

Writing and the Ethical Practice of Journalism (Under CBCS-2019 onward)

For students of the BA-Peace Studies—Public Policy—Journalism programme (JIP)

Objectives

1. To provide students with a grounding in local/national/global realities with a view to enriching their competence/readiness for the field, and to enable them to be responsible, socially-aware practitioners of journalism
2. To provide students with a thorough grounding in the expressive possibilities of the language, and to build through practice a comprehensive awareness of representation through narrative.
3. To enable students to arrive at an ethical compass alongside the above skills that allows them to arrive at a journalism of ideas; at practices that are sensitive to diversity, and promote a vigorous commitment to understanding and explicating the complexities underlying conflict in the social sphere, and to thus promote peace and reconciliation both locally and beyond.

Methodology

The thrust of this course is organised in terms of four learning outcomes:

1. A sharpened, disciplined awareness of aspects of journalism such as reporting and editing.
2. Clarity about the writing process through an ongoing engagement with creative writing.
3. A thoroughgoing acquaintance both with journalism in Indian society and as a field of communication influenced by changes in technology and the economy.
4. A clear understanding of the need for conflict-sensitive reporting and of the issues and debates that frame peace journalism.

These outcomes will be elicited through formal interaction in the classroom, practical tasks, portfolios of writing, workshops with practitioners, and through internships. This course will work through an inter-disciplinary partnership between the Departments of English, and the Department of Journalism, as also through inter-institutional partnerships, and collaborations with newspapers and NGOs.

Elaboration of objectives

The student will spend the six semesters acquiring

- a. Basic reporting skills for journalistic practice
- b. Skills in creative writing with a view to augmenting editing and writing skills.
- d. Editing skills with specific attention to punctuation, syntax, coherence and implication.
- e. Familiarity with legal and ethical issues and the larger debates over the place of journalism in society
- f. An overall competence spanning community, and national/international affairs with specific reference to the nature of conflicts, to social movements, and to social change.
- g. Familiarity with the history of journalism and communication.

Theory and Practicals

In addition to contact hours in the form of lectures, the student will spend two hours every week working in lab-sessions that will provide training in critical thinking and writing through discourse analysis. The student will read critically samples of journalism pertaining to gender, caste, the experiences of religious minorities, race and ethnicity, and migration over successive semesters, While the normal contact hours will form the basis for the four credits that the student will earn, the quality of work produced during lab-sessions and in writing portfolios will be crucial in earning the student the fifth credit.

Evaluation

Testing will include assessment in theory (100) and practicals (50) with both components organised around the 70:30 model mandated by Bangalore University for End-Semester assessment and Internal Assessment.

Testing will elicit the skills acquired by the student over the semester. Since the emphasis is not on content-recall, but on testing actual learning, these questions must probe for such learning through debate and challenge.

The student's comfort with reading, writing and editing will be tested through unseen passages that drawn from the area of focus in each semester.

A possible question-paper model for all semesters, to be refined through the experience of repeated testing, and through deliberation on such experiences at successive Boards of Studies, is presented below.

- a. Concept testing exercises: 10 marks
- b. Critical response to unseen passage: 15 marks
- c. Editing exercises: 10 marks
- d. Creative Writing Exercises: 15 marks
- e. Knowledge of international and national issues: 20 marks

SYLLABUS

Semester I : JN 119

(60 hours+ 20 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=4+1 credits)

Theories of Communication: (10 hrs)

Communication Theories & Models; What is Communication Theory? What is a Communication Model? A brief introduction to Communication theories: Multistep Theory, Selective Exposure, Selective Perception, Selective Retention, Play Theory, Uses & Gratification Theory, Cultivation Theory, Agenda Setting Theory, SMCR Model, Shannon & Weaver Model, Wilbur Schramm Model, Lasswell Model, Gate Keeping Model, Gerbner's Model.

