

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN HUMAN RIGHTS (LLM[HR])

(These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the LLM[HR] curriculum in the academic year 2021-22 and thereafter.)

(See also [General Regulations](#) and [Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula](#).)

LLMHR1. Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Laws in Human Rights, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for the Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b)
 - (i) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
 - (ii) shall hold the degree in a discipline other than law with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and have at least two years of relevant experience and professional qualifications; or
 - (iii) shall have obtained either the Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University provided that in either case the candidate has also obtained a degree with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University, or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).

LLMHR2. Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully no more than 5 years before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be

granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Law, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 9 credits (one course) for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
 - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
-

LLMHR3. Period of study

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Human Rights shall normally require one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.
 - (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years in the case of full-time candidates and three academic years in the case of part-time candidates, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
-

LLMHR4. Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Human Rights, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) satisfactorily complete 72 credits, in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, including a capstone experience, or 36 credits, in the case of a part-time study in each of the two years of study, including a capstone experience.
-

LLMHR5. Selection of courses

- (a) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabus before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.
- (b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the

Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s)

LLMHR6. Dissertation

- (a) Candidates, whether full-time or part-time, who elect to submit a dissertation shall submit the title not later than six months before presenting the dissertation for examination. The dissertation must be presented not later than August 31 of the year in which the candidate would like to graduate.
 - (b) In exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the period within which the dissertation must be presented at least three months before the prescribed date of submission. Late applications for extension will not be considered, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (c) The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may require an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.
-

LLMHR7. Progression in curriculum

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirement as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (i) Candidates who are on a one-year full-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (not including the summer semester).
 - (ii) Candidates who are on a two-year part-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 9 credits nor more than 18 credits in any one semester (not including the summer semester).
 - (iii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits.
 - (iv) In each case under (i) or (ii) above, the total number of credits taken shall not exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits for the normative period of study specified in LLMHR3(a).
- (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate,

but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

- (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
 - (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits (under one-year full-time study) or 18 or more credits (under two-year part-time study) in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in LLMHR3(b).
-

LLMHR8. Exemption

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and the syllabus governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

LLMHR9. Assessment

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
- (b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
- (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.
- (d) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:

- (i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
 - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
 - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
- (e) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ assessment in an alternative course under (d) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA. Such candidates shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.
- (f) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
-

LLMHR10. Absence from an examination

Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

LLMHR11. Requirements for graduation

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Laws in Human Rights, candidates shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula and complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiner in not few than 72 credits in accordance with these regulations within the maximum period of registration, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone experience as specified in the syllabus of the curriculum.

LLMHR12. Grading system

Individual courses shall be graded in accordance with TPG9 (a) or (c) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula as determined by the Board of Examiners.

LLMHR13. Classification of awards

Upon successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded the degree with distinction, as determined by the Board of Examiners, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

COURSEWORK

The Board of Examiners shall decide what proportion of the final assessment for each course shall be determined by written work carried out during the course of study. Candidates will be informed at the beginning of the course of the relative proportions of the final assessment to be derived from coursework and from written examinations which will be held at the end of the teaching programme.

OBJECTIVES

The degree of Master of Laws in Human Rights is offered by the Faculty of Law as a response to the increasing interest in human rights in Asia and globally. It also responds to the growing need to provide training that addresses important international, regional and national developments in human rights and its implementation. The curriculum therefore provides a substantial grounding in international law as it relates to the study and practice of human rights, and where appropriate, draws from other disciplines to provide a balanced and contextual understanding of the major issues. The curriculum ensures that participants are exposed to universal human rights issues and the perspectives of other regional systems, but it is characterised by a strong Asia focus. It draws from the many human rights issues in Asia, and examines some of the perspectives and problems, which are of particular concern to the region.

DISSERTATION

An 18-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee. A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper on a legal topic likewise approved with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words. In both cases the dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

STRUCTURE

Candidates are required to complete 72 credits, including three 9-credit compulsory courses and a capstone experience in accordance with the regulations for this degree and the syllabus as set out below. Candidates may choose courses from the course outlines of individual areas of law below, and courses from any of the specialist programmes, but in any event no more than two courses from other LLM specialist programmes.

COURSE OUTLINES

(Each of the courses listed below carries 9 credits unless otherwise stated.)

Compulsory courses

- LLAW6068 Human rights: history, theory and politics
- LLAW6072 International and regional protection of human rights
- LLAW6075 National protection of human rights

Capstone courses

(Candidates must choose at least one course from the list below.)

- LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation*
- LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation (18 credits)*
- LLAW6242 Human rights in practice

Electives

- LLAW6268 Administrative law and governance in China
- LLAW6228 Advanced legal theory
- LLAW6058 Armed conflict, humanitarian law and human rights
- LLAW6229 Arms control and disarmament law
- LLAW6153 Business and human rights
- LLAW6296 Climate and energy justice in practice
- LLAW6156 Comparative constitutional law
- LLAW6232 Clinical legal education programme - refugee stream
- LLAW6262 Comparative law of elections
- LLAW6220 Constitutionalism in emerging states
- LLAW6267 Courts
- LLAW6060 Current issues in human rights
- LLAW6152 Dealing with legacies of human rights violations
- LLAW6062 Economic, social and cultural rights
- LLAW6063 Equality and non-discrimination
- LLAW6064 Ethnicity, human rights and democracy
- LLAW6066 Gender issues in human rights
- LLAW6307 Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective
- LLAW6119 Human rights and cyberspace
- LLAW6034 Human rights in Hong Kong
- LLAW6070 Human rights in the People's Republic of China
- LLAW6036 International criminal law
- LLAW6007 International dispute settlement
- LLAW6037 International environmental law
- LLAW6189 International law and modernity for a multipolar world
- LLAW6190 International law in a world of crises
- LLAW6182 International organisations
- LLAW6073 International protection of refugees and displaced persons
- LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union law
- LLAW6231 Justice
- LLAW6199 Law and policy
- LLAW6146 Law and religion
- LLAW6290 Law and society in South East Asia

LLAW6289 Law, governance and development in Asia
LLAW6297 Macau and Hong Kong comparative constitutional law
LLAW6291 Mental disability and the law
LLAW6179 Multiculturalism and the law
LLAW6046 Privacy and data protection
LLAW6109 Public international law
LLAW6144 Rights and remedies in the criminal process
LLAW6240 Security and human rights
LLAW6221 Selected problems of the European convention on human rights
LLAW6076 Seminar in human rights research
LLAW6215 Seminar on human rights and constitutionalism in Asia
LLAW6275 The legal foundations of global health and development

* LLAW6014 and LLAW6054 are mutually exclusive.

NOTE: Not all courses will be offered in any given year. For actual courses available, please refer to annual course offerings.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN HUMAN RIGHTS [LLM(HR)]

Compulsory courses

LLAW6068 Human rights: history, theory and politics

This course will be split into three parts. First, the course will consider the idea of human rights itself. Several liberal theories of that idea will be examined in the context of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent international human rights law instruments. The course will ask just how well these theories can explain our contemporary international legal practices, and whether it is possible to have a ‘one size fits all’ explanation of human rights law. This part of the course will also consider the distinction between civil and political rights on the one hand, and social, cultural and economic rights on the other, and whether the distinction between them can be maintained as part of a comprehensive human rights theory.

