



Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
School of JMC & NM
Central University of Himachal Pradesh
(Established under Central Universities Act 2009)
DHARAMSHALA, DISTRICT KANGRA – 176215
HIMACHAL PRADESH
www.cuhimachal.ac.in



Course Name: Basics of Journalism

Course code: JMC490

Credits: 2

Level: 5

Credits Equivalent:

2 Credits (One credit is equivalent to 10 hours of lectures / organized classroom activity / contact hours; 5 hours of writing work / practical / field work / tutorial / teacher-led activities and 15 hours of other workload such as independent / group work / house journals; obligatory / optional work placement; literature survey / library work; writing of papers / presentations / seminars, etc.)

Course Objectives:

The Course is designed to enable students to know the basics of Journalism. They will be introduced to various concepts related to field of mass communication and Journalism. Also, the focus would be to apprise students with fundamentals of various genre of journalistic writing.

Course Outcomes:

On completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts of Journalism
- Differentiate between Journalism, Communication and Mass Communication
- Develop the understanding of News-stories and other journalistic writings
- Able to analyze and assess the events and put them into the right context
- Understand the concept of journalistic thinking
- Familiarize the process of reporting and its various facets
- Understand Newsroom operations

Learning Outcomes:

The deliverables Learning Outcomes of this paper with students are following:

- ✓ Students will be able to distinguish between rumours, facts, information and news.
- ✓ Will be able to understand and express as per the requirement of different mediums.
- ✓ Will be able to write different genres of journalistic writings.
- ✓ Will be able to analyze the news stories.
- ✓ Will be able to articulate in a journalistic manner.

Attendance Requirements:

Students are expected to attend all lectures in order to be able to fully benefit from the course. A minimum of 75% attendance is a must failing which a student may not be permitted to appear in examination.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Mid Term Examination: 20%
2. End Term Examination: 60%
3. Continuous Internal Assessment: 20%
 - Surprise Progress Review Tests
 - Miscellaneous Assignments: Presentations/Articles/Group Discussions

Course Contents:

UNIT I: An Introduction to Journalism (04 hours)

- Basics of Journalism
- News and News values
- News sense and News stories
- Newsroom operations

UNIT II: Writing for the Press (04 hours)

- News report writing
- Article/Special Article/Column
- Opinion and Editorial writing
- Features and Interviews

UNIT III: Critical thinking and Journalistic Attitude (04 hours)

- Democratic spirit and Scientific temper
- Salient features of the Constitution of India
- Journalistic ethics: Freedom of Speech and media responsibility
- Context and text

UNIT IV: Specialized Journalism (04 hours)

- Legal and Crime Journalism
- Political Journalism
- Development Journalism
- Citizen Journalism

UNIT V: New trends in Journalism (04 hours)

- Salient features of different medium
- Uses of social/new media
- Journalism as public relations
- Journalism as a profession

Essential Readings:

- Keval J. Kumar, *Mass communication in India (2010)*, Jaico Publication, New Delhi
- M.V. Kamath, *Professional Journalism (2006)*, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd. New Delhi
- McLuhan, M. (1994). *Understanding Media - The Extensions of Man*. Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
- McQuail, D. (2010). *Mass Communication Theory - An Introduction (6th ed.)*. London: Sage.