

SECOND SEMESTER

JMH 451 Media Law and Ethics

Total = 60 hrs

Course Objectives

1. To facilitate an in-depth discernment of Indian constitution
2. To provide an insight into the correlation between the freedom of expression and existing media law
3. Evaluate key laws impacting the media, such as defamation, copyright, Official Secret Act, Law of sedition and the Freedom of Information Act
4. Evaluate how media laws vary across platforms and media
5. To know Code of Journalistic Ethics
6. To learn about Press Council Act, Official Secret Act, Right to Information, Copyrights, Intellectual Property Right
7. To know about the Regulatory Institutions, Press Commission & Prasar Bharati of India

Course Outcomes

1. Media Laws and Privileges within the Constitution of India and other derived sources
2. Recognize best contemporary ethical and professional practices both in conventional and in the digital space.
3. Awareness about the schism between the defamation and invasion of privacy.
4. Ability to state basic rules and principles of journalism law
5. Ability to state basic rules and principles of journalism ethics, as articulated by professional associations within journalism
6. Ability to explain the relationship between journalism law and ethics

Unit – I

Introduction to the Indian Constitution – salient features, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Rights and duties. Human Rights.

10 hrs

Unit – II

Freedom of Speech and Expression, article 19 (1)(a) and (2), freedom of the press in India, Right to Information Act 2005.

10 hrs

Unit – III

Law of Defamation, Sedition, Obscenity, Cinematography Act 1952 and film censorship, official Secrets Act 1923, Copyright Act, Contempt of Court Act, Legislative Privileges and Contempt of Legislature, Working Journalist Act, Consumer Protection Act.

14 hrs

Unit – IV

Press and Registration of Book Act, Legal and ethical aspects of radio and television broadcasting, photography and advertising in India, Information Technology Act.

14 hrs

Unit – V

Recommendations of the first and second press commissions, Press Council of India Act, structure and functions of the PCI, Evaluation of performance of the Press Council– code of ethics and case studies.

12 hrs

Books recommended

1. A.N. Grover (1991). Press and the law, Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, Mumbai
2. A.G. Noorani (1971). Freedom of the Press in India, Nachiketa Publications, Mumbai
3. Durga Das Basu (2010). Law of the Press in India, Lexis-Nexis India
4. R.C. Sarkar (1984). The press in India, S. Chand, New Delhi
5. J Natarajan (2000). History of Indian Journalism, Publications Division, India
6. K.S. Venkateswaran (1993). Mass Media Laws and Regulations in India, Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre, Singapore
7. S.K. Aggarwal (1993). Media & Ethics, Shipra Publications, New Delhi
8. James Curran (2011). Media and Democracy, Routledge, U.K
9. Aparna V Iswanathan (2012). Cyber Laws, LexisNexis, United States
10. Sudhir Naib (2011). The Right to Information Act, Oxford University Press, United Kingdom
11. Kashyap Subhash C (2012). Constitution Of India Review and Reassessment, Universal Law Publishing - LexisNexis, United States
12. Roy L. Moore & Michael D. Murray (2007). Media Law and Ethics, Routledge, United Kingdom