The second part of the course will address critiques of the human rights movement, focusing in particular on its claims to universal value and its emphasis on individualism. The issue of universal standards and cultural relativism will be examined, as will feminist and postmodern critiques of more traditional human rights theories. The course will also ask whether it makes sense to speak of group rights as human rights, particularly in the context of self-determination claims.

In the final part, the course will consider issues of interpretation and enforcement, taking particular note of the political contexts in which international human rights claims are made. The course will consider human rights based theories of international intervention, asking whether the latter can ever be justified on the basis of individual rights arguments. The course shall also turn a critical eye to existing mechanisms for international monitoring, ultimately asking whether international human rights law has been successful in promoting the idea of human rights as an aspect of good governance.

Assessment: 100% written coursework essay

LLAW6072 International and regional protection of human rights

This course will examine the evolution of international standards of human rights within the United Nations system and the mechanisms established to promote their enjoyment. The topics to be covered will include the development and content of the International Bill of Rights, the major United Nations human rights treaties and the work of the United Nations treaty bodies. The Charter-based mechanisms of the United Nations will be examined, including the Commission on Human Rights and its thematic and country-specific procedures. Particular attention will be given to the relevance of these mechanisms to the Asian-Pacific region.

The European, Inter-American and African regional systems for the protection of human rights will also be considered, in particular the work of their supervisory organs. The possibilities for an Asian regional or sub-regional human rights machinery for the protection of human rights will also be examined.

Assessment: 25% in-class presentation, 75% take-home examination

LLAW6075 National protection of human rights

The Seminar on National Protection of Human Rights offers an opportunity to explore human rights in its national social and institutional contexts. Students will explore the important themes of national protection of human rights with an emphasis on Asia. Particular attention will be paid to domestic constitutional questions such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Asia is a region that houses nearly two-thirds of the world's population and includes a wide range of cultures and developmental contexts. We confront a common observation that human rights practice is ultimately local. While the human rights movement has made extraordinary efforts in the post-World War II era to develop global standards and institutions it has been plagued by weak implementation at the local level. Significant regional human rights treaties and institutions in Europe, Africa and the Americas have sought to address this deficiency on a regional level with mixed success. As the only region without a regional human rights regime, Asia has relied more completely on domestic constitutionalism and local institutional practices to articulate and implement human rights commitments. This has made the human rights debate more seriously a matter of local politics and legal culture. Asia has had a noteworthy engagement with some of the central themes in the human rights debate, relating human rights to culture, to the political economy of development, democratization, autonomy, and development of civil society. Asian discussions of these concerns have intimately connected issues of human rights and development. The seminar will explore these rich Asian themes and efforts.

Assessment: 20% presentation of research paper; 10% class participation (including two response papers and discussion), 70% research paper

Capstone course

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

An individual research project on an approved topic carried out under the supervision of an assigned teacher, resulting in the submission of a research paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words (excluding tables of cases and statutes, notes, appendices and bibliographies). The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% Research paper

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

An individual research project on an approved topic carried out under the supervision of an assigned teacher, resulting in the submission of a research paper with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words (excluding tables of cases and statutes, notes, appendices and bibliographies). The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6242 Human rights in practice

Human Rights in Practice aims to empower and equip HKU students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the changing global legal environment by providing students with the opportunity to learn by doing and by providing service to the community.

The course aims to meet the increasing demand for practical and theoretical knowledge about human rights throughout the Asian region by providing HKU students an opportunity to experience human rights in practice domestically, regionally and internationally. The clinic will collaborate with select international and domestic NGOs as well as foreign law schools on human rights projects, including advocacy campaigns, legal and policy analysis, litigation, legal aid clinics, fact finding and report writing, submissions to human rights bodies, and human rights trainings and capacity building.

Specific skills taught include interviewing; working with an interpreter; “client” relationships when working with an NGO; oral advocacy; collaborative and community-based lawyering; design and implementation of interactive legal trainings; negotiation;

fact investigation; needs assessment; domestic and international legal research and analysis, including comparative legal research; human rights research; and legal writing and drafting.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 5% proactive and independent leadership in weekly small group meetings, 5% demonstration teaching session, 10% participation in seminar and Street Law Training, 20% reflective essays/reading responses, 30% community legal education teaching, 30% final written work product for partner organisation

Elective courses

LLAW6007 International dispute settlement

Disputes are bound to arise on the international level. UN Charter Articles 2(3) and 33 require states to resolve their disputes through peaceful means, which include “negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.” Inasmuch as these peaceful means of dispute settlement are governed by a body of rules and principles, lawyers play an important role in making sure that such means are used in a fair and effective manner. After explaining the history and development of international dispute settlement, as well as the general obligation on states to resolve their disputes peacefully, this course will explore each method in light of the relevant law and cases, with particular emphasis being placed on legal resolution through international courts and tribunals, including international arbitration and resolution through the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. The course concludes by looking at the future of international dispute settlement, including the need for conflict prevention and dialogue, the increasing juridification of dispute settlement, and the problems associated with the proliferation of dispute settlement mechanisms.

Assessment: 20% participation, 80% research paper

LLAW6034 Human rights in Hong Kong

History of enactment, the Bill of Rights Regime, ICCPR, implementation of human rights treaties, Basic Law, interpretation, scope of application, inter-citizen rights, locus standi, permissible limitations, derogation and reservation, enforcement and remedy.

Study of selected rights, including civil and political rights, economic, social & cultural rights and people’s rights. Topics covered include impact on civil and criminal process, right to a fair and public trial, arrest, search and seizure, torture and degrading treatment, liberty and security of person, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, right to nationality, right to family, right to political participation, discrimination and equality, right to housing, social security, education and the environment. The exact topics to be covered will be determined at the beginning of the course and may change from year to year.

Assessment: 5% class participation, 25% short paper, 70% research paper

LLAW6036 International criminal law

International criminal law is an extremely topical, relevant and increasingly controversial area of international governance. This course explores the rationale, origins, normative development, institutional mechanisms and role of international criminal law. It analyses the current state of international criminal law and its place in the modern international legal system in light of important recent developments. It discusses why States should reform their national criminal laws to accord with international developments and focuses on both the substantive and procedural law. It examines relevant international legal concepts, general principles of international criminal law, and how international criminal tribunals function. It considers particular international crimes, participation in such crimes, defences, and important recent cases. To do this, we trace the roots of international criminal law in customary laws of war and early attempts to enforce rules prohibiting war crimes, before reviewing the operation of the Nuremberg and Tokyo International Military Tribunals that were established after the Second World War. We then take account of the Geneva Conventions, 1949, and the rise of international human rights law, focusing on the crimes of aggression, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We then delve into the law and practice of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and relate their establishment and operation to the emerging system of international criminal law, and the process under way to establish the International Criminal Court.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 10% court or tribunal presentation, 10% class participation

LLAW6037 International environmental law

Air pollution, deforestation, climate change, biodiversity loss and the extinction, or near extinction, of some wildlife species are just some of the many environmental problems that the world faces today. Environmentalists, governments, courts, NGOs, and a variety of other interested parties or stakeholders, both at the top of the international and domestic levels, have contributed to solving environmental problems by the use of law. To what extent has it been successful, or unsuccessful? How do states solve environmental problems collectively, that is, by way of treaties and conventions, and individually, that is, by way of domestic law? How do some states balance economic development and resource exploitation against environmental protection?

