

# SYLLABUS

## Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)

Compulsory Course proposed by UGC for all PhD students for pre-registration Coursework

### Course Title:

- **Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)**–Course for awareness about the publication ethics and publication misconducts.

### Course Level:

- 2 Credit course (30 hrs.)

### Eligibility:

- M.Phil., Ph.D. students and interested faculty members (It will be made available to post graduate students at later date)

### Fees:

- As per University Rules

### Faculty:

- Interdisciplinary Studies

### Qualifications of faculty members of the course:

- Ph.D. in relevant subject areas having more than 10 years' of teaching experience

### About the course

#### Course Code: CPE- RPE

#### Overview

- This course has total 6 units focusing on basics of philosophy of science and ethics, research integrity, publication ethics. Hands-on-sessions are designed to identify research misconduct and predatory publications. Indexing and citation databases, open access publications, research metrics (citations, h-index, Impact Factor, etc.) and plagiarism tools will be introduced in this course.

#### Pedagogy:

- Class room teaching, guest lectures, group discussions, and practical sessions.

#### Evaluation

- Continuous assessment will be done through tutorials, assignments, quizzes, and group discussions. Weightage will be given for active participation. Final written examination will be conducted at the end of the course.

Paper II: Research and Publication Ethics;  
Course Code: CPE-RPE; Course credits: 2

## Course structure

- The course comprises of six modules listed in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

<b>Theory</b>		
RPE 01	Philosophy and Ethics	4
RPE 02	Scientific Conduct	4
RPE 03	Publication Ethics	7
<b>Practice</b>		
RPE 04	Open Access Publishing	4
RPE 05	Publication Misconduct	4
RPE 06	Databases and Research Metrics	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## Syllabus in detail

### THEORY

- RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3 hrs.)**
  - Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
  - Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions
- RPE 02: SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT (5hrs.)**
  - Ethics with respect to science and research
  - Intellectual honesty and research integrity
  - Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
  - Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
  - Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data
- RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hrs.)**
  - Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
  - Best practices / standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
  - Conflicts of interest
  - Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
  - Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
  - Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
  - Predatory publishers and journals

### PRACTICE

- RPE 04: OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING(4 hrs.)**

1. Open access publications and initiatives
2. SHERPA/RoMEO online resource to check publisher copyright & self-archiving policies
3. Software tool to identify predatory publications developed by SPPU
4. Journal finder / journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggester, etc.

- **RPE 05: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT (4hrs.)**

- A. Group Discussions (2 hrs.)**

1. Subject specific ethical issues, FFP, authorship
2. Conflicts of interest
3. Complaints and appeals: examples and fraud from India and abroad

- B. Software tools (2 hrs.)**

Use of plagiarism software like Turnitin, Urkund and other open source software tools

- **RPE 06: DATABASES AND RESEARCH METRICS (7hrs.)**

- A. Databases (4 hrs.)**

1. Indexing databases
2. Citation databases: Web of Science, Scopus, etc.

- B. Research Metrics (3 hrs.)**

1. Impact Factor of journal as per Journal Citation Report, SNIP, SJR, IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, altmetrics

## References

- Bird, A. (2006). *Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.
- MacIntyre, Alasdair (1967) *A Short History of Ethics*. London.
- P. Chaddah, (2018) *Ethics in Competitive Research: Do not get scooped; do not get plagiarized*, ISBN:978-9387480865
- National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine. (2009). *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: Third Edition*. National Academies Press.
- Resnik, D. B. (2011). What is ethics in research & why is it important. *National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences*, 1–10. Retrieved from <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm>
- Beall, J. (2012). Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. *Nature*, 489(7415), 179–179. <https://doi.org/10.1038/489179a>
- Indian National Science Academy (INSA), *Ethics in Science Education, Research and Governance*(2019), ISBN:978-81-939482-1-7. [http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics\\_Book.pdf](http://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Ethics_Book.pdf)
-