**LAW 4216 GENDER AND THE LAW**

## Course Description

The course covers the social, cultural and political concepts of gender as reflected in the laws. It concerns itself with the domestic and international regimes concerning gender and the law and analyzes areas for reform.

**Course Content**

Gender as an analytical concept; Gender-Based Discrimination; Legal Foundations of Ugandan Women’s subordination; Formal Equality Vs. Substantive Equality; Women’s Rights in the International Legal Framework; Feminist Jurisprudence; Gender in Contract Law; Gender and Citizenship; Gender and Family Law; Gender-Based Violence; Law and Sexuality; Gender and Property Law; Gender and Employment Law; Qualities and Limitations of Law Reform for Gender-Based Discrimination.

**Course Objectives**

The primary objective of this course is

* 1. To unpack the traditional legal theories and concepts with a view to expose the social, cultural and political dynamics that influence their practical application.
  2. To explore legal rules, procedures and practices from a gendered perspective, challenging underlying legal assumptions that have always been taken for granted.
  3. To explore role that the law plays in maintaining a gendered society in Uganda wherein women are subordinated to men.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students will have acquired the analytical skills to critically question seemingly “gender-neutral,” “objective” and “universal” legal concepts and norms. Students shall have the ability to perceive and understand the subtle ways – normally hidden from view – which the law employs to perpetuate gender discrimination.

Students will be expected to:

1. Be able to link theory, practice in the application of laws;
2. To contribute to law reform as an integrative and interactive process;
3. Enhance students’ awareness of how legal concepts can be transformed to make them more responsive to the needs and concerns of women.

**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