Course Code: 0321 MCJ 106
Course Title: Information Gathering and News Writing
Credits: 4

Rational of the Course:
The Information Gathering and News Writing course introduces students to the fundamentals of reporting and journalistic writing for both print and electronic media. It covers the qualities and responsibilities of a professional reporter, techniques for gathering accurate and reliable information, and the use of various news sources. Students learn news beats, interviewing methods, writing effective leads, and structuring news stories. The course emphasizes practical skills through exercises in writing simple stories, covering events such as seminars, press conferences, disasters, accidents, and obituaries. It also teaches observation, field visits, surveys, document analysis, and the use of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. By the end of the course, students will be able to produce clear, accurate, ethical, and professional news reports.

Course Content:

Week 1			
Topics	**Teaching-learning Strategy(s)**	**Assessment Techniques**	**Alignment to CLO**
Introduction to Reporting and News Writing: Qualities and Functions of a Reporter	Lecture, PPT presentation, open discussion	Quiz, class participation	CLO-1
Week 2			
Basics of News Gathering for Print and Electronic Media; Understanding News: Definition, Types, Elements, Characteristics	Lecture, case discussion	Assignment, quiz	CLO-2
Week 3			
Sources of News; News Beats; Primary and Secondary Sources; Documents, Images, Human Sources	Lecture, group discussion	Assignment, practical exercises	CLO-3
First Assignment due (Provide separate assignment topic to each student covering diverse media concerns surrounding our societies)			
Week 4			
Interviewing: Definition, Importance, Types, Techniques, and Stages	Lecture, role-play, interactive discussion	Practical assessment, mock interviews	CLO-4
Week 5			

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Structure of News Story; Writing News Leads; Types of News Leads; Basic Guidelines	Lecture, workshop, PPT	Practical exercise, draft news stories	CLO-5
Mid-term 1			
Week 6			
Techniques of News Writing; Observation, Survey, Surveillance, Electronic Trail	Lecture, hands-on exercises	Assignment, class activity	CLO-2, CLO-5
Week 7			
Writing Simple News Stories [Practice]; Applying Field Visits, Idea Generation, and Record-Keeping	Workshop, group activity	Practical assignment	CLO-5, CLO-6
Week 8			
Mid-term 2			
Covering Seminars, Discussions, Socio-Cultural Functions, Press Release, Press Conferences	Field exercise, role-play, interactive discussion	Assignment, practical assessment	CLO-6
Week 9			
Assignment and presentation 2 Individual assignment paper submission on various given topics followed by individual presentation in ppt along with Q&A sessions			
Week 10			
Covering Disasters, Fire, Accidents, Obituaries, Suicide, and Follow-Up Reporting	Case study, workshop	Practical exercise, quiz	CLO-6
Week 11			
Using the Right to Information Act; Ethical Issues in News Gathering and Reporting	Lecture, debate, case discussion	Written reflection, class participation	CLO-3, CLO-5
Week 12			
Building Relationships with News Sources; Protecting Sources; Credibility and Verification	Lecture, role-play, group discussion	Practical assignment	CLO-3, CLO-4
Week 13			
Advanced News Reporting: Integrating Interviews, Field Visits, and Source Material into Stories	Workshop, group project	Assignment, project draft	CLO-5, CLO-6
Week 14			

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Course Review; Final Project Presentation; Utilization of Course Outcomes	Open discussion, group activities	Final project submission, final exam	CLO-1 to CLO-6

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO): at the end of the Course, the Students will be able to:

CLO-1	Explain the qualities, functions, and responsibilities of a professional reporter.
CLO-2	Apply basic techniques of news gathering for print and electronic media.
CLO-3	Identify and utilize diverse news sources while maintaining source protection and credibility.
CLO-4	Conduct various types of interviews using appropriate methods and stages.
CLO-5	Write effective news leads and structured news stories using journalistic techniques.
CLO-6	Cover events and incidents, including seminars, press conferences, disasters, accidents, and obituaries, producing accurate and ethical news reports.

Mapping/Alignment of CLOs with Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

CLOs	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5	PLO 6
CLO 1	1					
CLO 2	1					
CLO 3			1			
CLO 4			1			
CLO 5			1			
CLO 6					2	
CLO 7			1		1	

Assessment and Evaluation:

S	Evaluation	Marks
1	**Mid-term Examination** (written exam/quizzes) **10*2=20** Two Mid-term Exams (One will be held in week 5, and second will be held in week 8)	20
2	**Assignment one** On conceptual contents, (After Third week)	5/10
3	Assingment_2nd and Presentation Ninth week -Applying course learnings and outcome	10/5

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	-On a given topic -practical learning	
4	**Class Attendance** Students MUST provide proper documentation for excused absences of class participation activities. Illness/medical or other personal situation in which the student can provide documentation or has discussed their situation in advance with the course teacher.	5
5	**Semester Final Examination (Duration of 3 Hours)**	60
Total		100

Learning Materials:

1. Warren, C. (1934). Modern News Reporting. USA: Harper and Brothers
2. Clayton, C.C (1947). News Reporting Today. USA: The Odyssey Press
3. Mencher, M. (2007). Basic News Writing. New York: McGraw-Hill Education
4. Vincent, F. (2021). Dynamics of News Reporting and Writing, Sage Publication
5. Kovach, B. & Rosenstein, T. (2007). The Elements of Journalism. New York: Three Rivers Press
6. Mencher, M. (1977), News Reporting and Writing. McGraw Hill.
7. Carole Rich Writing and Reporting News
8. Bruce D. Itule & Douglas A. News Writing & Reporting For
9. Anderson Today's Media
10. J. Harris & S. Johnson Complete Reporter
11. Carl Warren Modern News Reporting
12. The Missouri Group News Reporting & Writing
13. Melvin Mencher Basic News Writing
14. Melvin Mencher News Reporting and Writing
15. James Glen Stovall Writing For The Mass Media
16. M.V. Charnley Reporting
17. Chris Frost Reporting for Journalists (2nd edition)
18. Wynford Hicks Writing for Journalists
19. Sally Adams, & Wynford Hicks Interviewing for Journalists (2nd edition)
20. Fred Fedler, et al. Reporting for the Media, 8th Edition
21. Jan J. Yopp & Beth A. Haller An introduction to news reporting: a beginning journalist's guide

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