

**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA
FACULTY OF LAW**

DEPARTMENT OF JURISPRUDENCE AND LEGAL THEORY

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES (LL.M AND Ph.D)

1.1 PHILOSOPHY, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The general LL.B programmes in Law and the Law School training qualify students as general legal practitioners. LL.M and Ph. D programmes, on the other hand, enable students to qualify as specialist in specific areas of Law. The postgraduate programmes of the Department Jurisprudence and legal theory are designed to offer the students an opportunity to expand their intellectual capacity in legal research and to become sound legal practitioners, publicists and scholars.

The programmes, thus aim to bring about a critical mass of knowledge and specialisation in specific areas of legal thought. It will also lead to improved skill and competence as well as inculcating evidence based knowledge through legal research methods in resolving legal issues/challenges.

The postgraduate programmes of the Department of Jurisprudence and Legal Theory cover the following areas of specialisation: Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Comparative Jurisprudence, International Criminal Theory, and Development, Justice and Human Rights.

1.2 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The programmes will produce specialist Law graduates who can excel as legal experts in their chosen field at various levels. It is also expected that graduates of the program become critical thinkers with the ability to proffer sound theoretical and practical solutions to contemporary problems in the Nigerian society and the world at large. The theoretical foundations given to students during the programme will place them in good stead to excel in the public and private sectors.

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA
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DEPARTMENT OF JURISPRUDENCE AND LEGAL THEORY POST GRADUATE
PROGRAMMES

1.1. Philosophy, Objectives and Scope

The LL.M and Ph. D programmes are designed to enable students to qualify as specialist in specific areas of Law. The postgraduate programmes of the Department Jurisprudence and legal theory are designed to offer the students an opportunity to expand their intellectual capacity in legal research and to become sound legal practitioners, publicists and scholars.

The programmes, thus aim to bring about a critical mass of knowledge and specialisation in specific areas of legal thought. It will also lead to improved skill and competence as well as inculcating evidence based knowledge through legal research methods in resolving legal issues/challenges.

The postgraduate programmes of the Department of Jurisprudence and Legal Theory cover the following areas of specialisation: Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Comparative Constitutionalism, International Criminal Law and Theory, and Development, Law and Development.

1.2. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The programmes will produce specialist Law graduates who can excel as legal experts in their chosen field at various levels. It is also expected that graduates of the program become critical thinkers with the ability to proffer sound theoretical and practical solutions to contemporary problems in the Nigerian society and the world at large. The theoretical foundations given to students during the programme will place them in good stead to excel in the public and private sectors.

1.3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Master of Laws (LL.M) and PhD in Law

(a). Master of Laws (LL.M)

The following shall qualify for admission into the Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory:

Graduates of the University of Nigeria or of other recognized universities who have obtained a degree of bachelor with at least a second class honours (lower division) with CGPA of not less than 3.0 on a 5-point scale.

(b). Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law

The following shall qualify for admission into the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law degree in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory:

Graduates of the University of Nigeria or of other recognized universities with a good Master's degree in Law (LL.M), with a minimum CGPA of 3.5 on a 5-point scale or 3.0 on a 4-point scale or 60% or a B grade and Project score not lower than 60% (B).

1.4. DURATION OF PROGRAMMES

(a). Master of Laws (LL.M)

- (i) Full-time: A minimum of three (3) semesters and a maximum of six (6) semesters.
- (ii) Part-time: A minimum of five (5) semesters and a maximum of eight (8) semesters.

(b). Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law

- (i) Full-time: A minimum of six (6) semesters and a maximum of ten (10) semesters.
- (ii) Part-time: A minimum of eight (8) semesters and a maximum of twelve (12) semesters.

1.5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

A Student must have fulfilled, in addition to other University requirements, the following conditions to be awarded:

(a) Master of Laws (LL.M) Degree

To be awarded the Master of Laws (LL.M) degree in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, a student must have registered and passed a minimum of 39 credit units of both compulsory and elective courses as follows:

Compulsory courses -	12 units
Elective courses -	18 units
Seminar -	3 units
Project -	6 units
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	39 units

(b) Doctor of Philosophy in Law (PhD)

To be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Law (PhD) degree in International and Comparative Law, a student must have registered and passed a minimum of 36 credit units of both compulsory and elective courses as follows:

Course Work (Both Compulsory and Elective) -	15 units
Compulsory Paper Presentations -	6 units
PhD Thesis Seminar -	3 units
Thesis -	12 units
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	36 units

