Program	BS PR & Advertising	Course Code	PRAD-111	Credit Hours	3
Course Title	LAWS & ETHICS OF PR & ADVERTISING				

Course Introduction

This course explores the legal and ethical frameworks governing public relations, advertising, and media industries. Students will examine key laws, regulations, and ethical principles, and analyze their application in real-world scenarios. Topics include freedom of speech, privacy rights, intellectual property, ESG considerations, and the impact of emerging technologies on ethical considerations.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes of the study are to:

- 1. Understand the legal and ethical principles underlying public relations, advertising, and media.
- 2. Analyze case studies to evaluate the application of laws and ethical standards in professional practice.
- 3. Develop critical thinking skills to navigate complex legal and ethical dilemmas in the industry.
- 4. Cultivate an awareness of the social and cultural implications of media messaging and advertising.
- 5. Explore emerging issues and technologies shaping the future of ethics in public relations, advertising, and media.

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	Course Content	Assignments/Readings				
Week 1-4	 Introduction to Legal and Ethical Foundations 1.1. Overview of legal systems and ethical theories 1.2. Historical perspectives on media regulation and ethical considerations 1.3. The role of professional codes of ethics in public relations, advertising, and media Freedom of Speech and Expression First Amendment rights and limitations Defamation, libel, and slander laws Obscenity, hate speech, and censorship debates 					
Week 5-6	 3. Privacy and Data Protection 3.1. Privacy laws and regulations (e.g., GDPR, CCPA) 3.2. Ethical considerations in data collection and use 3.3. Surveillance, security, and privacy in the digital age 					
Week 7-8	 4. Intellectual Property Rights 4.1. Copyright law and fair use principles 4.2. Trademarks, patents, and trade secrets 4.3. Ethical issues in content creation, distribution, and ownership 					
Week 9-12	5. Emerging Technologies and Ethics 5.1.AI, big data, and algorithmic decision- making.					

		5.2. Deep fakes, virtual reality, and augmented reality5.3. Ethical guidelines for using new technologies in PR, advertising, and media	
	6.	ESG and CSR Considerations	
Week 13-14		6.1. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles6.2. Ethical foundations of CSR, ESG, and	
		SDG 6.3. Ethical implications of corporate practices on sustainability, social justice, and governance	
	7.	6.4. ESG reporting and its impact on public relations and advertising strategies Media Representation and Diversity	
		7.1. Stereotypes, bias, and representation in media	
		7.2. Cultural competency and sensitivity in advertising and PR campaigns	
		7.3. Ethical considerations in targeting diverse audiences	
	8.	Case Studies and Ethical Decision Making	
Week	8.1. Analyzing real-world cases and ethica dilemmas		
15-16		8.2. Ethical decision-making frameworks and strategies	
		8.3. Final project presentations and reflections	

Textbooks and Reading Material

- 1. Maye, C., Moore, R. L., & Collins, E. L. (2019). *Advertising and public relations law*. Routledge.
- 2. Schauster, E., & Neill, M. (2017). Have the ethics changed? An examination of ethics in advertising and public relations agencies. *Journal of Media Ethics*, 32(1), 45-60.
- 3. Ikonen, P., Luoma-Aho, V., & Bowen, S. A. (2017). Transparency for sponsored content: Analysing codes of ethics in public relations, marketing, advertising and journalism. *International Journal of Strategic Communication*, 11(2), 165-178.
- 4. Thomas, L., & Newman, R. (2009). Social networking and blogging: the new legal frontier. *J. Marshall Rev. Intell. Prop. L.*, 9, i.
- 5. Selected articles and case studies from academic journals and industry publications.

Teaching Learning Strategies

- 1. Class Discussion
- 2. Projects / Assignments
- 3. Group Presentations
- 4. Students led presentations
- 5. Thought Provoking Questions
- 6. Field Visits and Guest Speakers

Assignments: Types and Number with Calendar

Assignments may include special reports, projects, class presentations, field work. The nature of assignment will be decided by the teacher as per the requirements of the course.

Assessment						
Sr. No.	Elements	Weightage	Details			
1.	Midterm Assessment	35%	Written Assessment at the mid-point of the semester.			
2.	Formative Assessment	25%	Continuous assessment includes: Classroom participation, assignments, presentations, viva voce, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, projects, practical, reflections, readings, quizzes etc.			
3.	Final Assessment	40%	Written Examination at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.			