**LAW 1108 FUNDAMENTALS OF CRIMINAL LAW**

**Course Description**

This course is designed to enable students to understand criminal justice system. The course covers the introductory legal principles and theories underlying crime, criminal responsibility, offences and defences.

**Course Content**

The topics covers in this course include;

Nature of Criminal Law - Sources of Criminal law; General Principles of Criminal Responsibility; General Rules of Criminal Responsibility; Parties to Offences; Attempts and Conspiracies; general defences in criminal responsibility, preparatory offences, and general defences to charges. Emerging Trends in criminal matters – new crimes e.g. money laundering, terrorism, trafficking, cyber crimes; international cooperation in criminal matters i.e. mutual assistance schemes, extradition, dealing with crime proceeds.

**Course Objectives**

The objectives of the course are:

1. To enable students to get knowledge of the purpose and nature of criminal law.
2. To give students knowledge relating to circumstances that cause or negate criminal liability.
3. To equip candidates with techniques on how to identify ingredients of crimes.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course, the student should be expected to:

1. Identify the proper jurisdiction in criminal matters.
2. Know the basic elements of a crime.
3. Understand the scope of criminal responsibility.
4. Involve appropriate general defences in support of persons accused of crimes.
5. Discuss emerging issues relating to crimes both at national and global levels.

**Methods of Instruction**

1. At the commencement of the course, students are availed with reading lists, which indicate the topics to be covered, and the respective reading materials for the respective topics. It is expected that the student uses this list in preparation for each lecture.
2. The students are introduced to each topic and guided on the principles therein. Thereafter, students will be given problems for discussion in class. Students are further encouraged to also formulate their problems for discussion during the lectures.

**Assessment**

1. A coursework will be administered during the coursework week to be marked out of 30 marks.
2. An examination will be given at the end of the semester to be marked out of 70 marks.