology and internet access at [go.osu.edu/student-tech-access](https://go.osu.edu/student-tech-access).

- **Computer:** current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection, webcam, and microphone
- **BuckeyePass:** a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for authentication
- **Microsoft Office 365:** All Ohio State students are eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Visit the [installing Office 365](https://go.osu.edu/office365help) (go.osu.edu/office365help) help article for full instructions.
- **Core technology skills:**
  - [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
  - [CarmenZoom virtual meetings](https://go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings) (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week: <https://it.osu.edu/students>

## Grading and Evaluation

### How Your Grade is Calculated

This course is graded [Satisfactory \(S\) / Unsatisfactory \(U\)](#). You will receive criteria for major assignments and will get feedback on your work. Each assignment will be scored as Exceeds

Mastery Expectations (100%), Meets Mastery Expectations (75%), Does Not Meet Mastery Expectations (50 %), or Not Completed (0). You will have the opportunity to revise and resubmit assignments that do not meet expectations. In order to pass the course, you must complete all assignments listed below (no scores of 0), and must have an average score of 75%.

Please see [Course Schedule](#) for an outline of major assignments, and see the CarmenCanvas course for specific due dates.

## Descriptions of Major Course Assignments

### Class Discussions

**Description:** We will regularly discuss issues about course topics, both in-class and in the Carmen discussion boards. All students are responsible for preparing for and participating in these activities.

### Structure and purpose of the GE

**Description:** Students will watch a set of videos created by faculty or professional staff in different disciplines that describe their field of study and meet with instructors of GE courses they are taking or have taken. For each video or interaction, students will complete two reflection questions.

### ePortfolio tool tutorial

**Description:** This assignment is designed to introduce you to the online portfolio tool that you will be using throughout your Ohio State career. Gaining familiarity with the tool during the launch seminar will enable you to continually add materials as you matriculate through the GE program. At this point, we want you to be comfortable adding materials to your profile and to reflect on how you portray yourself in a digital space.

### Reflection Essay

**Description:** Reflection Essay – why is collecting and reflecting on my GE (and other) work important? Reflection is not the retelling of facts and conclusions. It isn't about what we did, but why we did those things. Reflection is thinking about how we feel about or think about our experiences.

### PSA: Using Information Ethically

**Description:** In this assignment you will demonstrate your understanding of the ethical use of information by creating an infographic, a video, or a podcast episode in the form of a public service announcement. In this PSA, you will be raising awareness among first year students in your major about how to ethically use and share others' work, such as their ideas, text, music, images, etc. Simultaneously, you will be demonstrating your knowledge of how to ethically reuse other peoples' works by incorporating items such as images, video, audio or gifs that are either in the Public Domain, are licensed as Creative Commons or are Open Access.

## Academic Identity

**Description:** Developing an academic identity is an essential element of navigating the General Education (GE) curriculum. Throughout your time at Ohio State, you will gain experiences that shape both you and your academic path. This assignment affords you the space to reflect on your past experiences, what you hope to gain from Ohio State, and how your education will impact your future.

## Plan for Integrative Learning

**Description:** In this final assignment of the course, you will integrate all of the things you have learned so far from the course activities and prior assignments. The purpose of this final assignment is to situate yourself in your own learning pathway, to think about what you have learned so far from your GE courses, from this course, and to draft a plan for learning what you want to learn as you continue in future GE courses and other courses during your college career. This plan will take the general form of a proposal—a genre you will likely encounter many times in your personal and professional lives. You'll articulate a question or problem you'd like to address, articulate your goals and action steps for addressing that question or problem, along with the potential impact you'd like your work to have in the coming years in and beyond college.

## Course Policies

### Academic Integrity and Collaboration

We will engage with peer review and other collaborative activities that will impact and improve your work. However, your assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. We will discuss this distinction more in class.

### Late Assignments

Please refer to Carmen for due dates. Due dates are set to help you stay on pace and to allow timely feedback that will help you complete subsequent assignments. Work submitted after the deadline may receive less feedback and, unless excused, may not be accepted. Please communicate with me about scheduling issues as soon as possible, regardless of the reason for late work.

### Instructor Feedback and Response Time

For assignments submitted before the due date, I will try to provide feedback and grades within **seven days**. Assignments submitted after the due date, even if excused, may have reduced feedback, and confirmation of satisfactory completion may take longer to be posted.

### Copyright for Instructional Materials

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.

## University Policies

### Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at [equity.osu.edu](https://equity.osu.edu),
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or email [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

### Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, [on-demand mental health resources](https://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) (go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) are available. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at [614- 292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). **24-hour emergency help** is available through the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org) (suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling [1-800-273-8255\(TALK\)](tel:1-800-273-8255). [The Ohio State Wellness app](https://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) (go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) is also a great resource.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

Learning happens best in a culture of mutual trust. To that end, we will cultivate and promote an attentive space for all student voices, in particular those students who have been (and who often still are) excluded and/or discounted from academic spaces. In alignment with university values, we will work to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion, not only because diversity fuels excellence and innovation, but also because we want to pursue justice. The pursuit of justice begins with each of us taking responsibility for our actions in creating a safer, more inclusive environment. Every student has a right to equitable participation and to benefit from learning in this course. We see the diversity of perspectives as an asset that allows us to engage with previously overlooked points of view and to learn about and from others. Engaging productively with people from backgrounds different from your own is a skill that will position you to collaborate and learn, which will in turn empower you to thrive in new ways.

