



LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Education

Department of Library and Information Science

COURSE DETAILS

Course Code: LIS 317

Course Title: Legal Information Sources and Services

No. of Units: 3

Status: Compulsory

LECTURER(S) DETAILS

Name: Adetunji O. Albert (Mr.)

Qualification: Dip. L.S, BLIS, MLIS, PDG Comp. Sc. LLB.

Phone: 08032376012

Email: broalbert@yahoo.com

Area of Specialization: Knowledge organization, Cataloging & Classification and Legal Information Sources and Services.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles and knowledge of legal resources. It sets out to introduce some fundamentals that will underpin the students' understanding of law and legal research. During this course, students will learn, among other topics, about legal research, legal reasoning in judicial and legislative processes and dispute resolution as well as competences of a law librarian.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the course is to introduce the fundamental principles and applications of sources of law. This course gives students an understanding of general principles of law and how they can be used in relation to other branches of law. This will be achieved by: methods of social control through law; introducing students to the basic sources of law; use of source materials and legal research.

ASSESSMENT

Class Attendance	10 marks
Test (s) and Assignment	30 marks
Final Examination	60 marks

Week	Topic
Week 1	Understanding legal research and the concept of “finding the law in the library”
Week 2	Legal Reasoning in Judicial Process
Week 3	Legal Reasoning in Legislative Process
Week 4	Core competencies for law librarian
Week 5	Sources of legal information
Week 6 & 7	Law reference materials: Various types of law dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories and guides, law digests etc.
Weeks 8	Classification: Moy’s classification scheme
Weeks 9	Tracing and Citation of Statutes, Law Reports, Case Law, Periodicals, Reference Books
Weeks 10	Workshops on practical classification of library materials.
Week 11	Use of Technology and online resources in law
Week 12	Revision, Revision, Revision

READING LIST

1. Dada T.O. General principles of law. 3rd ed. 2013
2. Abiola Sanni: ‘Introduction to Nigerian Legal Method’, 2006, Obafemi Awolowo University
3. Adewale Taiwo: ‘Basic Concepts in Legal Research Methodology’, 2011, St. Paul’s Publishing House.
4. Obilade, O.A.: ‘The Nigerian legal System’, 1994, Sweet & Maxwell, London

TUTORIAL QUESTIONS

1. Define legal research in the context of the phrase “finding the law”
2. List and briefly explain issues involved in legal reasoning in judicial process
3. (a) Define and briefly explain legislative drafting process.
(b) State and briefly explain the various stages in legislative drafting processes.
4. Explain the concept of judicial precedent and examine its importance in the Nigerian judicial process.
5. Write short notes on the following, giving examples where necessary.
 - i. Stare decisis
 - ii. Ratio decidendi
 - iii. Per incuriam
 - iv. Obiter dictum
6. State and critically explain the core competencies of a law librarian
7. (a) Define statutes.
(b) List and briefly explain the various parts of a statute
8. Write short notes on the use of the following materials that can be found in a law library:
 - i. Dictionaries
 - ii. Encyclopedias
 - iii. Directories
 - iv. Thesaurus
 - v. Precedent Books
9. (a) List the subject structure of the Moy’s classification scheme of which the Call Mark is based.
10. Write notes on the following:
 - i. Negotiation
 - ii. Arbitration
 - iii. Mediation
 - iv. Conciliation
11. ADR is fast gaining ground as an alternative to litigation in Nigeria. Discuss.
12. List and briefly explain the main sources of law in Nigeria.