**EHR 2202 African Traditional Justice Systems and Human Rights**

**Course Description**

The course will critically examine the different traditional African justice systems like; *mato oput* (in Acholi Traditions), the Gachacha courts (in Rwandan society), reconciliatory justice, restorative justice, punitive justice (excommunication from societies), etc. It will also examine the issues of justice and law in pre-industrial African societies, the gender issues and justice, the balance between the centrality of the community in contrast to the centrality of the individuals in fostering the rights of the human person like; the crippled, the blind, the lepers, and the disabled in general. The course will also survey the rights of the child, born or unborn, the rights of the elderly, the sick and the widows and widowers in traditional African societies. The will attempt to make caparisons between the modern justice system and the practice of human right with the traditional justice systems and how human right issues were addressed.

**Course Objectives**

1. The aim of the course is to help the students understand the different values systems that underpinned African Traditional justice systems.
2. To identify the strength and weaknesses in the traditional justice systems that may still have influence on the behaviour of the modern African.
3. To compare the traditional African justice systems and human rights practice with the modern justice systems and human rights practice, so as to identify the good practices that may enrich each other.

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course the student should have learnt the following:

1. The values and weaknesses of the different African justice systems and human right practices like; reconciliatory justice, restorative justice, etc.
2. The issues of human rights, justice and law in traditional African Societies in regard to women and men, children and adults, able and the disabled, the individual and the community, widows and widowers, orphans and the other children, strangers and community members.
3. The comparative advantages between the traditional justice systems and human right practices and the modern systems.

**Course Outline**

1. Introduction
2. African Traditional Justice Systems and human rights practices
3. Mato Oput
4. Gachacha Courts
5. Reconciliatory Justice and human rights
6. Restorative Justice and human rights
7. Punitive justice and human rights
8. Orphans and other children
9. Human rights, Justice and law in traditional African societies
10. Women and Men
11. Children and Adults
12. Able and Disabled
13. Individuals and Community
14. Widows and widowers
15. Orphans and other children
16. Comparative analysis of traditional justice systems and human rights practice and modern systems
17. Conclusions.

**Methodology**

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; lectures, seminars, question and answer, demonstration, expert talks, group discussions, brain storming.

**Assessment Mode**

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

**Reading list**

W. Wille, Socialist Ideologies in Africa, Pro Dialogo Bulletin, Vol. 12, 32-51

E.E.Y. Evans-Pritchard, The Position of Women in Primitive Societies and in our Own, London, 1965.

S. Nomenvo, Sexuallife, Marriage, Famille, AACC, Ibandan 1972.

P. Rigby, Cattle and Kinship Among the Gogo, Cornell, 1969, pp.278-9.

J.O. Frazer, The Golden Bough, London, 1977, Pro Dialogo Bulletin Vol.12, pp.32-51