2. CURRICULUM SPECIFICATION TABLE

(a) Master of Laws (LL.M)

FIRST SEMESTER

2 Compulsory courses	- 6 units
2 Courses from Core Area	- 6 units
1 Elective course from Alternate Area	- 3 units
	<hr/> 15 units

SECOND SEMESTER

2 Compulsory courses	- 6 units
2 Courses from Core Area	- 6 units
1 Elective course from Alternate Area	- 3 units
	<hr/> 15 units

THIRD SEMESTER

Seminar	3 units
Project	<hr/> 6 units
	9 units

(b) Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law

(i) First Year

FIRST SEMESTER

1 Compulsory course	- 3 units
2 Courses (1 from Core Area, 1 from alternate area)	- 6 units
	<hr/> 9 units

SECOND SEMESTER

2 Courses (1 from Core Area, 1 from alternate area)	- 6 units
	<hr/> 6 units

(ii) Second Year

FIRST SEMESTER

Research Proposal	- 3 units
	<hr/> 3 units

SECOND SEMESTER

Book and/or Journal Article Review-	3 units
	<hr/> 3 units

(iii) Third Year

FIRST SEMESTER

PhD Seminar	- 3 units
	<hr/> 3 units

SECOND SEMESTER

PhD Thesis Defence	- 12 units
	<hr/> 12 units

3. STRESS AREAS/AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

0. Fundamentals (Research Methodology, Legal Research Writing, Research Proposal, Synopsis/Grant Writing)
1. Jurisprudence and Legal Theory
2. Comparative Constitutionalism
3. International Criminal Law and Theory
4. Law and Development

5. Seminar
6. Project

4. BREAKDOWN OF COURSES FOR LL.M PROGRAMME

FIRST SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSES			
1	PGC 601	ICT and Research Methodology	3 Units
2	JLT 611	Jurisprudence and Legal Theory I	3 Units
THREE ELECTIVES COURSES (TWO FROM STUDENT'S CORE AREA, ONE FROM NON-CORE AREA)			
3	JLT 613	International Legal Theory I	3 Units
4	JLT 615	Cultural Relativism I	3 Units
5	JLT 617	Law and Globalization I	3 Units
6	JLT 619	Customary Law and Jurisprudence I	3 Units
7	JLT 621	Comparative Constitutionalism I	3 Units
8	JLT 623	African Legal Theory I	3 Units
9	JLT 625	Dispute Settlement in Customary Law I	3 Units
10	JLT 627	Environmental Constitutionalism I	3 Units
11	JLT 631	Criminology I	3 Units
12	JLT 633	International Criminal Law and Theory I	3 Units
13	JLT 641	Law and Development I	3 Units
14	JLT 643	Human Rights and Justice	3 Units
15	JLT 645	War and Humanitarian Law I	3 Units
16	JLT 647	Indigenous Rights I	3 Units
TOTAL			15 Units

SECOND SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSES			
1	LAW 602	Legal Research Writing	3 Units
2	ICL 612	Jurisprudence and Legal Theory II	3 Units
THREE ELECTIVES COURSES (TWO FROM STUDENT'S CORE AREA, ONE FROM NON-CORE AREA)			
3	JLT 614	International Legal Theory II	3 Units
4	JLT 616	Religion and War	3 Units
5	JLT 618	Law and Globalization II	3 Units
6	JLT 622	Customary Law and Jurisprudence II	3 Units
7	JLT 624	Comparative Constitutionalism II	3 Units
8	JLT 626	Earth Jurisprudence	3 Units
9	JLT 628	African Legal Theory II	3 Units

10	JLT 632	Criminology II	3 Units
11	JLT 634	International Security Studies	3 Units
12	JLT 636	International Criminal Law and Theory II	3 Units
13	JLT 642	Law and Development II	3 Units
14	JLT 644	Human Rights and Justice II	3 Units
15	JLT 646	War and Humanitarian Law II	3 Units
16	JLT 648	Indigenous Rights II	3 Units
TOTAL			15 Units

THIRD SEMESTER			
1	JLT 681	Seminar in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory	3 Units
2	JLT 691	Project	6 Units
TOTAL			9 Units