References:

1. David Berol: The Process of Communication – Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Newyork,1960
2. Denis McQuail: McQuaid's Mass Communication Theory (6th Edition), SAGE publication Ltd., 2010
3. Keval. J. Kumar: Mass Communication in India- (4th Revised Edition), Jaico Publishing house, Mumbai,2014
4. Uma Narula: Mass Communication: Theory & Practice- Haranand Publications Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi,2008
5. Chandrakant P Singh: Dictionary of Media & Journalism – IK International Pvt Ltd., Delhi,2004
6. Subhir Ghose: Mass Communication : An Indian Perspective: Shishu Sahitya Samasad,2009

Reporting I (15 hrs)

Understanding the idea of news; Objectivity; Beat reporting; Basic reporting skills. Inverted Pyramid, Lead and Headline.

Peace Journalism (20 hrs)

Understanding conflict, and conflict-sensitive reporting; The idea of solutions journalism; a brief history of Peace Journalism. Reporting gender and sexuality issues. Understanding sexual harassment

Creative Writing (15 hrs)

Understanding pre-writing; Brainstorming; Free Writing; Stepping out of one's element; Eavesdropping on conversations

Practical skills (20 hours)

Discourse Analysis Lab: Critical Thinking for Journalism exercises (2 hours x 2 batches)

Semester focus: Understanding gender, and gender discrimination. How gender is reported in mainstream media. Portfolio: 5000 words drawn from Creative Writing and Lab Exercises

I Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations in the first semester. The end-semester

assessment will comprise the submission of a journalism portfolio of 5000 words, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Presentation Task: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

Semester II : JN 219

(60 hours+ 20 hours Labs+ Lab Journal Work=4+1 credits)

The History of Journalism: (25 hrs)

Abroad

Origins of Journalism—Rise of Newspapers—Magazine Journalism in the 18th Century—The rise of professional guilds and training—Crusades, rivalries and Yellow Journalism—The Muck-rakers—The idea of hard news—Censorship and the idea of a free press--Debates over Journalistic Practice

References:

1. Elements of Journalism—Bill Kovach & Tom Rosenstiel
2. Journalism: A Critical History (2004) -- Martin Conboy.
3. An International History of Journalism (article)—Mitchell Stephens (<https://www.nyu.edu/classes/stephens/International%20History%20page.htm>)
4. "The Historiography of Journalism History"—Chris Daly
5. What's the News?—The Age of Addison—Anna M. Pagan (<http://www.ourcivilisation.com/smartboard/shop/paganm/chap1.htm>)

Creative Writing (15 hrs)

Pre-writing Cont'd--Recovering personal history; Writing the personal essay;

Reporting Skills II (10 hrs)

Street reporting; Interview skills. Lead practice.

Conflict-sensitive reporting (10 hrs)

Understanding Caste and caste conflict; the intersections of caste and gender.

Practical skills (20 hours)

Discourse Analysis Lab: Critical Thinking Exercises (2 hours X 2 batches)

Semester Focus: Understanding caste. How caste is reported in mainstream media.

Taking Oral Histories. Resisting Caste on new media.

Portfolio: 5000 words drawn from Creative Writing and Lab Exercises

II Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the

submission of a journalism portfolio of 5000 words, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination. Both mid-semester and end-semester testing will incorporate a news-awareness component.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Presentation Task: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

Semester III: JN 319

(60 hours+ 20 hours Labs+ Writing Portfolio Work=4+1 credits)

Media, Law and Ethics I (30 hours)

History of Media Legislation : UK, USA , India; Freedom of Expression in Indian Constitution; Media & Criminal Law (Defamation/Obscenity/Sedition); Media & Tort Law (Defamation & Negligence); Media & Legislature – Privileges of the Legislature; Media & Judiciary – Contempt of Court; Media & Executive – Official Secrets Act; Media & Journalists – Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) Act & Press Council Act;

Reporting III (15 hrs)

Understanding the idea of news; Beat reporting; Street reporting; Interview skills I: Introducing Feature-writing.

Editing I (15 hrs)

Understanding Punctuation; conventions governing the use of full stops, commas, semi-colons, colons, parenthetical devices and apostrophes; Dealing with Spelling issues; Effective proof-reading.

