

NIRMA UNIVERSITY

Institute:	Institute of Law
Name of Programme:	B.A.,LLB. (Hons.) and B.Com.,LL.B. (Hons.)
Course Code:	2IE1037
Course Title:	Legal Journalism
Course Type:	Institute Elective
Year of Introduction	2022-23

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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At the end of the course the students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the Constitutional objective of Freedom of Speech and Expression, and existing Rights and Restrictions governing the fourth estate.
2. Examine the role of media in context of democratic aspirations and social ordering.
3. Determine the basic tenets of mass communication and journalism.
4. Deduce the requirements of communication and writing standards for journalism.
5. Explain the role and responsibility while reporting on legal institutions.
6. Reflect on the emerging issues and regulation of conduct in legal journalism.

Syllabus

Total Teaching Hours: 60

Unit: I

Introduction to Media

03 Hours

- Media as a Communicating Tool of Development
- Media-Types – Press, films, Radio Television, Electronic Media, Social Media
- Media and Democracy
- History and Evolution of Media Laws in India

Unit II

Media and Legal Framework.

09 Hours

- Freedom of the Press and its Development under Article 19(1)
- Limitations on Freedom of Speech and Expression
- Media and the Other Constitutional Estates:
 - Legislature: Breach of Privileges
 - Judiciary: Contempt of Court
 - Executive: Official Secrets Act, Central Civil Service Conduct Rules

- Issues relating to reporting Legislature and Judiciary
- Media & Criminal Law
- Media and Civil wrongs
- Media & Copyright issues
- Right to Information Act 2005: New tool for Press Freedom
- Media and Journalists: Working Journalists Act and Press Council & Human Rights Act

Unit III

Fundamentals of Mass Communication

08 Hours

- Journalism: Origin, Functions and Scope
- Principles of Journalism
 - Canons of Journalism
 - Ethical Standards of Journalism
- Theories of Media and Mass Communication
 - Authoritarian Theory
 - Free Press Theory
 - Social Responsibility Theory
 - Communist Media Theory
 - Development Communication Theory
 - Participatory Communication Theory
- Kinds of Journalism
 - Mainstream Journalism
 - Area Specific Journalism
 - Magazine Journalism
 - Tabloid Journalism
 - Investigative Journalism
 - Advocacy Journalism
 - Convergent Journalism
 - Supplement Journalism
 - Online Journalism
- Functions of Mass Media and Journalism

Unit IV

Communication Aptitudes

08 Hours

- Definition, Nature and Scope of Communication
- Purpose of Communication
- Process and Functions of Communication
- Uses of Communication
- Kinds of Communication
- Models of Communication
 - Linear Model
 - Non-linear models
- Theories of Communication-
 - Hypodermic Needle Theory
 - Two-step and Multi-step Theory

Unit V	Writing Skills and Aptitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives • Introduction to writing • Presentation of Content • Types of Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Creative Writing ◦ Expository Writing • Legal Jargon and Phrases • Legal writing- Important attributes • Interpretation of legal documents- Statutes, Judgments, Contracts etc. • Writing of legal opinion • Writing of legal editorials • News Reporting 	08 Hours
Unit VI	Reporting on Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Court Reporting • When and How to report Court Proceedings • What information may be published from proceedings • In Camera proceedings <i>Sub-judice</i> matters and court reporting • Defamation and court reporting • Contempt of Court • Other limitations on Court Reporting • Manual on Court Reporting 	08 Hours
Unit VII	Reporting on Law Enforcement Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewing the Officers • Limitations on questions to be asked • Reporting from crime Scenes • Reporting not to be an obstruction • Sharing information with Enforcement Agencies • Confidential Matters not to be reported • Sensitive information and reporting • Other attributes of reporting on Law enforcement Agencies 	08 Hours
Unit VIII	Legal Journalism: Need for self-regulation and Practical Exercises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breach of privacy • Respecting the law and agencies of law • Responsible Journalism • Sting Operations • Hands on Training: 	08 Hours

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- Communication Skill
- Writing Skills
- Reporting and Processing of Information

Self Study:

NA

Suggested Text Book:

- Pearson, M., & Polden, M. (2020). *The journalist's guide to media law: A handbook for communicators in a digital world*. Routledge.
- Marshal, M. (1994). Understanding Media: The Extension of Man. Cambridge, MA., The MIT Press, 392, 499-500.
- Anderson, B. (2004). *News flash: Journalism, infotainment and the bottom-line business of broadcast news*. John Wiley & Sons.