5. BREAKDOWN OF COURSES FOR PhD PROGRAMMES

(i) First Year

FIRST SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSE			
1	PGC 701	Synopsis and Research Grant Writing	3 Units
TWO ELECTIVE COURSES (ONE FROM CORE AREA, ONE FROM NON-CORE AREA)			
2	JLT 711	Advanced Seminar in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory I	3 Units
3	JLT 721	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Constitutionalism I	3 Units
4	JLT 731	Advanced Seminar in International Criminal Theory	3 Units
5	JLT 741	Advanced Seminar in Law and Development I	3 Units
TOTAL			9 Units
SECOND SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
TWO ELECTIVE COURSES (ONE FROM CORE AREA, ONE FROM NON-CORE AREA)			
6	JLT 712	Advanced Seminar in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory II	3 Units
7	JLT 722	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Constitutionalism II	3 Units
8	JLT 733	Advanced Seminar in International Criminal Law and	3 Units

		Theory II	
9	JLT 744	Advanced Seminar in Law and Development II	3 Units
TOTAL			6 Units

(ii) Second Year

FIRST SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSE			
1	JLT 781	Research Proposal	3 Units
TOTAL			3 Units
SECOND SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSE			
2	JLT 782	Books and/or Journal Article Review	3 Units
TOTAL			3 Units

(ii) Third Year

FIRST SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSE			
3	JLT 783	PhD Thesis Seminar	3 Units
TOTAL			3 Units
SECOND SEMESTER			
S/N	COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CREDIT UNITS
COMPULSORY COURSE			
4	JLT 790	PhD Thesis	12 Units
TOTAL			12 Units

5. DESCRIPTION OF COURSES FOR MASTER OF LAW (LL.M) PROGRAMME

PGC 701: Synopsis and Grant Writing

(3 Units)

This course identifies types and nature of grant and grant writing as well as meaning of grants application calls on the internet. The course determines appropriate strategy for grant application; Study of various grant application structures and contents and writing of concept notes, detailed project description, budgeting and budget defence. Study of sample grant writings in various forms and writing of mock research and other grants are part of this course. Students are taught University of Nigeria synopsis structure and requirements, (Introduction, Methodology and Results); determining the content of each sub-unit of the synopsis; Steps in writing of synopsis from the Dissertation/Thesis document, structural and language issues. Common errors in synopsis writing and strategies for avoiding them are discussed. The roles of the student and the supervisor in the writing of synopsis are discussed as well as writing of mock synopsis.

JLT 611: Jurisprudence and Legal Theory

(3 Units)

This module discusses the conceptual and philosophical underpinnings of the laws and institutions of key jurisdictions around the world. It is an attempt to familiarize the students with the origins of legal cultures around the world. The objective of the course is to aid the formation of critical legal thought in the student. Key concepts include functions of law and Justice, law and social change, interaction of law on social values, social facts and legal theory etc.

JLT 614: International Legal Theory

(3 Units)

The main aim of this course is to introduce the student to key concepts and theories that have emanated from the legal and political relations of states in the international legal order. It also captures the place of individuals and non-state actors in contemporary times. The student is expected to gain insight into the historical as well as contemporary theoretical explanations for the behaviour of states and other objects of international law. The module adopts a multidisciplinary approach. Key theories include Critical Legal Theory, Natural and Positivist theory, Liberal Theory, Structuralism, Multilateralism, and International Organization Theory etc. Works of scholars such as Martti Koskenniemi, Thomas Franck, Louis Henkin, Jean D'Aspremont, Jan Klabbers and others will be referred to in this module.

JLT 617: Law and Globalization

(3 Units)

Law and Globalization mines the problems that the phenomenon of globalization poses in contemporary times. It discusses the practicality in harnessing norms and laws to addressing global challenges. It also scrutinizes the new role of corporations in the advancement of globalization, and also some of the challenges this institutions pose as they grow in resources and dictate the direction of state policy. Theories such as New Institutional Economics (NIE), Global Administrative Law (GAL), Global constitutionalism, and Compliance Theory will be discussed.

JLT 619: Customary Law and Jurisprudence**(3 Units)**

This module exposes traditional formations of legal thought and practice. At its core, it evinces the fundamental theories of native law and custom and also analyzes key traditional institutions viz-a-viz its co-existence with common law and other national legislations in Nigeria's pluralistic legal system.

JLT 621: Comparative Constitutionalism**(3 Units)**

This course will bring to the knowledge of the student the constitutional make-up of the main legal systems around the world. It will deepen the student's understanding of the Nigerian constitutional system while enabling the student to place it side by side with other advanced constitutional systems. Key topics include: notion of constitutional law, constitutional law and constitutionalism, classification of constitutions, comparative analysis of the Westminster Parliamentary Democracy with the American Presidential System, the French Presidential system and the Constitution of the Swiss Confederacy etc.