Practical skills (20 hours):

Writing and Podcasting for Media Issues

Portfolio: 7500 words drawn from Creative writing, Reporting Exercises, Editing Exercises and Scripting Exercises

III Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations.. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a journalism portfolio of 7500 words, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination. Both mid-semester and end-semester testing will incorporate a news-awareness component.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Presentation Task: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

Semester IV: JN 419

(30 hours+ 20 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=2+1 credits)

Reporting IV (15 hrs)

Beat reporting; Feature-writing; Interview skills II.

Creative Writing (15 hrs)

Understanding Long Form

Practical skills (20 hours):

Writing and Podcasting for Foreign Affairs

Portfolio: 7500 words drawn from Creative writing, Reporting Exercises, Editing Exercises and Scripting Exercises

IV Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a journalism portfolio of 7500 words, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination. Both mid-semester and end-semester testing will incorporate a news-awareness component.

Continuous Assessment: 20 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 10 marks

Presentation Task: 05 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 50 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

The remaining TWO CREDITS are to be earned as per the directives of the College CBCS Cell.

Semester V: Compulsory Paper: JN 5119

(45 hours+ 20 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=3+1 credits)

Advanced Journalism and Archiving

Module I: Investigative Journalism (15 hours)

Investigative reporting in a democracy. Readings from case studies on sting operations by Tehelka. Learning to access public documents through RTI and other

sources, learning to interpret public documents, data journalism, data visualisation for investigation.

1. Case Studies from the Roundtable website regarding the Prevention of atrocities act and Reservation.
2. Essays on films as investigation
Pauline Kael, Paromita Vohra, Jyoti Nisha, Rajesh Rajamani, Yogesh Maitreya

Module II: Writing & Archiving (06 hours)

1. Understanding Clifford Geertz and Thick Description
2. What is an archive? Some debates and questions

Module III: Media and Ideology: (09 hours)

1. Antonio Gramsci-- 'Hegemony, Intellectuals and the State',
2. Pierre Bourdieu: The Forms of Capital
3. Stuart Hall-- 'Encoding, decoding',

Creative Writing (15 hours)

Writing an Indian English—Translating across Indian languages—fine-tuning an idiom appropriate to context—accommodating other voices and experiences

Practical Skills: 20 hours, 3 batches X 2 hours

- 1) Documenting via audio/video
- 2) Reading Four Digital Archives: Reading the British Science Museum, Pad.ma, The Partition Archive, and Agents of Ishq.
- 3) Commissioning and Editing pieces for Open Dosa
- 4) Portfolio Writing: 3000 words in ethnographic writing

V Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a journalism portfolio of 3000 words, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination. Both mid-semester and end-semester testing will incorporate a news-awareness component.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Presentation Task: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

**Semester VI: Compulsory Paper: JN 6119
(45 hours+ 20 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=3+1 credits)
Advanced Journalism and Archiving**

Module I—New Ways of Doing Journalism (15 hours)

A: Citizen Journalism

Narratives on how public spaces in the city like tea shops, bus stands, salons, beauty parlours, city markets, and newspaper kiosks have contributed to an idea of a citizen who practises and maintains the spirit of conversation on crime, sports, cinema, and politics with strangers as well as acquaintances.

Twitter and Instagram as portals of citizen journalism. Readings will include news and features stories from the Bangalore-based The News Minute and Citizen Matters.

B: Community Journalism

Understanding community journalism, curating community stories, archiving the neighbourhood.

Case studies from news reports by Khabar Lahariya, The All India Dalit Mahila Adhikar Manch, and CGNet Swara.

Module II—Memory and the Undocumented Real (10 hours)

A: Cultural Memory Studies

What is Cultural Memory—Public and Private Memory—Self, Family, community/ethnicity—Nation, Majority and Minority.—Three readings.

B: Oral History

What is Oral History—Readings from Alex Haley, Alessandro Portelli and Studs Terkel—Partitions and Oral History—The Morichjhaapi Massacre--Issues and Debates in the field.

