

EN3561: ADVERTISING COPYWRITING IN ENGLISH

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advertising Copywriting in English

Subject Code

EN - English

Course Number

3561

Academic Unit

English (EN)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course aims to:

- explore the process of advertising copywriting in English and the techniques involved in the complex process of creating advertising texts for various media and a range of audiences.
- identify examples and genres of persuasive writing in English
- critically evaluate the impact that advertising messages have on audiences in a range of social and professional contexts
- analyze the language and discourse of advertising messages in English
- apply a range of multi-modal persuasive devices used by advertising copywriters to practice writing advertising copy across a range of media

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify and explain the concepts underpinning the rationale and creation of advertising copy and its application across a range of media for various audiences and demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications.		x		
2	Critically evaluate the advertising process – production and consumption – and its use by a range of agencies in society and understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information.		x	x	
3	Analyse the means by which advertising messages are employed at a number of functional communicative levels for a variety of purposes including commercial sales, entertainment, information provision, social control and cultural exchange.		x	x	
4	Create impactful advertising copy in English using words and images to communicate effectively with identified target audiences by writing correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve.				x
5	Critically assess their own advertising copy for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness to think critically, creatively and independently.			x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Mini-lectures, tutorial discussions	Students will participate in lectures which will introduce them to the main historical and contemporary concepts of advertising essential to an understanding of the role that persuasive communication plays. The tutorials will enable students to critically discuss these theories and with application to the production of advertising concepts and copy.	1, 2 Throughout the semester
2	Case study analysis	Students will conduct in-class individual and group analysis of persuasive advertising case studies and readings with guided comprehension questions. Students will become acquainted with the range of persuasive communicative messages across advertising genres from print to outdoor and digital modes to analyse and understand the ways in which varying persuasive communication models and principles are used professionally in the creation of effective ad messages.	2, 3 3-6 weeks
3	Problem based learning activities	Students will participate in in-class, group-based and group-led tutorial exercises throughout the semester. Students will apply the advertising copywriting theories and skills covered in mini-lectures, cases and readings by designing and creating their own copy.	4, 5 Throughout the semester

4	Methodology in action activities	Students will generate effective advertising copywriting skills using a range of critical and practical methodologies covered in lectures, cases, readings and practised in tutorial sessions to create their own advertisements in small groups.	4, 5	3-9 weeks
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Critical analysis of advertising text	1, 2, 3	45	Individual	No
2	Advertising campaign project	1, 3, 4	25	Group	No
3	In-class presentation of advertising campaign project	1, 3, 4	20	Group	No
4	Written commentary	1, 2, 5	10	Individual	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Critical analysis of advertising text

Criterion

Quality of written paper on critical analysis of advertising text

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- The text is very well selected and analysed.
- All relevant information and key persuasion theories and advertising concepts are included for analysis. - The text is very comprehensively analysed and explained.
- The analysis is effectively conveyed in coherent and accurate written English.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- The text is well selected and analysed.
- On the whole key relevant information and key persuasion theories and advertising concepts are included for analysis.
- The text is well analysed and explained.
- The analysis is clearly conveyed in accurate written English.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- The text selected for analysis is sufficient.
- Only part of information and key persuasion theories and advertising concepts are included for analysis.
- Only part of the text is analysed and explained.

- Only part of the analysis is clearly conveyed in moderately accurate written English.

Marginal (D)

- The text selected for analysis is sketchy and inadequate.
- Only limited information and key persuasion theories and advertising concepts are incorporated for analysis.
- The analysis is not informative or comprehensive.
- The analysis is limited and in somewhat understandable written English.

Failure (F)

- The text selected for analysis is totally inadequate.
- Very limited or inaccurate information and key persuasion theories and advertising concepts are incorporated for analysis.
- The analysis is not at all comprehensible.
- Unable to analyse key persuasion theories and advertising concepts and unable to use understandable written English.