This course aims to provide students with a contextual and elementary understanding of the key global and domestic environmental issues and the purported legal solutions. After a broad survey of the major international environmental laws, this course will look at some selected jurisdictions and see the way in which these jurisdictions deal with environmental problems legally. The jurisdictions that will be looked at include China, the UK and Hong Kong, as well as some major regional organizations such as the EU and ASEAN. Moreover, this course will delve into specific areas of environmental concerns such as the marine environment, climate change and the protection of wildlife. Prior knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6046 Privacy and data protection

This course will explore privacy and data protection in an increasingly interconnected data economy. Reference will be made to the balance between privacy on the one hand and other rights as well as public and social interests on the other. The challenges posed by technological innovations and applications such as the internet, social media, mobile applications, cloud computing and Big Data will be highlighted. Specific topics to be addressed will include:

- (a) the concept of “privacy” and the genesis and development of its political, philosophical and economic underpinnings;
- (b) existing common law and statutory protection: the equitable remedy for breach of confidence, defamation, copyright, the intentional infliction of emotional distress, the public interest, remedies;
- (c) the protection of “personal information”: Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, data protection principles, data access and correction rights, regulation of direct marketing, transborder data flow, Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance, Electronic Health Record Sharing System Ordinance;
- (d) Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data: powers, functions, enforcement, exemptions, from data protection principles.

The course will focus on the Hong Kong situation but reference will be made to relevant international human rights instruments and the global and regional trends and developments.

Assessment: 40% research assignment, 60% take-home examination

LLAW6058 Armed conflicts, humanitarian law and human rights

This course is designed to provide candidates with a comprehensive introduction to the regulation of international and non-international armed conflicts within international law. It begins by exploring the philosophical debate on the morality of killing in war and its relationship with the law of armed conflicts. It then proceeds to study the key areas of the law of armed conflicts concerning the classification of conflicts, conduct of hostilities and restrictions on liberty, together with an assessment of the practical challenges that confront the application, implementation, and enforcement in complex situations including transnational conflict, military occupation and UN peacekeeping operations. Set within an interdisciplinary context of moral philosophy as well as military strategy, it encourages students to critically reflect on how the law of armed conflict has acquired the alternative nomenclature of international ‘humanitarian’ law, and how it relates to other areas of international law including *jus ad bellum*, international criminal law and international human rights law.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 15% simulated practice, 75% take-home examination

LLAW6060 Current issues in human rights

This course begins with a general presentation of the Council of Europe, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Convention of Human Rights. It gives an overview of the on the values, structure and achievements of the Council of Europe; it presents the organisation, structure and procedure of the European Court of Human Rights; it outlines the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Convention and key concepts essential to the understanding of the European Convention system.

The course will be then structured on seven topics which represent current issues in human rights:

- **The right to health**, presenting the historical development of the concept of the right to health, its guiding principles and related obligations; these are illustrated through case law concerning the right to medical treatment, medical malpractice and the liability of health professionals and forced medical treatment.
- **The right to a healthy environment** and its' development as a human right; the course presents case law from the European Court of Human Rights, as well as other regional courts such as the Inter-American and African systems.
- **Reproductive rights**, focusing on the principles of reproductive autonomy, respect for private and family life and the prohibition of discrimination; it covers the topics of abortion, contraception, home birth and forced sterilisations.
- **Bioethical issues**, focusing on the European approach on IVF treatment, surrogacy, the protection of genetic data, euthanasia and assisted suicide and organ donation.
- **Women's rights**, course which provides an overview of international human rights law concerning women, and presents case law of the European Court of Human Rights concerning violence against women, human trafficking and other forms of discrimination.
- **Sexual minorities**, a course which presents the rights of sexual minorities in international law and case law on a variety of issues such as the criminalisation of homosexual relationships in general, ill-treatment by police and state agents, marriage and civil unions, adoption.
- **Freedom of expression**, a course which presents the international guarantees, the key aspects, the scope and the limitations of this freedom, and gives examples of case law concerning press freedom, censorship, whistleblowing, the protection of journalistic sources and more.

Assessment: 50% oral presentation, 50% research paper

LLAW6062 Economic, social and cultural rights

This course will begin with a discussion of the theoretical and historical development of economic, social and cultural rights ("ESC rights") under the international human rights system. It will then examine the sources of ESC rights, the obligations of states and the implementation of ESC rights at both international and domestic levels. Among the

substantive contents of ESC rights, the course will study the right to food, the right to water, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to social welfare, and the right to housing. The course will also look at approaches to monitoring and advocacy strategies for the realization of ESC rights.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 20% case comment, 10% class participation

LLAW6063 Equality and non-discrimination

Equality and non-discrimination are universally regarded as fundamental human rights principles that underpin - and are necessary pre-requisites to - the enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms. Indeed most of the major international human rights treaties as well as many national constitutions articulate rights to equality and non-discrimination either in general terms or with reference to a range of grounds such as race, gender, disability, religion, etc. Despite its prominent position in human rights law, the precise scope and meaning of equality remain contested and enforcement bodies have sometimes provided contradictory or conflicting interpretations. In other words, equality can mean different things to different people. This course considers how the law reflects, and might support the realization of, particular concepts of equality. It also examines the potential and the limits of the law as a means of achieving social and political change.

Assessment: 25% class participation, 75% research paper

LLAW6064 Ethnicity, human rights and democracy

Most of the world's conflicts since the end of the Second World War involve ethnic groups against their own country's government, often claiming oppression or violation of their rights by these same authorities. The course examines the causes of this rise of ethnicity, and how majoritarian and liberal democracies – and other forms of government – at times seem to clash with international human rights standards in relation to these ethnic groups. It seems recent developments in the understanding and application of human rights and international law respond to this clash: the rise of rights of indigenous peoples, new modes of expression of self-determination, developments in the rights of minorities, various forms of autonomy to respond to collective claims, and the adaptation of human rights in order to better reflect and protect individuals belonging to ethnic groups facing a non-neutral state.

Assessment: 60% research paper, 30% test, 10% class participation

LLAW6066 Gender issues in human rights

This course will address the role that gender has played in the conceptualisation, interpretation and implementation of international human rights standards. The topics considered will include feminist critiques of the claimed and rocentrism of human rights guarantees, the guarantees against sex discrimination under international and regional

systems, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the extent to which recent developments in human rights law and practice address the problem of discrimination against women. Specific topics addressed may include violence against women (e.g. issues such as female infanticide, sexual harassment, marital rape, and dowry deaths), the enjoyment by women of economic, social and cultural rights, and the relationships among culture, tradition, religion and women's equality.

