**UMT SCHOOL OF LAW AND POLICY**

**Skills Development**

**Course Description**

This course introduces students to such skills which are considered essential for first-year law students. The idea behind developing such a course is to prepare students for their up law journey, as students and as professionals as well. This course will enable law students to not only effectively study the law but to thoroughly analyse and apply it.

Skills Development course will be separated into portions – each focusing on enhancing their academic legal skills. The course will revolve around enhancement of their research, writing, listening and presentation skills. Based on this, the students will be familiarized with the fundamentals of law, in order to make them adept in understanding and applying it. A portion of the course will be dedicated to teaching basics of presentation and debating with the purpose of improving their public speaking ability.

This course will introduce academic writing to students; consequently, acquainting them with essay writing/solving and attempting fact-pattern/problem questions. Focus will be on practicing clear concise writing and the importance of writing well. Critical thinking and reasoning abilities will be developed by adopting the Socratic Method in class.

**Recommended Readings**

Emily Finch and Stefan Fafinski, ‘Legal Skills’, 3rd edition, Oxford University Press.

James Holland and Julian Webb, ‘Learning Legal Rules’, 6th edition, Oxford University Press.

Lisa Webley, ‘Legal Writing’, 3rd edition, Routledge.

Chris Turner and Jo Boylan-Kemp, ‘Unlocking Legal Learning’, 3rd edition, Hodder Education.