

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

(Regulations for Award of Ph.D. Degrees, University of Kerala, 2016)

6. Course Work

6.1 The course work for Ph.D. shall be of a minimum of 12 credits and a maximum of 16 credits.

6.2 A minimum of four credits shall be assigned to one or more courses on Research Methodology which shall cover areas such as quantitative methods, computer applications, research ethics and review of published research in the relevant field, training, and field work and other areas found relevant to the discipline concerned. Other courses shall be advanced level areas in the subjects concerned for enabling the students to acquire deep knowledge in the preparation for Ph.D. degree.

6.3 All courses prescribed for Ph.D. course work shall be in conformity with the credit hour instructional requirements and shall specify content, instructional and assessment methods duly approved by Academic Committee of CSS in the University.

6.4 The Department where the scholar pursues research shall prescribe the course(s), based on the recommendations of the Department Doctoral Committee, as stipulated under sub-clause 8.1 below, of the Research Scholar.

6.5 Scholars admitted to the Ph.D. programmes shall be required to complete the course work prescribed by the Department during the initial one year from the date of registration for research, failing which the registration for research may be cancelled. The reappearance of the scholar for the courses in which required credits are not secured shall be permitted within the duration of one year specified.

6.6 Scholars already holding M.Phil. Degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. programme and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D. in integrated course, shall also have to successfully complete the Ph.D. course work, except course(s) on Research methodology, prescribed by the Department within one year, as specified in clause 6.5 above.

6.7 Grades in the course work, including research methodology courses, shall be finalized after a combined assessment by the Department Doctoral Committee and at least one external examiner, and the final grades shall be communicated to the Vice Chairman of CSS in the University.

6.8 The Ph.D. Scholar has to obtain a minimum of 'B' Grade in the UGC 7-point scale in the course work with a minimum of 55% marks in order to be eligible to continue in the programme and submit the thesis

Suggested Amendments to the clause 6

6. Course Work

6.1. After having been admitted, each Ph.D. student (both full-time and part-time) shall be required to undertake course work on a full-time basis for a minimum period of one semester (six months) with 14 total credits within the first year since registration. Those scholars who fail in any of the coursework papers shall get one further chance to qualify within TWO years of joining. Failing which they will be deemed to have discontinued the Ph.D. program (Scholars in Full time/regular jobs will have to take leave and attend the course work for a semester on Full-time basis).

The course work shall be treated as Pre-Ph.D. preparation. The structure of the course work shall be as follows:

Course Name	Course Code	Credits	Marks		Total marks
			Continuous evaluation	End semester examination	
Paper I: Research Methodology	CPE-RME	4	40	60	100
Paper II: Research and Publication Ethics	CPE-RPE	2	40	60	100
Paper III	CPE-GEP	4	40	60	100
Paper IV	CPE-SPE	4	40	60	100

Paper I(CPE-RME). Research Methodology: This course of **four credits** shall cover the broad area of research methodology, including data analyses, statistical methods and software, technical writing and presentation, field work methods, questionnaire, and surveys, excluding research and publication ethics. This course shall be designed separately for each faculty/school and shall be approved by the CSS Academic Committee/Academic Council concerned and may be conducted simultaneously in one or more Department/School/Faculty.

Paper II(CPE-RPE). Research and Publication Ethics: This course of **two credits**, proposed by the University Grants Commission, is meant to create awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts. The syllabus proposed by UGC shall be followed for this course. This course may be conducted simultaneously in one or more Department/School/Faculty.

Paper III(CPE-GEP). This course of **four credits** shall cover the general area of the topic of research of the scholar and the syllabus shall be approved by the DC.

Paper IV(CPE-SPE). This paper is dedicated to assess the in-depth study of the works published in the specific area of research, and to standardise methodology for research, including questionnaire, if applicable, in tune with the proposed hypothesis. A minimum of 10 recent classic peer reviewed publications need to be used for the intensive study. A hypothesis\ comprehensive report should be evolved from the study. A proposal for the methodology for the intended hypothesis\ objectives of the research shall be developed at the end of the study. The syllabus prepared based on the selected publications and report, shall be approved by the DC.

