

**DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE-15 (DSE-15) : Investigative Journalism**

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE**

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
DSE-15: Investigative Journalism	4	3	1	0	Passed Class XIIth with English	NIL

**Learning Objectives**

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- To understand the basics of investigative journalism
- To study investigative stories, their processes and impact
- To familiarise with ethical-legal issues in investigative journalism

**Learning Outcomes**

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- The course will help the students understand and analyse the key areas of investigative journalism required for working as successful investigative reporters.

**Syllabus of DSE – 15**

**Unit 1: Foundations of Investigative Journalism (15 hours)**

- Investigative Reporting: History, Concept, Purpose, Process
- Investigative Journalist- Qualities, Career & Opportunities
- Tools: Sting Operations, Internet / Social media, Right to Information
- Press Commissions: Recommendations on press responsibility, autonomy, and the public interest mandate

**Essential Readings:**

- 1) *Investigative Reporting: A Study in Technique*, Focal Press, 2012 – Spark, David, Chapter 2: Getting the Story. (Page 20–42).
- 2) *Tell Me No Lies: Investigative Journalism and Its Triumphs*, Vintage Digital, 2011 – Pilger, John (ed.), Introduction & Case . (Page 1–32).
- 3) *Committees And Commissions In India*, Kumar, Virendra, Vol. 1: 1947-54. Concept Publishing Company, 1976.

**Unit 2: Tools and Techniques (15 hours)**

- News Sources – Traditional and Digital
- Confidentiality of Source (On/Off the record)
- Fact Checking
- Legal Tools: Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI), Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita , Whistleblower Protection Act, 2014, Information Technology Act, 2000, etc.

**Essential Readings:**

- 1) *Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies for Reporting the Story*, CQ Press, 2007 – Gaines, William C., Chapter 3: Legal Strategies. (Page 54–73)
- 2) *Investigative Reporting: A Study in Technique*, Focal Press, 2012 – Spark, David, Chapter 4: Sources and Confidentiality. (Page 63–80)
- 3) *Journalism Through RTI: Information, Investigation, Impact*, Yadav, Shyamlal, Taylor & Francis, 2024.

**Unit 3: Impact of Investigative Journalism (15 hours)**

- Investigative Journalism's Role in Exposing Corruption
- Landmark Investigations: Panama Papers (2016), Watergate (1972), etc.
- Challenges Faced by Investigative Journalists

**Essential Readings:**

- 1) *Tell Me No Lies: Investigative Journalism and Its Triumphs*, Vintage Digital, 2011 – Pilger, John, Chapter: The Watergate Scandal. (Page 90–112).
- 2) *Investigative Journalism in India: Challenges and the Way Forward*, Media Watch Journal, 2015 – Kumar, M. (Page 33–46)
- 3) *Democracy's detectives: The economics of investigative journalism*. Hamilton, James T, Harvard University Press, 2016.
- 4) *Investigative journalism* , De Burgh, Hugo, Routledge, 2008.

**Unit 4: Ethical Issues and Concerns (15 hours)**

- Ethico-legal Coefficient
- Right to Privacy Vs Public Interest
- Accuracy, Fairness & Conflict of Interest
- Guidelines and principles for ethical journalism

**Essential Readings:**

- 1) *Ethics for Digital Journalists: Emerging Best Practices*, Routledge, 2015 – Craig, David & Zion, L., Chapter 2: Privacy and Public Interest. (Page 41–58)
- 2) *Investigative Journalism: Proven Strategies for Reporting the Story*, CQ Press, 2007 – Gaines, William C., Chapter 5: Ethical Concerns. (Page 87–103)
- 3) *Investigative journalism*, Kieran, Matthew. "The regulatory and ethical framework for investigative journalism." Routledge, 2013. 149-166.

**Practical component: (NIL)****Suggested Readings:**

- S.K. Aggarwal; *Investigative Journalism in India*, Mittal Publications, New Delhi.
- John Carreyrou; *Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup*, Knopf, 2018
- Janet Malcolm, *The Journalist and the Murderer*, Vintage, 1990
- Reports from the *International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)* – <https://www.icij.org>
- *Investigative Journalism Manual*, Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN), available at <https://gijn.org>