

**BAYERO UNIVERSITY KANO**  
**SCHOOL OF GENERAL AND**  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDIES**

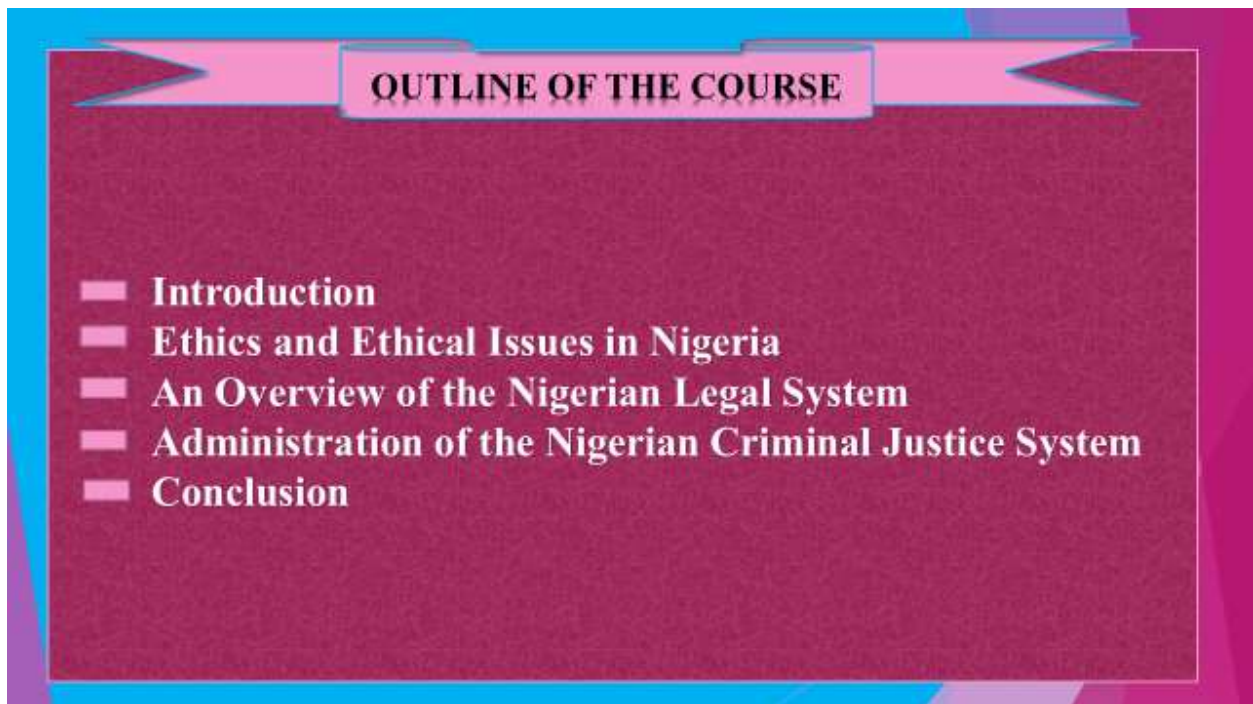
**MODDULE 5**  
**FOUNDATION OF NIGERIAN CULTURE, GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMY**

**COURSE**  
**ETHICS AND NIGERIAN LEGAL SYSTEM: GSP 2204**

**LECTURER**  
**DR MUHAMMAD NURUDEEN**

**SESSION**  
**2020/2021**

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**OUTLINE OF THE COURSE**

- Introduction
- Ethics and Ethical Issues in Nigeria
- An Overview of the Nigerian Legal System
- Administration of the Nigerian Criminal Justice System
- Conclusion

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This course is designed to expose students to issues relating to ethics, Nigerian legal system and administration of criminal justice system in Nigeria. It is expected that students will familiarise themselves with the definition of ethics and ethical issues in Nigeria. The student also expected to know definition, functions and classification of law. It is the target of this course to acquaint students with the various law enforcement agencies put in place in Nigeria and their functions as well as the challenges they are facing while discharging their statutory duties in the country. It is the ardent prayer and hope of this course lecturer that all students who work hard shall pass this course once and for all.

