

## 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 lined in table below. Each module has 4-5 units.

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

## Syllabus in detail

### THEORY

- **Introduction to Philosophy**

1. Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
2. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgements and reactions

« **RPE 02. SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT (5hrt.)**

1. Ethics with respect to science and research
2. Intellectual honesty and research integrity
3. Scientific misconducts: Falsification, Fabrication, and Plagiarism (FFP)
4. Redundant publications: duplicate and overlapping publications, salami slicing
5. Selective reporting and misrepresentation of data

« **RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hr)**

1. Publication ethics: definition, introduction and importance
2. Best practices/ standards setting initiatives and guidelines: COPE, WAME, etc.
3. Conflicts of interest
4. Publication misconduct: definition, concept, problems that lead to unethical behavior and vice versa, types
5. Violation of publication ethics, authorship and contributorship
6. Identification of publication misconduct, complaints and appeals
7. 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. Journal finder / journal suggestion tools viz. JANE, Elsevier Journal Finder, Springer Journal Suggested, etc.

## RPE 05: PUBLICATION MISCONDUCT (4hrs.)

### A. Group Discussion (2 hrs.)

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

### B. Software tools (2 hrs.)

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## 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, SIR, IPP, Cite Score
2. Metrics: h-index, g index, i10 index, dnetncs

## References

- Béd, A. (2006). *Philosophy of science*. Routledge.
- MacIntyre, Alasdair (1967) *The history of Ethics*. London.
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- National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and Institute of Medicine. (2009). *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research: 4th Edition*. National Academies Press.
- RtSoilt, 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/resources/bimethics/vhatis/index.cfm>
- Beall, J. (2012). Predatory publishers are coming open access. *Nature*, 489(7413), 179—179. <https://doi.org/10.1018/489179a>
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