

MDE201	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking	1L:1T:0P	2 Credits
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This course equips students with essential media literacy and critical thinking skills to analyze and navigate various media forms. It covers the dynamics of media production and ownership in India, ethical and regulatory considerations, and enhances digital literacy for responsible online engagement. Through comprehensive study and practical exercises, students will learn to critically engage with media content, uncover biases, and make informed decisions in media consumption and production.

Course Objective(s):

1. Develop critical thinking skills to analyze various media forms effectively and identify underlying biases.
2. Foster media literacy principles for navigating digital media landscapes and evaluating credibility.
3. Explore media production dynamics and ownership structures in the Indian context.
4. Address ethical and regulatory considerations in media practices.
5. Enhance digital media literacy for responsible online engagement and combating misinformation.

Course Content:

Unit 1: Foundations of Media Literacy and Critical Thinking

Core principles of media literacy and critical thinking; Definition and significance of media literacy, its historical evolution within the Indian context; Understanding media as a powerful communication tool and its role in shaping societal perceptions and behaviors.

Unit 2: Deconstructing Media Texts

Forms of media texts, including print, broadcast, digital, and social media; Textual analysis and the deconstruction of visual media using semiotics; The impact of media representations on individual perceptions and societal attitudes, from relevant case studies in the Indian context.

Unit 3: Media Consumption and Production Dynamics

Dynamics of media production, distribution, and consumption in India: Influence of ownership and control structures on media content; Techniques for critically evaluating media content and analysing audience consumption patterns

Unit 4: Ethics, Regulation, and Digital Media Literacy

Ethical and regulatory considerations inherent in media practices and the evolving landscape of digital media literacy. Ethical principles in media, the regulatory framework governing media content, and the role of self-regulatory bodies in upholding ethical standards; Digital media's impact on contemporary media literacy practices, strategies for navigating online information, and promoting digital citizenship.

Text Books (Latest Editions):

1. Potter, W. J. *Media literacy* (8th ed.). SAGE Publications.
2. Hobbs, R. *Media literacy in the digital age*. Routledge.
3. Halpern, D. F. *Thought & knowledge: An introduction to critical thinking* (5th ed.). Psychology Press.
4. Kahneman, D. *Thinking, fast and slow*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
5. Baran, S. J., & Davis, D. K. *Mass communication theory: Foundations, ferment, and future* (8th ed.). Cengage Learning.
6. Kahne, J., & Bowyer, B. *Media literacy education in action: Theoretical and pedagogical perspectives*. Routledge.
7. Barbour, K., & Marshall, J. *The media literacy handbook*. ASCD.
8. Bhaskar, N. K. *Media laws and ethics in India*. LexisNexis.
9. West, R., & Turner, L. H. *Understanding intercultural communication: Negotiating a grammar of culture* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
10. Aufderheide, P., & Jaszi, P. *Reclaiming fair use: How to put balance back in copyright* (2nd ed.). University of Chicago Press.
11. Hammond, J. S., Keeney, R. L., & Raiffa, H. *Smart choices: A practical guide to making better decisions*. Harvard Business Review Press.
12. Covey, S. R. *The 7 habits of highly effective people: Powerful lessons in personal change* (30th anniversary ed.). Simon & Schuster.

Course Outcome(s):

1. Demonstrate proficiency in analysing media texts and identifying implicit messages and ideologies.
2. Apply media literacy principles to make informed decisions about media consumption and production.
3. Understand the complexities of media production, distribution, and audience behavior.
4. Adhere to ethical standards in media content creation and consumption.
5. Promote responsible digital citizenship by navigating online information critically and combating misinformation.