## Ethics and Ethical Issues in Nigeria

### Definition of Ethics

- ★ the word ethics has no universal definition. It depends on your profession, trade practice or discipline.
- ★ it is generally considered as norms and conducts that distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.
- ★ specific legal rules of conduct for government employees that emphasize conflicts of interest.
- ★ A system of moral principles governing the appropriate conduct for a person or group.
- ★ A method, procedure, or perspective for deciding how to act in the society guiding principles on how to discharge moral, religious, contractual or legal duties.
- ★ moral values of what is right or wrong which dictates the standard behavior of members of the society when dealing with his fellow members of the society

## Ethical Issues in Nigeria

Ethical issues differ in medical practice; in journalism; in teaching profession; in legal profession; in research; in public service; in business; in banking; politics journalisms, etc. To attain an ideal society, each and every member of the society must play by the societal and professional ethical rules. Nigeria as a country will prosper and flourish economically, socially, morally, educationally, etc if all Nigerians will abide by the dictates of the ethics of his profession or calling.

### Example of Rules governing ethical conducts in Nigeria

- ★ In the legal profession, the ethical issues are contained in the Legal Practitioners' Act (LPA) and Rules of professional conduct (RPC).
- ★ In medical practice, ethical issues can be found in Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, 2004, Code of Medical Ethics 2008, the National Health Act 2014, etc
- ★ Government workers are bound to comply with Code of Conduct for public service as contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and the Code of conduct Bureau and Code of Conduct Tribunal Act 2004.

## **An Overview of the Nigerian Legal System**

The concept of legal system embodies a complete system of laws and institutions operating in a given society.

**Definition of Law:** Although seems very simple but it is it arguably one of the most difficult and energy-demanding questions under the sun. Many scholars of varying erudition have attempted to offer a single answer that will satisfy all curious minds, but all in vain. whoever attempts to define it will be influenced by his profession, society or field of study.

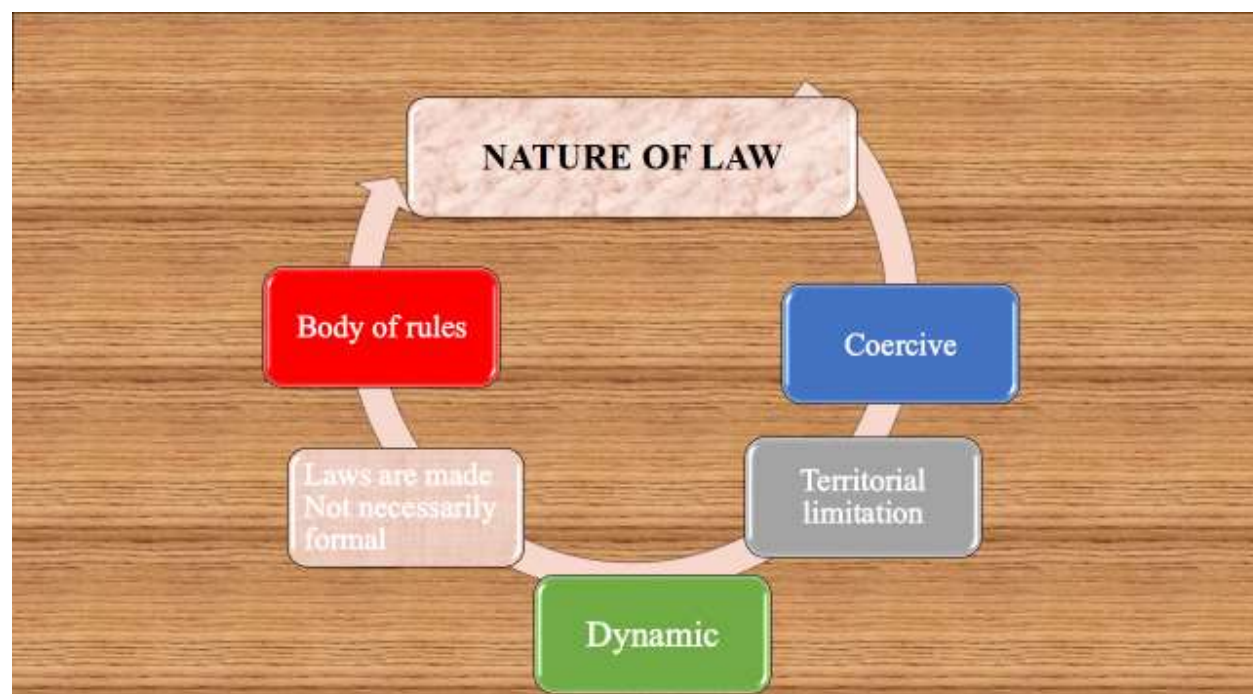
★ To theologians: law is a set of divine rules.

