



CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR

UG- 4th Semester (NEP)

Subject: Journalism and Mass Communication

Course Title: Media Ethics and Laws (Minor)

Course Code: UGJOR22N401

Total Credits: 04; (Theory: 03; Tutorial/Practical: 01)

Objectives:

- To introduce students to media ethics
- To cultivate a strong ethical foundation applicable to the media profession.
- To foster unbiased and responsible reporting for diverse perspectives.

Learning outcomes:

- Students will be able to develop critical thinking and strong ethical knowledge of laws.
- Students will be able to navigate the ethical dilemmas encountered by journalists in the field.
- Students will be able to apply ethical principles to real world scenarios.

Unit I	Media and Ethics
	a) Media Ethics- Concept, Meaning b) Relevance and Importance of Media Ethics c) Understanding Ethical Dilemmas in Journalism d) SPJ Code of Ethics
Unit II	Media Laws
	a) Freedom of Speech & Expression in Indian Constitution (Article 19) b) Defamation and its Types, Yellow Journalism c) Media Laws in India: Press and Registration of Books Act 1867, Official Secrets Act 1923 d) Copyright Act 1957, Contempt of Court Act 1971, Right to Information Act 2015 (Amendment 2019)
Unit III	Media Regulations
	a) First & Second Press Commissions in India (recommendations), Press Council of India b) Media Trial; Paid news, Plagiarism c) Fake news- Disinformation vs Misinformation d) Media and Right to Privacy, Sting Operation
Unit IV	Tutorials
	a) Classroom discussion on the importance of ethical journalism b) Group presentations on case studies c) Screening and analysis of relevant documentaries

Suggested Readings:

- Plaisance, P. L. (2014). Media ethics: Key principles for responsible practice. Sage Publications.
- Thakurta, P. G. (2011). Media ethics: truth, fairness, and objectivity. Oxford University Press.
- Basu, D. D. (2010). Law of the Press. LexisNexis Publication.
- Foreman, G., Biddle, D. R., Lounsberry, E., & Jones, R. G. (2022). The ethical journalist: Making responsible decisions in the digital age. John Wiley & Sons.