

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF COMMON LAW [MCL]**

*These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the MCL curriculum in the academic year 2021-22 and thereafter.*

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

---

### **MCL1. Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Master of Common Law, a candidate:

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (b) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours or an equivalent qualification in a non-common law jurisdiction; 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).
- 

### **MCL2. 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 of Law but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
-

**MCL3. Period of study**

- (a) The curriculum for the Master of Common Law shall normally extend over one academic year of full-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 study beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
- 

**MCL4. Completion of curriculum**

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Common Law, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (b) satisfactorily complete a compulsory non-credit bearing course and not fewer than 72 credits as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, including a capstone experience.
- 

**MCL5. 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).
- 

**MCL6. 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 application 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.
- 

**MCL7. 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 shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester).
  - (ii) 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 as specified in MCL4(b).
  - (iii) In the case under (i) above, the total number of credits taken shall not be fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits for the normative period of study specified in MCL3(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 of Law, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
- (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits 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 MCL3(b).
-

**MCL8. Exemption**

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, up to 9 credits (one course) in 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

---

**MCL9. 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.

---

**MCL10.           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.

---

**MCL11.           Requirements for graduation**

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Common Law, candidates shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, and complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in the compulsory non-credit bearing course and courses not fewer 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.

---

**MCL12.           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.

---

**MCL13.           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 COMMON LAW (MCL)**

### **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 Common Law is specifically designed for graduates in law from non-Common law jurisdictions (notably Mainland China) who wish to acquire an expertise in Common Law as it is practised in Hong Kong and in other common law jurisdictions. Candidates will commence the curriculum with a course, Understanding Common Law, in transition into the methodology of common law. They then take 6-7 elective courses in common law as suit their interests and expertise. Finally they take one or two of the capstone course(s) in Public Law in Common Law Jurisdiction or/and Private Law in Common Law Jurisdiction respectively to allow greater synergy between students background expertise in civil law and the new training in common law that they have obtained from the Curriculum.

---

### **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 the compulsory non-credit bearing course and not fewer than 72 credits, including a capstone experience in accordance with the regulations for this degree and the syllabuses 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. Candidates who hold a law degree from a PRC university may not choose courses related to PRC law subjects, except with the approval from Programme Director and the Department Head.

---

## COURSE OUTLINES

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

### **Capstone courses**

*(Candidates must choose one course from the following list.)*

LLAW6258 Private law in common law jurisdictions

LLAW6204 Public law in common law jurisdictions

### **Compulsory course**

LLAW6259 Understanding common law<sup>1</sup> (0 credit)

### **Electives**

LLAW6183 Animal law

LLAW6138 Arbitration law

LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting

LLAW6058 Armed conflicts, humanitarian law and human rights

LLAW6229 Arms control and disarmament law

LLAW6236 ASEAN law

LLAW6024 Banking law

LLAW6153 Business and human rights

LLAW6172 Carriage of goods by sea

LLAW6296 Climate and energy justice in practice

LLAW6124 Communications law

LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia

LLAW6284 Comparative company law

LLAW6156 Comparative constitutional law

LLAW6226 Comparative constitutional law theories

LLAW6292 Comparative constitutional review: theory and practice

LLAW6248 Comparative contract law

LLAW6279 Comparative corporate law and theories

LLAW6209 Comparative family law

LLAW6150 Comparative law

LLAW6027 Comparative law and practice of construction and projects

LLAW6251 Comparative property law

LLAW6155 Competition law II

LLAW6101 Competition, mergers and acquisitions

LLAW6245 Compliance in the Hong Kong securities industry

LLAW6285 Computer programming, data mining, and the law - an applied introduction

LLAW6220 Constitutionalism in emerging states

LLAW6252 Construction of commercial contracts

LLAW6223 Copyright and creativity

LLAW6082 Corporate governance and shareholder remedies

LLAW6267 Courts

LLAW6002 Credit and security law

LLAW6233 Critical theory in legal scholarship

LLAW6206 Cross border corporate finance: issues and techniques

---

<sup>1</sup> The course will be taught immediately after the term starts and lasts for only a month.