Assessment: 100% final paper

LLAW6070 Human rights in the People's Republic of China

This course will examine the international and domestic dimensions of the protection of human rights in the People's Republic of China. It will examine the applicability of international human rights standards to the PRC, the stance of the PRC in relation to international national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and the place of international standards in domestic law. The course will consider the theoretical debates about the origin and contingency of human rights standards, questions of priorities in human rights, and the issue of rights in Chinese cultural contexts. It will also examine the extent of human rights protections available under the Chinese constitution and other laws, and will focus on selected issues, which may include the criminal justice system, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of religion, labour rights, gender discrimination, and minorities/self-determination. The course will also examine the social and political forces that may contribute to the improvement of human rights in China.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6073 International protection of refugees and displaced persons

This course will examine the various international attempts to address the problem of the forced movements of people due to persecution, armed conflict or natural disaster. It covers international efforts in protecting aliens and refugees, the definitions of refugees in international and regional instruments, the principle of non-refoulement, the 1951 Convention on Refugees, the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and national responses to the flow of refugees.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

LLAW6076 Seminar in human rights research

The seminar provides students with the opportunity to develop their own critical thinking and legal research and writing skills through an examination of cutting edge scholarship in the field of international human rights, a series of short writing assignments, non-graded research and exercises and research paper.

The course does not aim to teach substantive law but rather to teach the skills of designing a human rights research project, developing research strategies and applying research results. The course seeks to provide an overview of approaches to research in the field of law – and human rights law in particular - and to develop students' skills in combining those approaches. The course will familiarise students with the major sources of international (including regional) human rights law as well as familiarise students with the documentation of the United Nations and regional human rights systems.

The course will provide students with preliminary assistance in writing research papers, in particular by working with students on the formalities of writing and citing sources, avoiding plagiarism, formulating research questions and structuring research papers.

Assessment: 50% research paper, 30% short reaction paper, 10% in-class presentation, 10% class participation

LLAW6109 Public international law

Public international law governs inter-state relationships and entities such as individuals, international organizations and so on. The scope and importance of public international law has expanded dramatically in the last century due to increased awareness and studies towards globalisation, escalation of conflicts, environmental issues and human rights violations.

This *postgraduate* course explores the history, ideas and concepts that shape public international law and practice, and on the relationship between public international law and other ideas and phenomena. It aims to (i) provide a critical introduction to the subject matter and in-depth investigations into specific themes (such as war and peace, territorial disputes, state immunities, international dispute resolutions) and (ii) equip students with the skills and ability to advise on the basics of public international law and to analyze contemporary international legal problems.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 20% reflective journal, 30% mid-term examination, 40% research paper

LLAW6119 Human rights and cyberspace

The exponential growth of digital communications technologies (DCT) great opportunities for and poses significant challenges to enjoyment of human rights in many areas. This course will examine a number of areas in which the digital revolution has provided new tools and opportunities for promoting the enjoyment of human rights such as privacy, equality, free expression and access to justice, as well as for facilitating violations of human rights. Topics to be covered may include:

- understanding privacy, free expression and equality as human rights;
- historic debates relating to DCTs' capacity to enhance human rights and freedoms;
- the global dimensions of digital networks and the parameters of the digital divide;

- implications of data profiling and sorting for privacy, equality and free expression;
- legal responses to “cyberbullying” and cyberviolence;
- the rights and needs of young people in a digitally networked world;
- technologically facilitated violence against women and girls;
- technology as a potential facilitator of access to justice; and
- the use of DCT to promote human rights.

Assessment: 20% participation, 20% paper presentation, 20% presentation on examples where technology has been used to facilitate human rights, 40% research paper

LLAW6144 Rights and remedies in the criminal process

This course examines how courts in various common law countries have enforced the legal rights of suspects and accused persons at different stages in the criminal process. The following rights will be studied comparatively: right to be free from arbitrary detention, right to bail, right to legal representation, right of silence, right to trial without undue delay, right against unreasonable search and seizure, and right to a fair trial. The remedies to be examined will include exclusion of evidence at trial, stay of proceedings, declaration, damages, adjournment, and bail.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination or research paper

LLAW6146 Law and religion

Law and religion are two of the oldest social institutions. In various forms, law and religion exist in every human society. Law and religion also have very close relationship to each other. Looking from human history, religion could be so intertwined with law that there could be complete overlap. However, the modern trend is to separate the two so that a wall is built between law and religion. This course will examine the various models on how law and religion interact with each other. Historical as well as analytical approaches will be adopted. Critical questions will be raised on examining the proper relationship between law and religion under different worldviews and various religious traditions including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity. The role of religion in public debate will also be considered.

Assessment: 20% group project and presentation, 30% research paper, 50% take-home examination

LLAW6152 Dealing with legacies of human rights violations

This course will examine the ways that nations around the world have dealt with, and are dealing with, legacies of gross violations of human rights of the past. It will draw from several disciplines but will be dominated by the legal approach which is firmly rooted in

the right to an effective remedy for gross violations of human rights and the duty of States to investigate, prosecute and punish such acts. Issues to be examined will include the policy choices that nations emerging from sustained periods of repression or armed conflict have to make, and the types of mechanisms that have been employed by countries that have sought to deal with such situations. The course will, *inter alia*, examine whether there is a chasm between the striking promises made by the ubiquitous use of terminology such as ‘truth’, ‘justice’, ‘healing’ and ‘reconciliation’ and reality. How does public opinion, most significantly, the views of victims and survivors, fit into international diplomacy and local politics? What role can traditional dispute resolution play? The course will also examine the work and effectiveness of international criminal tribunals, ‘internationalised domestic courts’, commissions of inquiry, and other methods of reckoning with past wrongs in societies around the world, as well as consideration of new processes that are evolving.

Assessment: 15% class participation, 35% group exercise, 50% research paper

LLAW6153 Business and human rights

This course investigates the relationship between business and human rights in the context of globalisation and as a distinct field within the broader corporate social responsibility (CSR) movement. The course will invite students to explore the relevance of human rights standards and norms to business operations and consider the extent to which corporations are or should be bound by human rights law and obligations. The legal, political, economic and social issues arising from the cross-border activities of multinational enterprises (MNEs), particularly in developing countries, will be examined against the backdrop of the growing public demand for greater transparency and accountability. The course will also analyse the role and methodologies of civil society seeking to influence corporate human rights practices, and the ways in which some MNEs have responded to growing pressure to address human rights issues through initiatives that seek to connect CSR, human rights and business strategy by managing reputational risk and promoting human rights as a source of competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Assessment: 70% research paper; 20% advocacy exercise; 10% class participation

LLAW6156 Comparative constitutional law

This interdisciplinary course will survey a combination of fundamental questions and cutting-edge scholarly debates concerning both constitutional drafting and constitutional adjudication. Readings will consist primarily of social science scholarship as opposed to judicial decisions and will have a primarily empirical as opposed to normative orientation.

