



# COTTON UNIVERSITY

Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam-781001

[www.cottonuniversity.ac.in](http://www.cottonuniversity.ac.in) :: email : [acadregistrar@cottonuniversity.ac.in](mailto:acadregistrar@cottonuniversity.ac.in)

No: CU/Acad/ PhD/2019/166/32

Date: 07/02/2020

## NOTICE

### (PhD Coursework Classes)

This is for information to all newly admitted (2019-20 batch) PhD scholars that their coursework will have a total of 14 credits consisting of four papers. Papers I, II and III are each having 4 credits while Paper IV is of 2 credits. The Research Methodology paper (Paper I) shall have common syllabus for all subjects/ Departments under a particular Faculty. Paper II and III are subject/ Department specific. Paper IV is a course on '**Research and Publication Ethics**' (RPE) for awareness about the publication ethics and publication misconduct which has been introduced following a recent UGC directive. The syllabus of the RPE paper (Paper IV) shall be common to all Faculties/ Departments (syllabus attached).

The duration of PhD coursework is one semester. A PhD student will be allowed a maximum of two semesters to clear the coursework examination.

**The classes of Paper II and Paper III shall be conducted by the respective Departments from 13 February.** The schedule of common classes for Paper I and Paper IV shall be notified later.

(S. K. Dutta)  
Academic Registrar

#### Copy to:

1. PS to VC
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प्रो. रजनीश जैन  
सचिव

Prof. Rajnish Jain  
Secretary



विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग  
**University Grants Commission**

(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India)

बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110002  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

Ph : 011-23236288/23239337

Fax : 011-2323 8858

E-mail : secy.ugc@nic.in

D.O.No.F.1-1/2018(Journal/CARE)

December, 2019

**Respected Sir/Madam,**

University Grants Commission in its 543<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> 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 (**attached as Annexure**).

In view of the above, you are requested to ensure that the above two Credit courses may be made compulsory for all Ph.D. students for pre-registration course work undertaken in your University from the forthcoming academic session.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Rajnish Jain)

**TO THE VICE-CHANCELLORS OF ALL UNIVERSITIES**

## ANNEXURE

### **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
<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.)**

- 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

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