**LAW 2209 FAMILY LAW I**

Course Description

Family Law I, deals primarily with the legal principles, processes and institutions applicable to domestic relationships, especially those arising from legally recognized forms of marriage and various forms of unmarried cohabitation.

**Course Content**

In Family Law I, the main topics covered include;

1. Understanding of the institution of the family as the smallest unit of society.
2. Examining the different laws that protect this institution including the: Constitution of Uganda, the Penal Code Act, the Marriage Act, the Islamic Marriage and Divorce Act, the Customary Marriage and Registration Act, the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act, The Divorce Act and all other national and international legislations recognized by Uganda.
3. The process of formation of the different types of marriages recognized in Uganda.
4. What constitutes a void and voidable marriage?
5. The legal rights and duties that accrues to spouses after validly celebrating any legally recognized marriage.
6. The grounds and procedure for the annulment, separation and dissolution of the different forms of marriages.

**Course Objectives**

The aim of this course is

* 1. To acquaint students with the legal concepts that governs family in Uganda.
  2. To explore the legal requirements relating to the formation of a valid marriage under various forms of marriage including civil marriages, church marriages, Islamic marriages, customary marriages and Hindu marriages
  3. To understand grounds for the dissolution of the different forms of marriages.
  4. To enable the students to understand the differences between annulment, separation and divorce agreements.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of Family Law I, the students are expected to have acquired the requisite knowledge and be able:

1. To give a thorough outline of the fundamental principles governing family relations in Uganda.
2. To examine the constitutional protection of the family unit as well as institutions involved in the implementation of Family Law in Uganda.
3. To examine the different forms of marriages recognized in Uganda and the requirements for their validity.
4. To examine the grounds and process of separation, nullification or dissolution of the different forms of marriage recognized in Uganda.
5. To understand the rights of spouses and children during the subsistence of a valid marriage and at its separation or dissolution by a court of competent jurisdiction or by death.
6. To develop a critical perspective on the operation and interaction of the various areas of family law, with an awareness of the social and economic context in which family law operates.
7. To emphasize the relevance of historical or customary practices to the analysis and understanding of family law issues.
8. To develop skills necessary for the formulation of legal advice and argument in family law situations.

**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.