Law school courses in comparative constitutional law have traditionally focused on constitutional adjudication to the exclusion of constitutional drafting. However, questions of constitutional drafting and constitutional design are of considerable and growing importance. Accordingly, this course will address not only how constitutions are interpreted and enforced, but also how they are created in the first place. The course will

begin by considering foundational questions, such as: What is a constitution? What purpose(s) do constitutions serve? What practical effect, if any, do constitutions have? What topics should be addressed by a constitution?

Other topics to be addressed include the process by which constitutions are drafted; the extent to which the content of national constitutions has become standardized; the relationship between constitutional law and international law; the extent to which constitutional courts around the world employ common analytical techniques and the usage of foreign law by constitutional courts. The goal will be to develop an empirically informed understanding of recurring patterns and contemporary standards in constitutional drafting and constitutional adjudication. The course will be conducted in a seminar format, meaning that much of class time will be spent exploring the questions and arguments posed by the material through group discussion rather than through lectures by the instructor.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% written assignment

LLAW6179 Multiculturalism and the law

Conquests and colonial projects have long been responsible for the instigation of large-scale ethnic and national mobility in order to further the ends of empire, for example, for the purposes of labour and industrial development or populating land considered to be terra nullius. In the aftermath of the First and Second World Wars, which led to a significant redrawing of national boundaries, people once again moved; some, voluntarily and in pursuit of their dreams whilst numerous others, became victims of exile due to economic, social or political circumstances. This pattern of migration has continued into the 21st Century, particularly in the aftermath of 9/11, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and resultant turmoil in neighbouring Middle-Eastern countries, with the immigrant and refugee exodus reaching crisis point in 2016.

This shift in the composition of inhabitants from homogenous populations into multi-ethnic groups within national borders beckons an overhaul of the nation-state framework. The very conception of monolithic nationhood that comprises the experiences of a singular nation, peoples or culture as definitive of their collective identity stands challenged. Governance structures presuming shared political, social and secular ideals have also demonstrably failed in their ability to cope with the increasing diversity represented among 'nationals'.

Despite the increasingly complex regime of international provisions that has emerged to safeguard the fundamental rights and interests of all people, particularly framework conventions that seek to recognise the risks faced by vulnerable minorities to protect them against violations of their religious, cultural, linguistic and political rights, even naturalised citizens often fail to have their voices heard due to discrimination, inequalities, marginalisation or exclusion of their voices. These circumstances have precipitated the most serious crises of identity in an increasingly globalised world, whose borders continue to shrink and shift as citizens become highly hybridized.

The course examines this conflict through comparative and interdisciplinary lenses, drawing on material from law, political theory, philosophy, and postcolonial studies to better understand the nature of identity, rights, citizenship and the discourse of oppression, violence and conflict. It uses a case study approach to examine contemporary global challenges in the management of pluralism and diversity. Students will develop skills to apply an enriched analytic framework through which to conceptualise these challenges and to critically examine governance structures, approaches and arguments to reconcile conflicting rights within the liberal constitutional framework in light of international human rights commitments.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 15% symposium presentation, 15% class participation

LLAW6182 International organizations

Using the case method, this course explores the key court decisions that have helped establish the legal principles that empower and regulate international organizations. Analysis of these cases illuminates the relationship and tension between international law and politics in this area, as well as shows how courts help and hinder the development of international organizations, sometimes in the same case. Additional case studies will focus on contemporary problems facing a variety of international organizations. The debates and assessment exercises will strengthen students' critical reasoning skills, in addition to fostering a sophisticated understanding of the law created for and by international organizations.

Assessment: 50% case comments, 50% research paper

LLAW6189 International law and modernity for a multipolar world

The course looks at the roots of the Western approach to international law in historical context, since the beginning of colonialism and imperialism. Its perspective is more philosophical than political, considering international law as a part of a wider scientific, cultural, religious as well as economic revolution. Key Western international law thinkers such as Vitoria, Gentili, Grotius, Vattel and Kant are examined, before coming to the 19th century expansion in the Far East. Close attention is played to the 19th century in China, especially the influence of the American Henry Wheaton and his translator, William Martin. This follows with a multipolar consideration of contemporary Chinese thinkers who are reviving Chinese classical thought on international ethics, as well as considering similar developments in the Islamic world. Some place is also given to Western internal critiques of international law from a critical or postmodern perspective.

Assessment: 10% class participation, through introducing discussion of texts, 90% essay

LLAW6190 International law in a world of crises

Ideally this course is a follow on from the more introductory course, Public international law. It adopts a rigorously critical view of the capacity of positive international law to deal with contemporary problems of international society. The course first introduces the complexities of international law methods in defining and dealing with international problems and then it provides a framework for addressing these problems in an interdisciplinary perspective. That is to say there is also added a political science and a political theory dimension.

There is an introduction to Crisis Theory after which follows a critical reflection on the legal skills employed by the International Court of Justice since the 1980s to deal with major crises. After this the course introduces a moveable selection of major crises such as: Islamic militant violence; ethnic conflict and its geopolitical significance; the international financial crises; nuclear proliferation; the idea of the UN alongside that of a “Coalition of the Democracies”; the strategic and economic significance of land and maritime boundary disputes. Students are encouraged to work and research together in an interdisciplinary way to propose solutions to the contemporary problems selected.

Assessment: 90% take-home essay, 10% class participation

LLAW6199 Law and policy

This course explores and contrasts the different methodologies inherent in the disciplinary approaches of legal and policy analysis. It examines how each approach is relevant to the other in different practical situations e.g. in court and in government policy formulation. Each student will present a seminar paper that applies both legal and policy analysis to a practical issue of their choice.

Assessment: 100% research assignment

LLAW6215 Seminar on human rights and constitutionalism in Asia

The Seminar on Constitutionalism and Human Rights in Asia offers an opportunity to explore human rights in its social and institutional contexts. Students will explore the important themes of constitutionalism and human rights in Asia, a region that houses nearly two-thirds of the world’s population and includes a wide range of cultures and developmental contexts.

This course adopts an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to analyze the interaction between constitutional law and politics in Asia. We will examine communist regimes (China, Vietnam), dominant party democracies (HKSAR, Singapore), and liberal democracies (Taiwan, South Korea), and explore how the regime-type of the constitutional system impacts human rights enforcement by the courts.