Module III –Media and Ideology (6 hours)

1. Noam Chomsky --‘Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media’,
2. Jurgen Habermas-- ‘The Structural Transformation of the Public Space : An Enquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society’

Creative Writing (15 hours)

Writing an Indian English—Translating speech to writing --accommodating other voices and experiences

Practical Tasks:

- 1) Portfolio Management: Festival Design, Poster Campaign and Event Website management.
- 2) Commissioning and Editing pieces for Open Dosa

VI Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a portfolio management effort with an accompanying write-up recording work done, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination. Both mid-semester and end-semester testing will incorporate a news-awareness component.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Presentation Task: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

ELECTIVES

V Semester/JN 5219: Literary Journalism, Nonfiction and Foreign Affairs (45 hours+ 15 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=3+1 credits)

Keywords & Introductory Readings: (15 hours)

Literary Journalism-Non-Fiction—Embedded Writing

Shahnaz Habib; Ann Patchett.

Sri Lanka (15 hours)

Excerpts from Seasons of Trouble—Rohini Mohan

Excerpts from This Divided Island—Samanth Subramanian

Covering Islam (15 hours)

Excerpts from Among the Believers—VS Naipaul

Excerpts from Desperately Seeking Paradise—Ziauddin Sardar

Self-Study

Bad Blood by John Carreyrou

Practical Tasks:

- 1) Longform Essay based on research and interviews around one of the areas focused upon: 3000 words
- 2) Review of one of the books prescribed: 2000 words

V Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a portfolio, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks
Presentation Task: 10 marks
Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks
Continuous Assessment: 15 marks
Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

**VI Semester/JN 6219: Literary Journalism, Nonfiction and Foreign Affairs
(45 hours+ 15 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=3+1 credits)**

Three modules to be done in class. One for self-study.

Afghanistan (12 hours)

Excerpts from Butcher and Bolt—David Loyn
Excerpts from Zinky Boys—Svetlana Alexievich

Iraq (12 hours)

Excerpts from Nobody Told Us We Are Defeated—Rory McCarthy
Excerpts from Imperial Life in the Emerald City—Rajiv Chandrasekharan

Israel-Palestine (12 hours)

Excerpts from Footnotes in Gaza—Joe Sacco
Excerpts from The Question of Palestine—Edward Said

Japan (12 hours)

Excerpts from A Tokyo Romance—Ian Buruma
Excerpts from Wrong About Japan—Peter Carey

Self-Study

Bottle of Lies by Katherine Eban

Practical Tasks:

- 1) Longform Essay based on research and interviews around one of the areas focused upon: 3000 words
- 2) Review of one of the books prescribed: 2000 words

VI Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a portfolio, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks
Presentation Task: 10 marks
Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

ELECTIVES

V Semester/JN 5319: Sports Journalism and Cultural Criticism (45 hours+ 15 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=3+1 credits)

Module I: The basics of sports journalism (20 hours)

Reporting and writing about sport—Understanding numbers—The special register of sports writing—AP Guidelines and other newspaper policies around sports reporting—online coverage.

Module II: Origins (12 hours)

1. Beautiful Deaths Pp 17-46 (Something Like the Gods: A Cultural History of the Athlete from Achilles to LeBron by Stephen Amidon)
2. Ultimate Pp 295-298 (From: On the Origins of Sports: The Early History and Original Rules of Everybody's Favorite Games by Gary Belsky, Neil Fine, 2016)
3. History of Rock Paper Scissors, Pp 1-16 (From: The Official Rock Paper Scissors Strategy Guide By Douglas Walker, Graham Walker, 2004)
4. What is Kambala race, that shot Srinivasa Gowda to fame? (Feb 2020)
<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2020/02/18/what-is-kambala-race-that-shot-srinivas-gowda-to-fame.html>
5. Excerpts from Free Hit by Suprita Das_ (on women's cricket in India)
6. Honduras v El Salvador: The football match that kicked off a war. By Toby Luckhurst
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-48673853>