LLAW6286 Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions  
 LLAW6084 Cross-border insolvency law  
 LLAW6114 Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)  
 LLAW6127 Current issues in financial law  
 LLAW6060 Current issues in human rights  
 LLAW6087 Current issues in insolvency law  
 LLAW6117 Cybercrime  
 LLAW6088 Derivatives: law and regulation  
 LLAW6300 Digitalisation: health, law and policy  
 LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation\*  
 LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation (18 credits)\*  
 LLAW6111 E-business law  
 LLAW6126 e-Finance: law, compliance and technology challenges  
 LLAW6062 Economic, social and cultural rights  
 LLAW6210 Energy law  
 LLAW6090 Emerging markets: finance and investment  
 LLAW6249 Entertainment law  
 LLAW6063 Equality and non-discrimination  
 LLAW6064 Ethnicity, human rights and democracy  
 LLAW6174 Family mediation  
 LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong & international perspectives  
 LLAW6066 Gender issues in human rights  
 LLAW6194 Global business law I  
 LLAW6195 Global business law II  
 LLAW6304 Governing online platforms: law, economics and politics  
 LLAW6216 Graduate seminar  
 LLAW6005 Hong Kong intellectual property law  
 LLAW6307 Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective  
 LLAW6119 Human rights and cyberspace  
 LLAW6034 Human rights in Hong Kong  
 LLAW6242 Human rights in practice  
 LLAW6107 Insurance law  
 LLAW6120 Intellectual property and information technology  
 LLAW6140 Intellectual property, innovation and development  
 LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law  
 LLAW6237 International arbitration: practice, process and strategy  
 LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration  
 LLAW6036 International criminal law  
 LLAW6007 International dispute settlement  
 LLAW6133 International economic law  
 LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes  
 LLAW6182 International organisations  
 LLAW6073 International protection of refugees and displaced persons  
 LLAW6057 International securities law  
 LLAW6096 International tax and tax planning  
 LLAW6128 International trade law I

LLAW6280 Introduction to artificial intelligence and law  
 LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union Law  
 LLAW6227 Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)  
 LLAW6295 Issues in consumer law: theory and policy  
 LLAW6231 Justice  
 LLAW6199 Law and policy  
 LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration  
 LLAW6239 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management I  
 LLAW6246 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management II  
 LLAW6197 Law and social theory  
 LLAW6290 Law and society in South East Asia  
 LLAW6170 Law and the internet  
 LLAW6178 Law, economics, regulation and development  
 LLAW6289 Law, governance and development in Asia  
 LLAW6301 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) – postgraduate internship  
 LLAW6302 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) lab – tech startup law plus  
 LLAW6055 Law of international finance 1  
 LLAW6094 Law of international finance 2  
 LLAW6260 Law of state immunity and sovereign debt  
 LLAW6253 Law of the cities  
 LLAW6181 Management and commercialization of intellectual property  
 LLAW6247 Medico-legal issues  
 LLAW6224 Mergers and acquisitions  
 LLAW6179 Multiculturalism and the law  
 LLAW6075 National protection of human rights  
 LLAW6176 Online dispute resolution  
 LLAW6219 Patent law  
 LLAW6097 Pension and investment funds in Hong Kong and the PRC  
 LLAW6196 Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution  
 LLAW6164 Principles of family law  
 LLAW6046 Privacy and data protection  
 LLAW6298 Private equity and venture capital: law and practice  
 LLAW6109 Public international law  
 LLAW6093 Regulation of financial markets  
 LLAW6281 Research seminar in ADR ethics and policy  
 LLAW6144 Rights and remedies in the criminal process  
 LLAW6305 Sanctions: law and practice  
 LLAW6049 Securities regulation I  
 LLAW6244 Securities regulation II  
 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  
 LLAW6306 The economic analysis of law  
 LLAW6250 The regulation of biomedical research  
 LLAW6200 Topics in trademark law