Assessment: 30% class presentation, 70% research paper

LLAW6220 Constitutionalism in emerging states

This seminar will examine comparative constitutional law in emerging states. The international debate over human rights and development often takes a top-down perspective (especially in human rights courses), asking what international institutions can do to better address issues of development, government power, human rights and human dignity. This course reverses this perspective, looking at these central issues of our time through a bottom-up constitutional lens. Unlike traditional comparative constitutional law courses that focus on established constitutional systems, this seminar will give greater emphasis to the development context and emerging states. With democratization in Latin America and East Asia, the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the economic and developmental crisis in Africa and South Asia and the Arab Spring, the debate over constitutionalism and its mission has taken on global dimensions. This debate addresses a range of questions. For example, will the rule of law and democracy better promote economic development? Can constitutional institutions such as judicial review, freedom of expression and democracy be successfully established in all societies? What are the cultural dimensions of this problem? Has liberal democracy failed the poor? Does constitutionalism travel well? What institutional emphases might better serve a post-communist society, a very poor underdeveloped country, or a rapidly developing society? Does liberal constitutionalism better respond to crises? Will “illiberal democracy” work better? Addressing these questions has become an interdisciplinary project with law, political science and other disciplines.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 20% oral presentation of research paper, 10% class participation (includes two think papers worth 5% each)

LLAW6221 Selected problems of the European convention on human rights

This course offers an introduction to the international human rights law as developed in Europe under the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights and under the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. It is meant to be taken in conjunction with, or as a sequel to, the course on “International and Regional Protection of Human Rights”. The European Convention represents the most developed mechanism of protection of human rights on a regional level and information on its practical operation may be relevant also for other regional and national systems.

After a general presentation of the European Convention, i.e. the system of human rights enshrined therein, as well as the organization, jurisdiction and procedure of the European Court of Human Rights, examples and cases taken from three substantive areas will be discussed:

1. the right to life, focused, in the first place on the use of lethal force by State agents, but also addressing positive obligations of the State to protect human life and questions like euthanasia (mercy killing) and abortion;
2. the prohibition of ill-treatment and its current extensions in the Court’s case-law,

- particularly in respect to deportations and prison conditions and also in respect to the modern interpretation of the prohibition of forced labour;
3. the right to personal autonomy, including rights to personal identity and decisions on individual and family matters.

All students are invited to consult those written materials and, in particular, judgments of the European Court of Human Rights that are mentioned in the Syllabus.

Assessment: 70% take-home examination, 30% class participation

LLAW6228 Advanced legal theory

This course will provide a sustained and in-depth analysis of a central overarching theme in legal theory. The theme may vary from year to year. The inaugural theme is ‘Law and the common good’.

The theme will be explored through a range of material and disciplinary approaches. These will include conventional scholarly texts in law, politics and philosophy, but will also draw on non-standard resources including art, poetry, film, and literature.

The purpose of the thematic approach is to provide a coherence to the study of several perennial problems in legal theory. By working in a sustained way through a range of questions and perspectives associated with the overarching theme, students will gain a deeper knowledge of legal theoretical issues.

The theme ‘Law and the common good’ has been chosen to allow students to engage with certain key claims that are made on behalf of contemporary law and legal institutions, namely that they strive to or do in fact embody a common good or set of goods. Whether and how that embodiment operates, according to what conditions and under what limitations are questions to be explored through a series of engagements with texts, contexts, representations and contestations.

Topics to be covered under the theme may include: historical lineages of law and the common good: Aristotle and Aquinas; measuring the common good: rights v utility; how can law reflect the common good?; pluralism, democracy and the common good; contesting commonality: whose commons, which goods?; identity and voice: protest and political trials; overcoming social division: memory and the politics of reconciliation; authority, obligation and allegiance; the ‘new commons’ and the global public good. This list is not exhaustive.

As this is an advanced level course it is expected that students will normally have already studied some aspect of legal theory or a cognate subject. However, this is not a pre-requisite.

Assessment: 80% research essay, 20% oral presentation

LLAW6229 Arms control and disarmament law

This course will explore all aspects of arms control and disarmament law, including international law-making, supervision, interpretation, dispute settlement and enforcement efforts. By “arms control law,” it is meant the rules and principles that regulate weapons and weapon-related material, which does not necessarily include the actual reduction or removal of those weapons or materials. By “disarmament,” it is meant the rules and principles for the reduction and eventual removal of weapons and weapon-related material. Particular emphasis will be put on weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which include nuclear, chemical, and biological agents and the means to deliver them, inasmuch as the UN Security Council repeatedly has noted that WMD proliferation is a serious threat to international peace and security. International and regional efforts to respond to these threats will be evaluated from a critical perspective. This course also will focus on the international law relating to conventional weapons, including arms trade generally, weapons with non-detectable fragments, landmines, incendiary weapons, laser weapons, riot-control agents, cluster munitions, exploding bullets, expanding bullets and other questionable methods and means of warfare, all of which will be evaluated from a critical perspective. The interaction between this branch of public international law and others will be explored, including the interaction with international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international trade law, air and space law, collective security law, the law of international organizations, the law of state responsibility and the law of the sea, among others. All of this and more will be analyzed through various case studies and with a critical eye in assessing whether the current legal regime is adequate in meeting the needs of the international community. Potential reforms to the system will be explored through discussion and debate.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% general participation in in-class debate and discussion

LLAW6231 Justice

This course is about justice. It begins with a treatment of John Rawls’ justice as fairness and the related debates. Implications of justice as fairness to constitutional regimes will be analyzed. The course also involves a discussion of distributive justice and corrective justice and their implications to selected branches of law such as tax law, tort law, contract law, and property law.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 20% presentation, 10% class participation

LLAW6232 Clinical legal education programme – refugee stream

The Clinical Legal Education Programme – Refugee Stream (“the Clinic”) is offered to undergraduate and post-graduate students in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in partnership with with the Centre for Comparative and Public Law (CCPL) and Justice Centre Hong Kong. Justice Centre provides information and individual assistance to claimants seeking *non-refoulement* protection in Hong Kong (known as

“protection claimants”) and advocates for their rights in policy spheres and through campaigns to raise public awareness and change perceptions.

The Clinic allows students to learn both the theory and practice of *non-refoulement* law in Hong Kong. Students will learn the legal Hong Kong for assessing protection needs and develop their legal skills in a real practice setting. Specific skills include: interviewing protection claimants, working with an interpreter, fact investigation, legal research and analysis, and legal writing and drafting.

Students will also have opportunities to develop professional judgment through encounters with real legal and ethical dilemmas. Students will learn to take a human rights-based approach to legal work, to recognise challenges, to creatively identify options, and to diligently and ethically assist protection claimants.

Students work under the direct supervision of Justice Centre’s Legal Officer and/or other Justice Centre staff.

Assessment: 100% clinical work: Pass/Fail in two components, namely 1) preparation and participation in group seminars and clinical sessions; 2) written work

LLAW6240 Security and human rights

A central feature in the discourse on public policy around the globe has been the question of whether, and to what extent, it was (and is) necessary to curtail human rights in order to maintain and promote “security” in times of perceived crisis. Whether it is the threat of terrorism, organised crime or the risk of re-offending sex-offenders and child-molesters, governments are quick to respond with security legislation that often has significant implications for internationally protected rights and liberties. This course focusses on the alleged balance of “security” and “liberty”. It examines the theoretical underpinnings of the concepts of “security” and “liberty” and analyses how human rights protections apply in times of crisis. It discusses several contemporary case studies that highlight the tension between “liberty” and “security”, including derogation from human rights treaties, preventive detention of sex offenders, extradition/expulsion and non-refoulement, and the blacklisting of terrorists. What these case studies have in common is that they originate in a long-standing predicament of the liberal democratic state: how far are we prepared to go to create a “secure” environment for ourselves without getting caught in our own security net?