Assessment Task

Advertising campaign project

Criterion

Quality of written documentation of advertising campaign project

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- The creative concept is very well developed and analysed.
- All relevant advertising concepts are applied and executed.
- The advertising concept is comprehensively analysed and explained.
- The analysis and campaign execution are very effectively conveyed in coherent and accurate written English.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- The creative concept is developed and analysed.
- On the whole key advertising concepts are applied and executed.
- The advertising concepts are well analysed and explained.
- The analysis and campaign execution are conveyed well in coherent and accurate written English.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- The creative concept is moderately developed and analysed.
- Sufficient advertising concepts are applied and executed.
- Partial advertising concepts are sufficiently analysed and explained.
- Partial analysis and campaign execution are sufficiently conveyed in moderately accurate written English.

Marginal (D)

- The creative concept is sketchy and inadequate.
- Only limited advertising concepts are applied and poorly executed.
- The advertising concepts and campaign execution are not sufficiently analysed and explained.
- The analysis and campaign execution are very limited in somewhat understandable written English.

Failure (F)

- The creative concept is totally inadequate.
- Very limited or inaccurate advertising concepts are applied poorly executed.
- The advertising concepts and campaign execution are not at all comprehensible.
- The analysis and campaign execution are not at all comprehensible.

Assessment Task

In-class presentation of advertising campaign project

Criterion

Organization/Delivery/Grammar/Effectiveness/Timing of presentation

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- The advertising concept is comprehensively analysed and explained.
- The analysis and campaign execution are very effectively conveyed in coherent and accurate English.
- The presentation is very well organized, delivered in clear and accurate, fluent and idiomatic English, and within the time limit.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- The advertising concepts are well analysed and explained.
- The analysis and campaign execution are conveyed well in coherent and accurate English.
- The presentation is well organized, delivered in largely accurate, fluent and idiomatic English, and within the time limit.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Partial advertising concepts are sufficiently analysed and explained.
- Partial analysis and campaign execution are sufficiently conveyed in moderately accurate English.
- The presentation is adequately organized and comprehensible, but the standard of the spoken English may need improvement. It may exceed the time limit.

Marginal (D)

- The advertising concepts and campaign execution are not sufficiently analysed and explained.
- The analysis and campaign execution are very limited in somewhat understandable English.
- The presentation is incomplete or partially incomprehensible due to poor organization or the standard of the spoken English.

Failure (F)

- The advertising concepts and campaign execution are not at all comprehensible.
- The analysis and campaign execution are not at all comprehensible.
- The presentation is incomplete or largely incomprehensible due to poor organization or significant problems in the standard of the spoken English.

Assessment Task

Written commentary

Criterion

Quality and depth of evaluation of the group work on advertising campaign project and teammates' performance in producing it

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Provided a very thorough and critical evaluation strongly supported by ample evidence.

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Provided a good evaluation supported by evidence.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Provided an adequate evaluation with some support.

Marginal (D)

- Provided a marginal evaluation within incomplete support.

Failure (F)

- Did not complete the peer review or did not provide evidence for the evaluation.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Advertising copywriting, advertising concepts, rhetorical theory, response models, promotional communication, multi-modal communication, visual communication, response analysis, collaborative writing, audience analysis, consumer behaviour, semiotics, advertising, integrated marketing communications, advertising campaigns, advertising copywriters, branding, VALS.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Felton, G. (2013). Advertising Concept and Copy (3rd ed.). W.W. Norton and Company: New York.
2	Shaw, M. (2012). Copywriting: Successful Writing for Design, Advertising and Marketing. London: Laurence King Publishers.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Arens William F. & Schaefer David H. (2007) Essentials of Contemporary Advertising. NewYork: McGraw Hill.
2	Herzbrun, D. (2001) Copywriting by Design: bringing ideas to life with words and images. Lincolnwood, Illinois: NTC Business Books.
3	Jones, R. (2000) The Big Idea. London: Harper Collins.
4	O' Guinn, T.C. Allen, C.T. Semenik, R. J. (2006) Advertising. Cinn, Ohio: South Western College Publishing.