LLAW6299 Trusts in commerce, finance, and wealth management  
LLAW6102 White collar crime: law and practice  
LLAW6211 World trade law, policy and business

*(Candidates may choose up to two 6-credit courses from the following cross-listed undergraduate courses. \*\*)*

LLAW3093 Administrative law (6 credits)  
LLAW3010 Business associations (6 credits)  
LLAW3138 Carriage of goods by sea  
LLAW3097 Civil Procedure (6 credits)  
LLAW3015 Company law (6 credits)  
LLAW2001 Constitutional law (6 credits)  
LLAW2003 Criminal law I (6 credits)  
LLAW2004 Criminal law II (6 credits)  
LLAW3099 Criminal procedure (6 credits)  
LLAW3066 Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua) (6 credits)  
LLAW3102 Evidence I (6 credits)  
LLAW3103 Evidence II (6 credits)  
LLAW1001 Law of contract I (6 credits)  
LLAW1002 Law of contract II (6 credits)  
LLAW1005 Law of tort I (6 credits)  
LLAW1006 Law of tort II (6 credits)  
LLAW2013 Land law I (6 credits)  
LLAW2014 Land law II (6 credits)  
LLAW1008 Legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)

\* LLAW6014 and LLAW6054 are mutually exclusive.

\*\* Candidates who choose one 6-credit or two 6-credit course(s) from the list of approved UG courses offered by the Department of Law are required to complete at least 78 credits or 75 credits respectively for satisfying the curriculum requirement.

***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 COMMON LAW [MCL]**

---

### *Capstone courses*

---

#### **LLAW6204 Public law in common law jurisdiction**

This course aims to provide a strong grounding in and understanding of the principles governing the development and the operation of the Common Law.

Part A of the course, introduces students, first, to the nature and philosophical underpinnings of the Common Law. Next it looks, in a series of Seminars at: the sources and general historical development of the Common Law; the importance of precedent; and of modes of statutory interpretation.

Part B of the course first examines the divergent impact of the Common Law approach on the development of Public Law in the UK and the USA. Next it considers the way in which the Chinese (Mainland) political-legal structure has been shaped by historical events both during the Imperial period and post-1912 and post-1949. It moves on to look at the way the Public Law aspect of the Common Law has developed within British Hong Kong and in the HKSAR. Finally this part of the course considers aspects of the interaction between the HKSAR Common Law system and the PRC legal system.

Assessment: 25% presentation, 75% minor dissertation

---

#### **LLAW6258 Private law in common law jurisdictions**

This course will provide an introduction to understanding common law reasoning and legal sources, with a primary emphasis on the nature of case precedents in the context of modern lawmaking. The aim will be to familiarize students with how common law decisions are generated and interpreted, with a focus on private law. The class will involve many of the same classic cases used to train common law students, pairing broad overviews of private law divergences between civil/Chinese and common law approaches with the US tradition of Socratic instruction using cases drawn from multiple common law jurisdictions. There will be emphasis on both oral and written presentation to develop student's capacity to situate case analysis within multiple sources of legal authority and facilitate their ability to communicate arguments using precedential reasoning.

Assessment: 20% presentations, 40% class participation, 40% written assignments

---

---

*Compulsory course*

---

**LLAW6259 Understanding common law (0 credit)**

This course aims to help the students to quickly get adapted to the common law studies in the English environment. For students with educational background in civil law jurisdictions, it is important for them to familiarize themselves with the fundamental principles of structure and operation of both systems. The objective of this course is thus to acquaint the students with fundamental legal concepts, structures and functions of the common law system on the one hand, to familiarize the students with the distinctive language of law used in a variety of legal texts through a focus on legal reading and writing skills, vocabulary knowledge of legal concepts, reasoning and language of problem-question-answers and judgments on the other.

