**LAW 3111 Conflict of Laws**

**Course Description**

This course covers the choice of laws where there are competing applicable laws depending on territorial jurisdictions. The competing laws may relate to commercial transactions, domestic relations, property rights, enforcements of judgments. The course guides students on how to ascertain the power in given situations of competing matters of state sovereignty.

**Course Content**

Specific topics covered in the subject include determination of jurisdiction in civil matters, impeachment defenses to the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, forum non conveniens, domicile, classification, renvoi, choice of law (in tort, contract, property and matrimonial matters), succession, the revenue law rule, and comity.

**Course Objectives**

The principal aim of the course is to enable students to understand how to determine, inter alia:

1. When courts will assume jurisdiction to decide cases with `foreign' elements;
2. When courts will recognize or enforce the judgments of courts from other jurisdictions; and
3. How to choose which legal system's substantive law will govern the resolution of issues in dispute.

**Learning Outcomes**

The course is designed to equip students with a good appreciation/understanding of the concepts and doctrines of the subject to enable them guide courts in the selection of jurisdiction; determination of when and whether a given court should recognize and enforce a foreign judgment or not; and how the process of selection of the applicable law is undertaken in the resolution of disputes with foreign connections.

**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.