The specific aims of this course are:

- to examine and analyse some of the theoretical underpinnings of the concepts of “security and “liberty”;
- to provide students with an understanding of the historical development of the operation of human rights in times of crisis and emergency;
- to develop students’ knowledge and understanding of contemporary challenges in relation to human rights and security;
- to assist students to develop advanced research skills in the area of human rights law and policy, in particular in the context of security;

- and to assist students to recognise international human rights law in their subsequent careers;

The course will cover nine substantive areas and is structured as follows:

- I. Introduction
- II. The Concept of Liberty
- III. The Concept of Security
- IV. Balancing Liberty and Security?
- V. How Human Rights Work
- VI. Derogation From Human Rights Treaties in Times of Emergency
- VII. 'Ticking Bombs' and Torture
- VIII. Extradition and Expulsion and the Principle of Non-Refoulement
- IX. Blacklisting of Persons and Entities Suspected of Terrorism
- X. Preventive Detention

Assessment: 15% class participation, 15% presentation of short paper (based on research essay), 70% research essay

LLAW6262 Comparative law of elections

This course will focus on how Asian courts have responded to deficiencies in the electoral processes and the concomitant problem of partisan self-dealing. Specifically, partisan self-dealing occurs when the political actors devise electoral rules that govern voting, political parties, electoral boundaries, apportionment, the administration of elections, and campaign finance that are designed to entrench themselves in power.

This course will only examine Asian jurisdictions, with a specific focus on Hong Kong, but also examine Western countries as a comparative foil. Western jurisdictions to be examined include Australia, Canada, and the United States of America.

This course will examine the landmark election cases in the common law jurisdictions of Hong Kong, Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Singapore, and also the civil law jurisdictions of South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. The course will examine how courts operate when key election results and electoral restrictions are challenged in dominant party democracies, dynamic democracies, and fragile democracies in Asia. We will also explore how courts address election disputes in Australia, Canada, and the United States of America.

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed a course on constitutional law in Hong Kong or overseas.

Assessment: 70% take-home paper, 20% two response papers, 10% class presentation

LLAW6267 Courts

This course takes an interdisciplinary, comparative, and empirical perspective on politically relevant questions concerning the design and operation of courts. Potential topics include the manner in which social scientists study courts; the nature and basis of judicial power; the practical effects of judicial review; the different ways in which a system of judicial review can be designed; the role of courts in nondemocratic environments; the challenges of defining and achieving judicial independence; and the dynamics by which courts expand into the domain of politics. Students should be prepared for copious reading assignments commensurate with a graduate-level course in the social sciences and consisting primarily of academic scholarship rather than cases. The readings are intended to introduce participants to the major debates and empirical arguments found in the scholarly literature on courts. The course will be conducted as a true graduate seminar, meaning that class time will consist primarily of collective critical discussion of the readings rather than passive absorption of the instructor's views. Each week, students will be required not only to demonstrate knowledge of what is in the readings, but also to offer their own evaluation and critique of the empirical arguments found in the readings and to articulate arguments of their own. The expectation is that students will engage in critical and original thinking and become active participants in the scholarly debate rather than passive consumers of scholarship produced by others.

Assessment: 30% research paper, 50% reaction papers, 10% oral presentation, 10% participation

LLAW6268 Administrative law and governance in China

This course introduces the administrative law in China and discusses its role in enhancing the governance. It provides perspectives of both comparative law and legal realism on the scope and growth of PRC administrative law, analysing this law's doctrinal foundations and exploring its interaction with China's political and societal transformation during the past three decades. The course focuses on legal control of the public authorities' decision-making process, and highlights the dynamic domains where legal transplantation interacts with indigenous system-building. Specifically, topics that are covered include:

- 1) Historical background (both political and intellectual) for the institutional development of administrative law in contemporary China;
- 2) Governance structure in China, and its impacts on the scope of the PRC administrative law (particularly in relation to the nature of administrative power and the basis for judicial intervention);
- 3) Fundamental concepts, principles and general doctrines of PRC administrative law, and their inspirations from and comparison with administrative law in western countries;
- 4) Grounds of judicial review of administrative decisions (excess of competence, legal errors, insufficient evidence, procedural impropriety, and abuse of (discretionary) power);
- 5) Judicial control of the rule-making power of public authorities, and sources of administrative law;

- 6) Scope of judicial review and conditions for the access to court;
- 7) Non-curial scrutiny of public authorities' decision-making (administrative review, letters and visits, administrative supervision);
- 8) Procedural control of decision-making (hearing, freedom of information);
- 9) Theories for assessing PRC administrative law, and salient factors that influence its function related to individual rights protection and governance accountability.

Pre-requisites: Subject to special approval by the course coordinator, students taking this course must demonstrate that he or she has basic knowledge on PRC law. Have taken and passed one course on PRC law (e.g. LLAW6008 Introduction to Chinese law and legal system, or its equivalent).

Assessment: 70% research paper, 30% group project presentation

LLAW6275 The legal foundations of global health and development

This is an elective designed primarily for the LLM in Medical Ethics and Law programme, and will introduce students to global health law, international moves towards a right to global health, the fundamental human right of access to basic medical services, national and coordinated international responses to and the management of global health hazards (including responses to emergent infections, epidemics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), addiction and substance abuse), the socio-legal management of and responses to risky behaviours (including STDs, addiction and substance abuse).

The course will also cover the role of international law, treaties and instruments touching on global health concerns, and how international law operates, and how it is different from national law.

The constitution, function, role and effectiveness of key international global health organizations such as the United Nations, World Health Organization, UNICEF and the FAO will also be studied. Selected examples on key pressing current issues such as national and international responses to SARS, MERS, Ebola, Zika and AMR, as well as an assessment of the state of national and international preparedness for highly-pathogenic future pandemics and the effectiveness of public health measures such as that for tobacco control will be examined through case studies.

Students will also be introduced to the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), and will examine responses of the various IHR Emergency Committees on Ebola, MERS-CoV, Zika virus etc. The often-strained relationships between international health organisations such as the WHO and national agencies will be examined.

The argument for basic medical services as a fundamental human right will be examined, particularly in the context of the links between health access on the one hand and economic and social development and social stability of developing countries on the other. The use of denial of medical services as a weapon of war will also be discussed.

In a similar context, equitable access to drugs and fair pricing will also be considered, as well as the role of intellectual property claims in the context of access to pharmaceuticals.

Finally, the course will examine current moves both at the national and international levels for a coordinated public health response to noncommunicable diseases (including epidemic ‘lifestyle’ diseases such as diabetes and other NCDs which are metabolic disorders), and the role that national and international law can play in such responses.