The course, designed to be introductory in nature, is limited to providing an overview of basic concepts in contract law and tort law. The course will address both theoretical and practical aspects of common law. It will start with identifying the basic differences between the common law and civil law systems and the underlying causes for different internal structures and legal principles. It will continue with discussions on major concepts of law of contracts and torts by examining the controlling precedents and illustrative case law.

Important concepts and principles in contract law and tort law covered in this course include contract formation, interpretation, enforcement, contractual remedies, contract assignment, tortious acts, negligence and damages available. The questions raised in the course include the following: 1) what is the difference between common law and equity? 2) how does the court interpret an ambiguous contractual provision? 3) how can one create an enforceable legal obligation under common law? The students shall be able to learn important concepts and principles through lectures, case studies, simulations and role plays.

The practical English language skills, in particular the case-reading skill, will also be taught in this course. The students will have the chance to read and understand cases in common law. More specifically, the following questions will be dealt with in the practical part of the course: 1) what questions must be answered in order to reach a conclusion in the case? 2) what is the rule to apply to the issue? 3) how does the judges in common law jurisdictions apply the rules to the facts of a particular case? 4) what is the result of the case? The students will also receive intensive instruction and support in both writing and speaking legal English in the common law jurisdictions.

The students are expected to engage in critical discussions based on assigned reading materials distributed in the course. During the course the students will undertake an oral presentation and at the end of the course the students will be required to undertake a written assignment consisting of problem questions and/or case studies.

This course be assessed on Pass / Fail basis and non-credit bearing.

Assessment: 20% oral presentation, 80% written assignments

---

---

*Electives*

---

**LLAW1001 and LLAW1002      Law of contract I and II (12 credits)**

The function of contract; formation of contract, including offer and acceptance, consideration and estoppel, certainty, intention to create legal relations and privity; contents of a contract, including express and implied terms, exemption clauses and statutory control; vitiating factors, including mistake, misrepresentation, duress, undue influence and unconscionability; discharge of contract, including performance, agreement, breach and frustration; remedies, including damages, specific performance, injunctions, action for an agreed sum, account of profits, liquidated damages, deposits, part-payments, rectification and rescission.

Assessment: 10% class participation in tutorials, 40% mid-year examination, 50% final examination

---

**LLAW1005 and LLAW1006      Law of tort I and II (12 credits)**

This course introduces students to the tort law system and the general and particularised principles of tort liability. The course begins with a critical examination of the social and economic functions of the tort system. It then proceeds to an examination of the leading case law and principles in the main tort actions, beginning with a detailed analysis of the predominant tort, negligence. Important negligence-related concepts such as vicarious liability, joint and several liability, contribution and limitation of action are considered, as well as the principle remedy for negligence, that of damages for personal injury and death. Torts closely related to negligence such as occupiers' liability and breach of statutory duty are also studied, as are the tort-related no-fault accident compensation schemes for work-related injury and disease. The course then proceeds to a study of trespassory torts, those torts that cause injury or interference through intentional conduct, and the remedies available. Torts causing damage to or interference with property and their remedies are then considered, including trespass to land, nuisance and *Rylands v. Fletcher*. The course concludes with an examination of and the remedies for the torts that protection reputation, principally, defamation.

This course aims to provide a solid grounding in the functions and principles of tort law, the ability to think critically about tort law, and the ability to conduct independent legal research and provide meaningful legal analysis of tort law problems. Through carefully designed learning activities, the course aims to nurture in students the ability to identify tort law issues in the unflagged tort-related events of daily life, and to engage in the independent legal analysis of such unflagged tort-related events.