Module III: Distractions - 12 Hours

1. Four short legs & a wagging tail(by Harry Pearson for Wisden)
<https://wisden.com/stories/long-room/dogs-cricket-harry-pearson-nightwatchman>
2. Jesse Owens wins the 100-meter dash at Berlin Olympics in 1936 in front of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis by Paul Gallico. (Aug 1936)
<https://www.nydailynews.com/sports/more-sports/owens-shocks-hitler-winning-100-meter-dash-1936-article-1.2736977>
3. Why schedule cricket matches during exams? By Subir Roy (Mar 2005)
<https://www.rediff.com/getahead/2005/mar/31match.htm>
4. Video Games Are Helping More People Process Death. By Jennifer Stavros
<https://www.wired.com/story/video-games-death-community/>
5. Once upon a time, tikki, goli, lagori, chinni-daandu
[Once upon a time, tikki, goli, lagori, chinni-daanduchurumuri](https://www.wired.com/story/video-games-death-community/)

Practical Tasks:

- 1) 4 pieces of sports writing including one oral history piece: 3000 words
- 2) Review of a sports writing book published in India: 1500 words

V Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a portfolio, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks

Presentation Task: 10 marks

Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks

Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks

ELECTIVES

VI Semester/JN 6319: Sports Journalism and Cultural Criticism (45 hours+ 15 hours Labs+ Portfolio Work=3+1 credits)

MODULE I: Dispatches - 15 Hours

1. Horseback Wrestling. Bone Tossing. Dead Goat Polo. Let the Nomad Games Begin! by Neil MacFarquhar
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/15/world/asia/kyrgyzstan-world-nomad-games.html>
2. Campers versus non-campers, strategic tweaks: The inside story of India's Asian Games relay medals by Arka Bhattacharya
<https://scroll.in/field/893533/campers-versus-non-campers-strategic-tweaks-the-inside-story-of-indias-asian-games-relay-medals> (Asian games 2018)
3. Death of Blue Girl shines light on women's rights in Iran by Samantha Lewis
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/sep/21/death-of-blue-girl-shines-light-on-womens-rights-in-iran>
4. At World Cup, U.S. Team's Pride Is Felt by Others, Too by Andrew Keh
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/29/sports/womens-world-cup-lgbt.html>

Module II: Profiles and Interviews -10 Hours

1. Khadjou Sambe on Becoming Senegal's First Professional Female Surfer by Shauna Beni (Aug 2020)
<https://www.cntraveler.com/story/khadjou-sambe-on-becoming-senegals-first-professional-female-surfer>

2. India's ace sprinter P.T. Usha establishes herself as Asia's leading athlete (Oct 1985)
<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/sport/story/19851031-indias-ace-sprinter-p.t.usha-establishes-herself-as-asias-leading-athlete-802114-2014-01-14>
3. Mariappa Kempaiah—India's legendary midfielder—Novy Kapadia
[Mariappa Kempaiah - India's legendary midfielder \(sportskeeda.com\)](http://sportskeeda.com/Mariappa-Kempaiah-India-s-legendary-midfielder)

Module III: Sports Represent (15 hours)

1. Excerpts from Serious Fun—A history of spectator sports in the USSR: Robert Edelman
2. Excerpts from Boxing-A Cultural History—Kasia Boddy
3. Excerpts from Among the Fans—Patrick Collins
4. Excerpts from Crooked—A History of Cheating in Sport—Fran Zimniuch

Self-study texts:

Nation at Play—A History of Sport in India—Ronojoy Sen
 A Corner of a Foreign Field—Ramachandra Guha

Module IV--Sports on Film (Any two—5 hours)

1. Chariots of Fire
2. The Hustler
3. Striker
4. Bend it Like Beckham
5. Paan Singh Tomar

Practical Tasks:

- 1) 4 pieces of sports writing including a fandom study: 3500 words
- 2) Review of a sports film: 1500 words

VI Semester Evaluation

The internal assessment component of this programme shall arise from a Mid-Semester test, and presentations. The end-semester assessment will comprise the submission of a portfolio, and a viva based on the portfolio in addition to the end-semester examination.

Continuous Assessment: 30 marks

Mid-Semester Test: 15 marks
 Presentation Task: 10 marks
 Attendance: 5 marks

End-Semester Exam: 70 marks

Practical Assessment: 50 marks

Continuous Assessment: 15 marks
 Practical Exam and Viva: 35 marks