

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN/
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES (NILS)**

**MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAMME AT NILS
2014/2015 SESSION**

Course: MLD 814 – INTERPRETATION OF STATUTES

(SECOND SEMESTER)

I. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Why problems of Interpretation Arise; Parts of a Statute and their uses in Interpretation (in brief).

The role of the Draftsman in Statutory Interpretation; Rules of Interpretation: Literal Rule; the Golden Rule or (Purposive rule); the Mischief Rule; the Ejusdem Generis Rule; the Expressio unius exclusion alterius Rule; the Noscitur a sociis Rule; the Blue Pencil Rule. Presumptions; the Interpretation Act and its Application in Statutory Interpretation.

II. RECOMMENDED READINGS:

(Please feel free to read any other relevant materials)

1. Maxwell, Sir P.B., *Interpretation of Statute* (12th ed., passim)
2. Lord Denning, *The Discipline of Law*, pp. 9 – 22.
3. Cross, *Statutory Interpretation* (Butterworths, 1976).
4. Badaiki, A. D., *Interpretation of Statutes* (Tiken Publishers, Lagos, Nigeria, 1996).
5. Obilade, A. O., *The Nigerian Legal System* (Sweet & Maxwell, 1979), Ch. 3, p. 56 *et seq*
6. NIALS (eds. Azinge & Madu), *Fundamentals of Legislative Drafting*, Ch. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 13.
7. Allen, C. K., *Law in the Making* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1978), Ch. VI, esp. Section V, pp. 482 – 503 and Section VI, pp. 503 – 530.
8. *Black's Law Dictionary*, 9th ed. (as may be relevant)
9. *Sasegbon's Laws of Nigeria* (as may be relevant).
10. Imhanobe, S. O., *Lawyer's Deskbook*, Vol. 2, pp. 956 – 973; S. O., *Lawyer's Deskbook*, Vol. 1, pp. 145 – 152
11. Ilegbune, C. U., "Statutory Interpretation: The Impregnable Reign of Literalism", *Nigerian Juridical Review*, Vol. 3 (1978-1988), pp. 145 – 152
12. Also see Judicial decisions and Journal articles as relevant.