**LAW 3114 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Course Description**

The study of human rights is designed to introduce the student to the evolution of the concept of the protection of human dignity, through its natural law origins to its modern positivist re/statement in conventions and resolutions at the international and regional settings. This particular component of the course will explore the protection of human rights within the regional systems (Europe, Americas, Africa and recently Asia). The emphasis shall lie with the philosophical basis of rights, mechanisms for the protection, supervision and implementation, and the process of determination of complaints or petitions before the organs of these systems.

**Course Content**

Historical and theoretical foundations; Universality and cultural relativism; International debate on categories of rights in the Cold War context; Promulgation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); the International Covenants and the various Instruments and Institutions Relating thereto; African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR); and the Commissions established there under; Extra territorial issues.

**Course Objectives**

This course is therefore aimed at studying human rights as an international norm and its development from an international perspective. Some of the issues to be examined include the controversies surrounding not only the philosophy of international human rights law but also the different rights and characterizations. This is in addition to an extensive discussion of the international systems and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights at the international level. The mechanisms and system at the continental levels, Europe, Africa and America will also be examined. Also to be examined are the different sources of international human rights law, focusing specifically on treaties and custom.

**Learning Outcomes**

It is expected that by the end of the course students should have a thorough understanding of the philosophy of human rights and its evolution. The different sources and categories of human rights should also have been understood. Importantly, students should have the knowledge and skills to relate human rights to contemporary challenges in economic, social and political arenas of life.

**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.