Assessment:  
50% final examination,

20% coursework in the 1st semester, including a test accounting for either 10% or 20% and an assignment submission accounting for either 0% or 10% (detailed instructions will be provided on the course website),

30% reflective media diary: begin work immediately in 1st semester, submission in 2nd semester

---

### **LLAW1008 The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)**

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to principles of law governing the legal system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the only common law jurisdiction in East Asia. It encourages students to appreciate the underlying values of legal practice and the administration of justice in the context of wider global and regional developments. It explains the crucial role played by the rule of law in Hong Kong's historic transition from a cluster of marginal fishing settlements into an international financial centre under Chinese sovereignty over the course of nearly two centuries

Assessment: 10% tutorial participation, 90% examination

---

### **LLAW2001 Constitutional law (6 credits)**

Constitutional law is a core component of a legal system. It also constitutes the foundation of a legal system, because it stipulates what are the sources of law in the legal system and how the law is made; it establishes, empowers and constrains the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government; and it regulates the relationship between these organs of government as well as the relationship between the government and the people. From the perspective of the people, constitutional law guarantees and protects their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In Hong Kong, constitutional law also performs the important function of regulating the relationship between Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Central Government Authorities of the PRC. Constitutional law in Hong Kong is therefore the legal foundation of 'One Country, Two Systems'. It is also an area of the law which is often the focus of public and media attention. Constitutional law cases and controversies often appear in the Hong Kong press as frontpage news stories. The outcomes of constitutional litigation sometimes not only change the lives of the parties to the case, but also have wide and deep impact on the Hong Kong community and its public and social policies, or the political relationship between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Constitutional law is closely related to politics, political philosophy and history. In students' previous legal studies, they have already come across aspects of constitutional history and constitutional theory (e.g. in the Law and Society course), as well as some constitutional controversies in Hong Kong (e.g. in the Legal System course). We hope that this course on constitutional law will provide for students the opportunity to study the subject more systematically and intensively. However, as it is only a one-semester

course, it can do no more than opening the door for students, so that students who are interested in a broader and deeper understanding of the subject may acquire a solid foundation for their future studies in this interesting, exciting and challenging domain of public law.

Assessment: 33% essay, 67% examination

---

**LLAW2003 and LLAW2004      Criminal law I and II (12 credits)**

Criminal law I introduces students to the principles of Hong Kong criminal law and liability. Topics include the nature and classification of crime, elements of criminal procedure in Hong Kong, the burden of proof and the impact of constitutional human rights, and the general principles of criminal responsibility. Offences considered will include homicide, non-fatal offences against the person, criminal damage and theft.

Criminal law II examines further aspects of criminal law and liability in Hong Kong, including criminal defences, participation and inchoate liability. It will examine the application of the general principles of criminal responsibility in selected criminal offence areas, including homicide, assaults, sexual offences, and theft and deception. Where possible, students will be encouraged to consider alternative approaches to the principles of liability, and to develop social policy analysis skills.

Assessment: 10% magistrate's court report, 30% mid-term examination, 60% final examination

---

**LLAW2013 and LLAW2014      Land law I and II (12 credits)**

Introduction to property and land law.

Acquisition of interests in land: legal and equitable methods.

Concurrent interests under ownership.

Acquisition of possessory title by adverse possession.

Priority: enforceability of interests against third parties.

Leases: nature; creation; termination; relationship of landlord and tenant.

Leasehold covenants: nature; enforceability; remedies.

Licences: nature; revocability; enforceability.

Easements: nature; creation; determination.

Security interests: mortgages; charges.

Assessment: 30% exploration (group work), 70% examinations (one exam at the end of each semester)

---

### **LLAW3010 Business associations (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the law of business associations. The two main forms of business association to be covered in the course are partnerships and companies, with a predominant focus on the latter. Students will acquire an understanding of the basic issues in company law, including company formation, corporate personality, the relationship between the company and outsiders, directors' duties, member's rights in a company, and the dissolution of a company. The focus will be on Hong Kong law.

The course adopts the usual lecture-tutorial format. The tutorials are highly interactive and students are expected to come prepared and to participate actively in tutorial discussions.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed Commercial Law

Assessment: 15% mid-term examination, 85% final examination

---

### **LLAW3015 Company law (6 credits)**

This course builds on what the students have learnt about companies from the Business Associations course (LLAW3010) and covers the topics covered in that course more in-depth to prepare students for further study in corporate and corporate finance law and practice and in particular, the Corporate and Commercial Transaction course to be taught in the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme.

