**LAW 1206 LEGAL METHODS**

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the basics of legal research and writing, the legal profession, legal education and preparation for and taking law examinations. It also examines the various ways and methods by which deeds and statutes are interpreted and how the law has responded to the new challenges and innovations affecting the legal profession.

**Course Content**

Topics include: Legal Research and Writing; Legal Philosophy; precedents and Legal reasoning; customary law; statutory interpretation; the legal profession; legal education and social change; preparation for and taking law examinations.

**Course Objectives**

The key objectives are:

1. To provide the students with the necessary skills in legal research and writing.
2. To equip the students with both the theoretical and practical aspects of the legal profession.
3. To explore the relationship between the law and legal philosophy.
4. To discuss reforms in the legal profession and legal education.
5. To establish the link between legal research and writing.
6. To discuss the link between the quality of legal education, the practice of law and the administration of justice.
7. To understand the instruments and aids to statutory interpretation.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students are expected to have acquired ability to apply the basic skills of legal research and writing, appreciate their over-arching character in relation to the legal profession; fully comprehend the main principles of statutory interpretation and its relationship with legal practice and the administration of justice and to be able to apply the key principles and skills of legal research and writing in their legal education.

**Methods of Instruction**

1. At the commencement of the course, students are given 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 problem questions for discussion in class. Students are further encouraged to also formulate 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.