6.2. Ph.D. students with M.Phil. degree, awarded complying with the UGC Regulations for awarding M.Phil/Ph.D 2009/2017 in the same field of study from any University, may be exempted from registering for Paper I.

6.3. Continuous assessment shall be done by the supervising teacher offering the courses through submission and presentation of reports, review papers, assignments etc. The

assessment status (Excellent-4, Moderate-3, Satisfied-2, Not Satisfied-0) shall be handed over to CSS office through the chairman of DC.

6.4. Setting of the question papers for paper I and II shall be done by externally, from a panel suggested by DC/Director of Research, and the evaluation will be by the examiners appointed by the DC concerned. The question papers for paper III and IV shall be prepared by the supervising teacher concerned.

6.5. Based on the marks obtained in the examinations the students may be awarded grades as detailed below.

Range of Marks	Grades	Weightage
90% and above	O-Outstanding	10
80-89	A- Excellent	9
70-79	B-Very Good	8
60-69	C-Good	7
50-59	D- Satisfactory	6
Below 50%	F- failed	0

Overall performance at the end of the semester will be indicated by Grade Point Average (GPA), calculated as follows:

$$GPA = \frac{G_1C_1 + G_2C_2 + G_3C_3 + \dots + G_nC_n}{C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + \dots + C_n}$$

$$C_1 + C_2 + C_3 + \dots + C_n$$

Where 'G' refers to the grade weightage and 'C' refers to credit value of corresponding course undergone by the researcher.

6.6. Students who are not able to acquire a minimum grade of 6.0 in each Courses shall be given one more chance to complete the course work successfully in the next semester when the course is offered. If he/she cannot acquire the required 14 credits within a period 24 months from the date of his/her PhD registration, his/her registration will be cancelled.

6.7. If found necessary, course work approved by the Doctoral Committee may be carried out by the doctoral candidates in sister Department/School/Centres in the University/Institutions recognized by the University as Centers of Research.

6.8. The Credit and Semester System (CSS) shall conduct the examinations and will scrutinize the grades awarded to the candidate in each course, and finalize the results. On successful completion of the course work by acquiring minimum of 14 credits, the candidate shall be given a certificate of eligibility for continuing doctoral research.

Appendix 1

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SYNDICATE HELD ON 23.10.2020

Item No.19.45 Research and Publication Ethics (RPE) – Part of Course work for Ph.D.- Consideration of-reg.

(IQAC)

University Grants Commission in its 543rd meeting held on 9th August 2019 approved two Credit Courses for awareness about publication ethics and publication misconducts entitled “Research and Publication Ethics (RPE)” to be made compulsory for all Ph.D students for pre-registration course work. The proposed course work will be introduced as Paper- II along with the existing 3 papers without exemption for M.Phil scholars. The curriculum and course structure as prescribed by UGC is given below:

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.


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

Modules	Unit title	Teaching hours
Theory		
RPE 01	Philosophy and Ethics	4
RPE 02	Scientific Conduct	4
RPE 03	Publication Ethics	7
Practice		
RPE 04	Open Access Publishing	4
RPE 05	Publication Misconduct	4
RPE 06	Databases and Research Metrics	7
	Total	30

Syllabus in detail

THEORY

- **RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3 hrs.)**
 1. Introduction to philosophy: definition, nature and scope, concept, branches
 2. Ethics: definition, moral philosophy, nature of moral judgments and reactions
- **RPE 02: SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT (5 hrs.)**
 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


REGISTRAR


PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR


VICE-CHANCELLOR

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SYNDICATE HELD ON 23.10.2020

- **RPE 03: PUBLICATION ETHICS (7 hrs.)**
 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. 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 (4 hrs.)**
 - 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: DATABASE AND RESEARCH METRICS (7 hrs.)**
 - 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 <http://www.neihs.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

As per the orders of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor the matter is placed before the syndicate for consideration and approval.

Resolution of the Syndicate

RESOLVED to entrust the CSS Academic Committee to prepare and submit a suitable proposal for Research and Publications Ethics (RPE) and place the same before the forthcoming Academic Council.


REGISTRAR


PRO-VICE-CHANCELLOR


VICE-CHANCELLOR

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.

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

Syllabus in detail

THEORY

- RPE 01: PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (3 hrs.)**
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 - 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>

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