JLT 623: African Legal Theory**(3 Units)**

African Legal and political theory exposes the shared legal values and concepts of African States. It traces the early formative stages of legal and political thinking at the continental level and how these have manifested in the formation of regional institutions to solve common problems for African States. Key theories include Pan-Africanism, Regional Integration in Africa, Ubuntu as a shared expression for African communalism etc. Works of contemporary scholars such as Kofi Oteng Kufour, Tiyanjana Maluwa, Richard Frimpong Oppong, James Thuo Gathii will be discussed as part of this module.

JLT 627: Environmental Constitutionalism**(3 Units)**

This module compares the constitutional provisions of various jurisdictions on the environment. It maps the timeline of the evolution of environmental justice as an emergent norm in national jurisdictions and at international level. The aim of this module is to familiarize the student with the current practices of environmental protection through national laws. The works of key scholars such as May and Daly, Dina Shelton, Phillippe Sands form the fulcrum of this module.

JLT 631: Criminology**(3 Units)**

This module adopts a socio-legal approach to discussing the conception of crime under criminal law and criminology. It establishes the relationship between criminal law and criminology. Students will learn the key theories of criminology i.e factors of criminal causation; specific criminology, involving specific offences against persons and property. It also discusses the key aspects of criminal justice systems in various jurisdictions. Topics such as organized and political offences, traffic and motoring offences, and white collar crimes are also covered.

JLT 633: International Criminal Law and Theory**(3 Units)**

International Criminal Law and Theory addresses the prosecution of the worst kind of crimes known to man. It centralizes criminal law at international level and also the role of the

international criminal courts in ensuring that perpetrators of crimes that trouble the collective conscience of humanity such as war crimes, crimes against humanity etc face justice. This course will cover the establishment and jurisdiction of the international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court (ICC). It is also expected that students will be able to form theoretical understanding of the practice of prosecuting international crimes as well as understand post-conflict theories and practices in Africa and other conflict hotspots.

JLT 634: International Security Studies

(3 Units)

The International Security Studies course examines the basic concepts surrounding conflicts in contemporary times. The course applies theory to State practice on the phenomenon of conflict, regional security and other complex issues plaguing the UN system for peace and security. Topics covered by this course include; internal war and state failure; the management of humanitarian emergencies by alliances and international organizations; Terrorism and Counter-terrorism etc

JLT 641: Law and Development

(3 Units)

This course introduces the student to the possibilities of harnessing laws, legal institutions and legal theories to addressing developmental issues. A multidisciplinary approach is adopted to balance the roles of law and economics in the promotion of social development. The student is expected to advance her understanding of the instrumentality of law in the quest to achieve economic and social development, particularly in developing countries and emerging markets. This field includes a basic course on law and development, as well as more specialized courses in international financial institutions and law, foreign investment, and intellectual property law, as well as courses from other disciplines that impact on economic development.

JLT 645: War and Humanitarian Law

(3 Units)

This course discusses the history of wars and its impact on the field of international humanitarian law. Central to this course are the doctrines and key tenets of international humanitarian law also referred to as *jus in bello*, the law of armed conflict, and the laws of war. This course examines how developing norms and practices expand the existing framework. Students are also expected to develop an understanding of the *jus ad bellum* (justifications for war). Students will generally come across topics such as the interaction between human rights and humanitarian law, humanitarian assistance during war, the connection between international humanitarian law and war crimes, the distinction between combatants and civilians, weapon bans and precautions in attack and other related concepts.

JLT 647: Indigenous Rights

(3 Units)

Indigenous rights is an emerging discipline at the intersection between human rights and constitutional law which addresses the challenges related with rights and cultures of indigenous peoples. Students are expected to gain understanding of the concept of indigeneship, the culture of major indigenous groups in Nigeria and Africa and the extant jurisprudence on the rights of indigenous people. Popular topics include the right of indigeneous people to land and a satisfactory environment, statelessness and indigenous people, citizenship and indigeneship etc.

JLT 624: Earth Jurisprudence**(3 Units)**

This discipline takes an ecocentric approach to environmental justice. It examines the possibility of forming environmental norms around the understanding the animals and other organic life forms have rights and should be the central focus of environmental law and policy.