**LAW 3108 JURISPRUDENCE I**

**Course Description**

The course examines the major schools of jurisprudence with a view to explore both their weaknesses and potency. Jurisprudence I is a starting point for the whole course on Jurisprudence.

**Course Content**

1. An introduction to epistemology (theories of knowledge) and its relationship to theories of law;
2. The need for and relevance of jurisprudence within the entire course of LLB and the training of a socially relevant lawyer;
3. Traditional Euro-American schools of Jurisprudence that should at least include the following:
4. Natural law;
5. Classical and analytical positivism;
6. Normative positivism, Kelsen’s pure theory of law and its application to Africa;
7. The Historical and Anthropological schools;
8. American and Scandinavian legal realism;
9. The Sociological school;
10. Marxist theories of law and state.

**Course Objectives**

Jurisprudence I is intended to introduce the student to major philosophical questions and approaches to the understanding of law and legal systems.

In this regard it is intended specifically to instill in the student the following:

1. Understanding the relationship between epistemology and legal theory;
2. Ability to understand, evaluate and critique law, legal systems and legal processes;
3. A critical knowledge of major Euro-Amerian schools of Jurisprudence and their relevance to Africa.

**Learning Outcomes**

The student is expected at the end of Jurisprudence I:

1. To be able to understand the way any legal system is constituted and how law is related to philosophy, history, politics, culture and the economy;
2. To have a critical attitude with regard to law and the legal system and compare Uganda’s and other legal systems;
3. To apply legal theory to understanding contemporary law and contemporary legal problems.

**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 problem questions 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.