If you have observed or experienced unfair treatment on the basis of identity, please feel free to reach out. If you require further institutional support, the university's Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) coordinates the university's response to all complaints of harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. To learn more about your rights to be free from harassment and discrimination, to get assistance connecting with support resources, or to file a report, please contact OIE:

- [Online Report Form](#)
- Call – 614-247-5838
- Email – [equity@osu.edu](mailto:equity@osu.edu)
- An anonymous concern may also be reported through [EthicsPoint](#).

Curious about how to have a respectful dialogue with people from backgrounds different than your own? The [OSU Office of Diversity and Inclusion \(ODI\)](#) provides great resources for starting important conversations!

## 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 immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with [Student Life Disability Services \(SLDS\)](#). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services.

### Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu)
- Email: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu)
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

### Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (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 as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)

## Course Schedule

Refer to the CarmenCanvas course for up-to-date due dates.

Week	Topics; Readings; Assignments with Points and Due Dates
1	<p><b>Welcome to the course!</b></p> <p><i>What is the mission of a land-grant university? How does our own university's legacy shape our understanding of that mission?</i></p>



	<p><b>To do:</b></p> <p>Take syllabus quiz, post in introduction discussion</p> <p>Read about OSU and the land grant mission from perspective of the university's mission and vision statements</p> <p>Choose one podcast to listen to the "land-grab" perspective of indigenous voices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Beyond the land grab university (CollegeLand ep. 8)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">LandGrab U: Colonial Debts of the Settler University (Nothing Never Happens Nov 2021)</a></li> </ul> <p>Watch video on equity vs equality and explore Ohio State statistics from LandGrabU website to discuss in class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.landgrabu.org/universities/ohio-state-university">https://www.landgrabu.org/universities/ohio-state-university</a></li> </ul> <p>Respond to a peer in the "Intro" discussion board</p>
2	<p><b>Why do we have a GE? Why THIS one?</b></p> <p><i>What are the various parts of General Education at OSU, and how do they fit together? How does this meet the Land Grant mission?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b></p> <p>Watch overview of Ohio State's GE, and overview of each theme</p> <p>Watch faculty faces videos and take notes on the provided questions</p> <p>Complete <i>Structure and purpose of the GE</i> assignment</p> <p>Brainstorm and share questions for office hours visit</p>
3	<p><b>How can General Education connect and support a major/focused study?</b></p> <p><i>What are my academic and personal interests, and how do those connect to the skills and experiences in the GE?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b></p> <p>Discussion board post: connections between major and GE</p> <p>Attend office hours for one of your GE courses and summarize the conversation (due by week 5)</p>
4	<p><b>How can we use technology effectively to accomplish academic goals?</b></p> <p><i>What tools are commonly used at OSU and why? What can they do and how do they do it?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b></p> <p>Complete ePortfolio tool tutorial</p> <p>Write Reflection essay</p> <p>Attend office hours for one of your GE courses and summarize the conversation (due by week 5)</p>
5	<p><b>What do I want to learn about and why?</b></p> <p><i>What topics and skills am I excited about? What motivates me as a learner?</i></p>



	<p><b>To do:</b>          Complete <u>all 3</u> Research Scenarios          Begin working on your PSA assignment (due next week)  <u>Attend office hours for one of your GE courses and summarize the conversation (due by week 5)</u></p>
6	<p><b>What do I want to learn about and why? (part 2)</b>  <i>How does my personal identity and background connect to the expression of my academic interest?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b>          Watch 6 Faculty Faces videos (in the "Before Class" section)          Complete the PSA assignment after our class meeting</p>
7	<p><b>Connecting academic identity to growth</b>  <i>How does my personal identity and background connect to the expression of my academic interest?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b>          Begin work on your academic identity statement (due next week)</p>
8	<p><b>How can I begin to represent my academic growth?</b>  <i>What does academic growth look like? What does this mean in light of my goals and plans?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b>          First draft of the <i>Academic Identity Statement</i> after our class meeting</p>
9	<p><b>How can I Plan for the Learning I Want?</b>  <i>What does academic growth look like? What does this mean in light of my goals and plans?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b>          Complete the <i>Academic Identity</i> assignment after our class meeting          Post a reflection and artifact in your ePortfolio</p>
10	<p><b>How does academic identity drive choices for investigation?</b></p> <p><b>To do:</b>          Watch Faculty faces video  <u>Interview/post questions to discussion board</u>          Consider <i>Plan for Integrated Learning</i></p>
11	<p><b>How can I plan for learning important stuff?</b>  <i>What kinds of academic and cocurricular experiences are there, and how might I access and integrate these?</i></p>

	<p><b>To do:</b> Work on <i>Plan for Integrated Learning</i></p>
12	<p><b>How can I plan for the learning I want?</b> <i>How do I make the most of the courses and experiences in the GE?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b> Provide feedback to others Revise your <i>Plan for Integrative Learning</i></p>
13	<p><b>How can my portfolio and other technology support integrative learning across my GE?</b> <i>What challenges and opportunities does technology offer in this effort?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b> Revise your <i>Plan for Integrative Learning</i></p>
14	<p><b>What did we learn this term? Where do I go from here?</b> <i>How do I expand and apply what I have learned here to the rest of my academic program?</i></p> <p><b>To do:</b> Final Draft, <i>Plan for Integrated Learning</i></p>
Final	