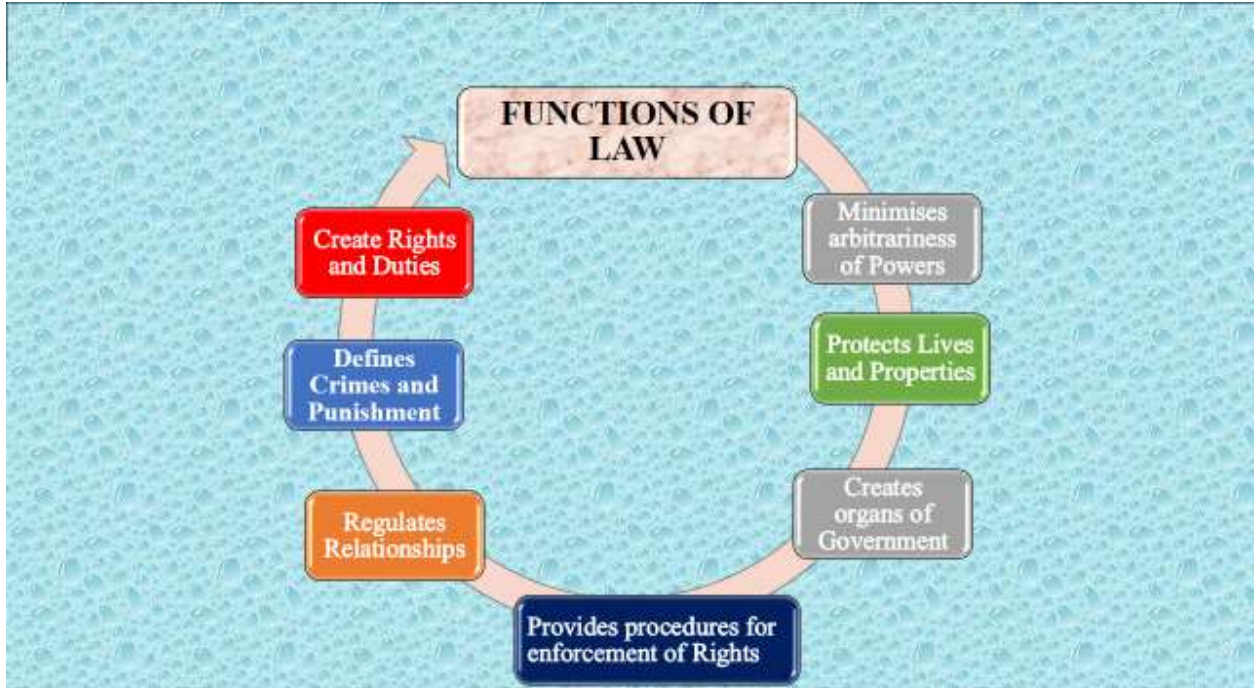
★ To traditionalists: Law is equated with morality.

