LAW 4219 COMPUTERS AND THE LAW

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to impact of information technology on the law, the practice of law and the administration of justice. It also examines the various ways and mechanisms through which the law has responded to the new technological environment and the challenges that have come with it.

**Course Content**

Topics include: Introduction to Computer architecture; hardware and software; Internet and the Law; the Right to privacy; Database Protection; computer Misuse and crime; and Intellectual property issues.

**Course Objectives**

The objectives of the course is to;

* 1. Expose the students to legal aspects of computer use.
  2. Enable students to understand the effect of information technology on privacy and human rights.
  3. Understand the impact of information technology on the law.
  4. Discuss the role of information technology in the administration of justice.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students will be expected to have grasped the basic elements of Computer and the Law, appreciate its over-arching character in relation to the Internet; fully comprehend the main principles of computer and its relationship with human rights (right to privacy and database protection) and to be able to apply the key principles of computer and the law to the practice of law and the administration of justice.

**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.