

Course Guideline

DSC 1: Introduction to Journalism

Credits: 4 (3 Theory + 1 Practical)

SEMESTER I

UNIT I: Understanding News

- Meaning and definition of Journalism
- Ingredients of news
- News: meaning, definition, nature
- The news process: from the event to the reader (how news is carried from event to reader)
- Hard news vs. Soft news
- Basic components of a news story
- Attribution, on-record, off-the record, embargo,
- Verification, balance, fairness, brevity, dateline, credit line and byline.
- Criteria for news worthiness, principles of news selection

UNIT II: Historical Perspective and News Writing Skills

- Yellow journalism
- Penny press, tabloid press
- Language of news- Robert Gunning: Principles of clear writing
- Rudolf Flesch formula- skills to write news
- Organizing a news story, 5W's and 1H, Inverted pyramid
- Use of archives, sources of news, use of internet

Unit III: Different mediums-a comparison

- Language and principles of writing on different media platforms
- Basic differences between print, electronic and online journalism, Citizen Journalism