**Addis Ababa University**

**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Introduction to Law**

**(Course Syllabus)**

Season: March 2020 - June 2020

Course Title: Introduction to Law

Students: Undergraduate Program (Social work group II)

Credit Hours: 3 hrs per week

Class Hours: Wednesday (9:00 am - 12:00 pm)

Instructor: Adamnesh Atnafu (E-mail: [adamne6@yahoo.com](mailto:adamne6@yahoo.com); Cell: 0911 229402)

**Course Description**

This course mainly focuses on the nature of law in general, basic features of law, sources of law, and the making and repeal of laws. In addition, hierarchy and classification of laws will be covered under the course. Students shall also be introduced to the modern legal systems of the world and begin to learn how to interpret written laws and essential legal skill of lawyers.

**Objectives**

After a successful completion of the course, students are expected to achieve basic knowledge and competence regarding:

* The nature of law;
* The distinction between legal norms and non-legal norms;
* The significance of material sources of Ethiopian laws;
* How to compose ideas on formal sources of our laws;
* Classification and law-making process in Ethiopia;
* Laws in their hierarchical order;
* The process of making of laws in Ethiopia;
* Rules of interpretation of Ethiopian laws; and
* The common rules applicable to all juridical acts

**Course outline**

**Session I: Nature and Functions of Law**

* Definition of Law
* Basic Features of Law
* Theories of Law
* Function of Law
* Relationship between Law and State
* Difference between Legal Norms and Non-legal Norms

**Session II: Sources of Law**

* Meaning of the term source
* Material sources of Law
* Formal sources of Law

**Session III: Major Legal Systems in the World**

* Legal system defined
* The Anglo-American Legal System (Common Law)
* The Civil Law Legal System
* Merits and Demerits of Case Law and Statutory systems

**Session IV: Classification of Laws**

* General introduction
* Public and private Law
* International and national law
* Substantive and procedural law

**Session V: The Making of Laws**

* Introduction
* Steps in law making
* Comparative study of law making process in Ethiopia Civil and Criminal Law

**Session VI: Hierarchy of Laws**

* General Supremacy of Constitution in the hierarchy of Laws: Substantial and formal reasons
* Comparative study of hierarchy of laws in Ethiopia

**Session VII: Interpretation of Laws General**

* Types of interpretation
* Constitutional interpretation
* Who interprets the Constitution?
* The role of international agreements in interpreting the Constitution Rules/techniques of statutory interpretation

**Session VIII: Repeal of Laws**

* General concepts
* Types of repeal
* Effects of repeal

**Session IX: Juridical Acts**

* Definition and importance
* Rules common to all types of juridical acts
* Effects of juridical acts

**Method**

A combination of methods namely, Lecture, Discussions, session summary essays, and Student Presentations will be used.

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed on the basis of efforts exerted to work. The items of assessment will be a brief essay on the sessions in consultation with the instructor, class participation, and an exam. The details will be sorted out in due course.

# Grading

As per the school’s regulation.

### Course Policies and Expectation

It is expected that students who enroll in this course understand that the fundamental values and the ethical code of the social work profession apply to the actions of students in the course. Attendance at class sessions and full participation in class activities is the personal responsibility of each student.

**Students with Special Needs**

Any special needs related to a student’s ability to complete the course successfully should be discussed with the instructor for consideration.

**Reference**

* Giday Degefu Koraro, Traditional Mechanisms of Conflict Resolution in Ethiopia, E11PD (2000) G.W. Paton, A Text Book of Jurisprudence, Oxford (1967)
* Heinrich Scholler, Notes on Constitutional Interpretation in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, (2003)
* Kelemework Tafere, Indigenous Institutions of Conflict Resolution Among the Ab'ala Afar of North-Eastern Ethiopia, Addis Ababa University (2006)
* K. Aweigert and H. Hotz, An Introduction to Comparative Law (Second Edition), Clarendon Press, Oxford (1992)
* N.V. Paranjape, Studies in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory, Central Law Agency (2001)
* Rene David and John E.C. Brierlly, Major Legal Systems in the World Today: An Introduction to the Comparative Study of Law (Second Edition), The Free Press, New York (1978)
* Woldetensay Woldemelak, Perspectives on the Ethiopian Legal System, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2005)
* An Introduction to the Sources of Ethiopian Law from the 13th Century, JEL Vol. IV, P.341
* George Krzeczunowiez, Code and Custom in Ethiopia, JEL Vol. II No2, pp.425-439 P.H Sand, Roman Origins of the Ethiopian 'Law of the Kings'
* (Fetha Nagest), JEL Vol 11, pp 71-82
* UgoMattei, The Patterns of Law: Taxonomy and Change in the World's Legal Systems, The American Journal of Comparative Law, Vol. 45, No,1 (1997)
* Federal Supreme Court Law Report (1990) Federal Supreme Court Law Report (1996)