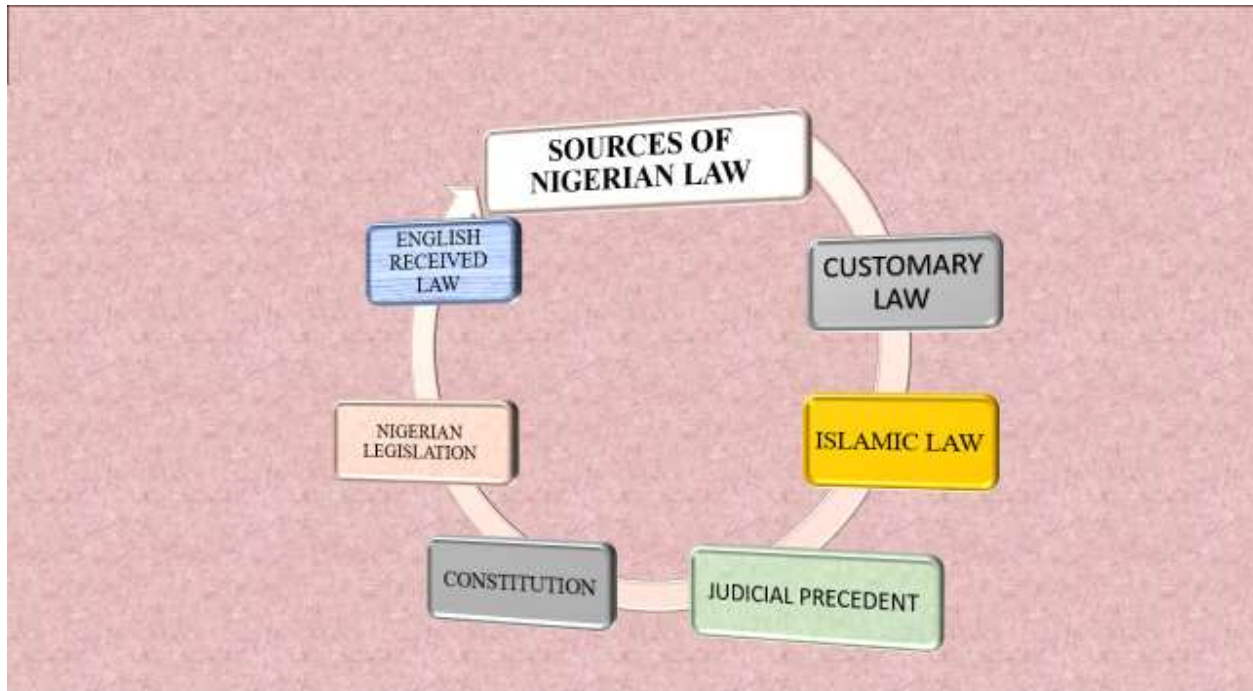
★ To scientists : it is what the nature dictates or the outcome of a scientific study

★ To Lawyers: it is the rules of human conduct.

★ In the Context of this course, law means body of rules that govern human and non-human conducts in a given society and failure to observe the rules attracts sanctions or penalty.