Assessment: 30% class participation, 70% take-home examination

LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union law

This course is intended to introduce students to law and institutions of the European Union. The EU law constitutes an autonomous and developed legal system which is directly binding on all member states. It is based on international treaties (TEU, TFEU, CFR), but it is also composed of thousands of regulations and directives enacted by the EU bodies, as well as of the case law of the EU Court of Justice. An important portion of both legal regulations and judicial case-law addresses matters of fundamental rights.

The course is structured as a general introduction and, by definition, must be very selective. It is focused on EU “constitutional law” and does not enter into any of the specialized branches of EU law.

It explores, first, historical development of the European integration (topic 1) and the institutional scheme of the EU (the Union: competences, accession and withdrawal – topics 2-3; the three branches of government – topic 4).

Secondly, the course moves to matters of the EU legal order: system of sources (topic 5), primacy and direct effect of EU law (topics 6-7), liability and enforcement (topic 8).

Finally, the remaining three topics deal with EU fundamental rights: their development and present scope (9), prohibition of discrimination and relation to the ECHR (10), protection of personal liberty (European Arrest Warrant and blacklisting – topic 11).

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% take-home examination

LLAW6289 Law, governance and development in Asia

In the wake of Asia's striking economic progress issues of law and governance are now seen as critical for the developing, developed and post-conflict states of Asia. Legal reforms are embracing constitutional, representative government, good governance and accountability, and human rights, based on the rule of law. How and on what principles should Asian states build these new legal orders? Is there such a thing as an ‘Asian approach’ to development? Can Asia sustain economic progress and satisfy the demands for the control of corruption and abuse of powers, and the creation of new forms of accountability? This course examines on a broad comparative canvas the nature, fate and

prospects for law and governance in developing democracies in Asia. Coverage of the issues will be both theoretical, as we ask questions about the evolving nature of 'law and development'; and practical, as we ask questions about the implementation of law and development projects across Asia. The emphasis is on governance reform and the legal system as a tool for development.

Assessment: 20% presentation, 80% research paper

LLAW6290 Law and society in South East Asia

Law and society courses deal with law in context, but are not concerned with discovering rules as such or with what the rules ought to be. This module aims to increase students' breadth of contextual understanding of law, and thereby their theoretical understanding of the subject from societal perspectives. These perspectives include historical, sociological, political, and economic/ development perspectives. SE Asia is defined as the ASEAN countries, but comparison with Hong Kong will be drawn where helpful. There will be an emphasis on ethnic and religious diversity, and therefore on legal pluralism as a perennial issue in this region. The course will explore issues that have bearing on diversity/ pluralism, especially on how ethnic and religious diversity are handled and how justice is conceived. Examples will be chosen from different areas of law, ranging from family law to jurisdictional issues to constitutional rights. These issues will cover pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial and contemporary law.

Assessment: 20% presentation, 80% research paper

LLAW6291 Mental disability and the law

This is a course that explores the relationship between mental disability and the law.

This course deals with the relationship between mental disability and the law, examining various aspects of how the law deals with those with mental disability in both the civil and criminal context. The course also addresses the key ethical principles underlying mental health law, as well as the international human rights instruments (such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) that have had or should have an impact on the development of mental health law.

The syllabus covers a range of topics in mental health law and ethics. Students will begin by learning about mental disability and legislative frameworks that govern mental health. The course will then cover various topics in civil mental health law, including compulsory treatment (both in hospital and in the community) and mental capacity law (with a specific focus on available legal mechanisms in preparation for mental disability). This will be followed by various topics in criminal mental health law, including police powers and criminal defences.

Throughout the classes, students will apply the ethical concepts they have learned to the various areas of criminal and civil law which take a different approach to those with

mental disability, and develop the skills to critically examine the strengths and weaknesses in these areas. In particular, students will consider whether the law should have a different approach towards those with mental disability, and why. Students will also consider the extent to which Hong Kong's mental health law regimes are compliant with Hong Kong's international commitments, and where they are not, whether reforms are necessary and the direction any such reforms should take. Students will examine ethical, legal and policy dimensions in their exploration of the possibilities for reform.

Assessment: 30% class participation, 70% take-home examination

LLAW6296 Climate and energy justice in practice

Climate change is dramatically impacting on the future of the planet and the survival of the human race. Legal regimes are emerging slowly as the political process lags behind the science. This course examines the international law regime addressing climate change and how countries are incorporating this into national law. However, we cannot discuss climate change solutions in an idealistic bubble. The human demand for energy and consumption is a key driver and therefore this class will also examine the related topic of energy law and how law enables innovation to provide solutions.

This course is part of the HKU experiential learning program, and addresses the increasing market demand to combine theoretical knowledge with knowledge of the law in practice. Students will contribute to on-going cases and climate litigation throughout the Asia-Pacific region, with the option to explore cases in other international jurisdictions. This provides HKU students with the opportunity to experience climate justice in practice domestically, regionally and internationally. This practice-based learning will be done with select NGOs as well as foreign Universities. Students will have the opportunity of engaging in a wide range of skills based legal work, including drafting submissions, conducting legal research for lawyers, contributing to advocacy campaigns, policy analysis, fact finding, report writing, submissions to human rights bodies, trainings and capacity building.

Assessment: 50% research paper, 50% take-home examination

LLAW6297 Macau and Hong Kong comparative constitutional law

This comparative constitutional law course provides a panoramic and in-depth overview of key features of the legal system of the Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, most especially at the constitutional order level and with an emphasis on a comparative law methodology approach.

Macau and Hong Kong both enjoy a similar constitutional order but also similar problems worthy of further discussion, academic and research cooperation, efforts on identifying commonalities and understanding differences.

The course covers aspects of political-legal history, fundamental rights, autonomy and subnational constitutionalism, juridical nature of the Basic Law, the ‘One Country, Two Systems’ framework, the multi-composed constitutional order, and specific aspects of international law particularly relevant to Macau and Hong Kong. Again, with a particular attention paid to the comparison of the systems.

Assessment: 50% paper presentation and class participation, 50% research paper

LLAW6307 Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective

This course offers a comprehensive analysis of the Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL) and relevant cases. It covers a wide range of theoretical and legal issues including the constitutionality of the NSL, national security offences and penalties, police power, protection of ICCPR rights, national security institutions, courts, jurisdiction, cross-regional legal issues, and interpretation. The course introduces the NSL within the Basic Law framework and involves a variety of laws relevant to the implement of the NSL, including the Basic Law, Hong Kong laws, Chinese public law, and international human rights laws. The course explores controversies surrounding the NSL from a comparative perspective by referring to legal practices in other jurisdictions, particularly mainland China, countries such as South Korea and Spain with serious national integrity concerns, and common law jurisdictions such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and Singapore. The course also examines broader political and social dimensions implicated in the NSL and national security matters. The course aims to help students objectively appraise the NSL and reflect on legal approaches to balance the tension between national security and human rights.

Assessment: 10% participation in discussion, 30% coursework, 60% research essay