### Administration of the Nigerian Criminal Justice System

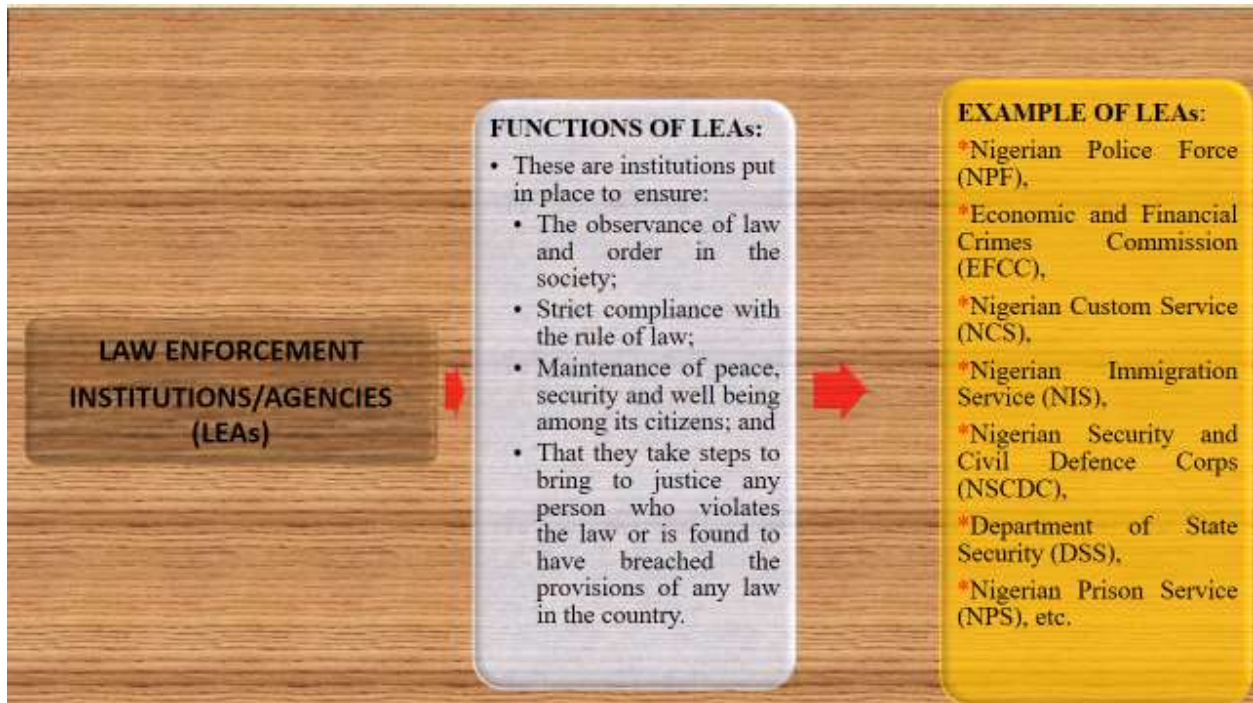
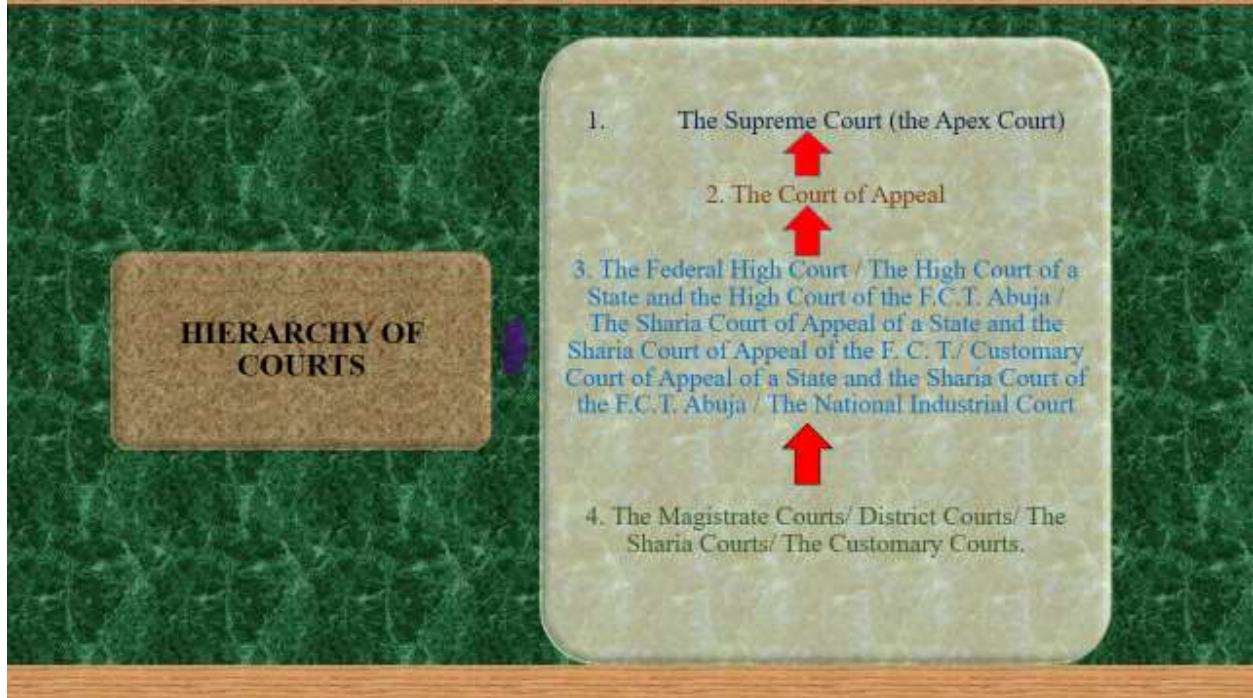
Law is administered through the instrumentality of Institutions. Among the institutions of justice administration you have the Courts and the Law enforcement agencies

**The Courts**  
Section 6 of the Constitution confers the Judicial power on the Nigerian Courts. Judicial powers means the power to interpret and apply the laws of the land

courts are duty bound to act as impartial umpire in determination of cases brought before them by aggrieved citizens either in civil or criminal cases

a judge must be guided by the twin principles of fair hearing: *Nemo Judex in Causa Sua* (no man shall be a judge in his own cause) and *Audi Altrem Partem* (hear the other side'), the judge must not preside over matters which he has interest in, and must presume that the accused person before him is innocent until proven guilty.

A judge must not preside over matters which he has interest in, and must presume that the accused person before him is innocent until proven guilty; be given adequate time and facilities to prepare his defence; to defend himself in person or through a legal practitioner of his choice; He has the right of appeal and records of proceedings, etc







## CONCLUSION

This course has exposed students to issues relating to ethics, Nigerian legal system and administration of criminal justice system in Nigeria. It is hoped that students will follow and observe their rules of professional ethics. Students are enjoined to be law abiding citizens and to be good ambassadors of Bayero University Kano wherever they find themselves.

*Thank you for listening*  
*Q and A*