Note: In the dealing with the said topics, there will be a particular emphasis on Hong Kong case law and the Companies Ordinance (Cap.622) and the Companies (Winding-up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap.32).

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed Business Associations

Assessment: 80% examination, 20% class participation and presentation exercises

---

### **LLAW3066 Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua) (6 credits)**

The course will focus on the constitutional, criminal and civil aspects of cross-border legal relations, which will include:

The status of PRC constitution and the Basic Law and the issue of congressional supremacy,

Criminal jurisdictions,  
Repatriation of fugitives and sentenced persons and mutual legal assistance in other criminal matters,  
Mutual recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and judgments,  
Procedures of cross-border services and evidence taking, and  
Cross-border insolvency and family law matters.

The course will be taught in both Putonghua and English. The medium of coursework and examination will be in Chinese.

Assessment: 100% research paper

---

### **LLAW3093 Administrative law (6 credits)**

The course will introduce Hong Kong's law on judicial review of administrative action. Topics that may be covered in any particular year include: theories of administrative decision-making, grounds of judicial review (errors of law and fact, procedural impropriety, errors in the exercise of discretion, legitimate expectations), the public-private divide, the practical aspects of bringing an action for judicial review, and non-curial means of control and scrutiny of administration action (Ombudsman, Administrative appeals, public enquiries). The course will guide students on how to apply the law in factual scenarios and encourage students to reflect upon various theoretical issues in Administrative law.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed LLAW 2001 Constitutional law (or its equivalent).

Assessment: 30% research paper, 70% examination

---

### **LLAW3097 Civil procedure (6 credits)**

The conduct of civil litigation in the High Court and District Court:

- considerations prior to commencement of action;
- legal aid;
- jurisdiction of courts;
- parties and joinder;
- commencement of proceedings;
- service and acknowledgment of service;
- pleadings (Statement of Claim, Defences and Counter-Claims; Reply);
- summary disposal of actions (judgment on admissions; default judgment and summary judgment);
- interlocutory application (interlocutory injunctions, Mareva injunctions, Anton Piller Orders, prohibition orders, security for costs, interim payments);
- discovery, further and better particulars, interrogatories;
- compromises and settlements, ADR, sanctioned offer and sanctioned payment;

- case management, sanctions for non-compliance, pre-trial security;
- aspects of the civil trial, preparation for trials and trial procedures, judgment and costs;
- enforcement of judgements; and
- appeals.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

### **LLAW3099 Criminal procedure (6 credits)**

The goal of this introductory course is to equip undergraduate law students with the basic legal knowledge of criminal procedure in Hong Kong. Topics covered in this course include:

- Introduction to criminal justice system;
- Rights of arrested persons/defendants;
- Selected topics about powers of law enforcement agencies;
- Criminal jurisdiction of courts in Hong Kong;
- Classification of criminal offences;
- Transfers and Committals;
- Commencement of criminal proceedings;
- Selected topics about pre-trial and trial processes;
- Sentencing principles and options;
- Costs in criminal cases; and
- Appeal mechanisms for criminal proceedings.

Prerequisite / co-requisite: Have taken and passed (or concurrently taking) Criminal Law I & II

Assessment: 80% examination, 20% group research project

---

### **LLAW3102 Evidence I (6 credits)**

The course covers the major topics typically included in an introductory evidence course: relevance, admissibility, residual discretion, burden and standards of proof, proof without evidence (presumptions, judicial notice and formal admissions), competence and compellability, refreshing memory, attacking credibility, prior statements, character evidence, similar fact evidence, opinion and expert evidence, hearsay, confessions, consciousness of guilt, exclusion of evidence for violations of human rights, and legal professional privilege.

The emphasis in this course is on rules of admissibility as opposed to trial procedure. However, a full understanding of these rules and their rationale requires a basic

appreciation of trial procedures and practices. Consequently, students are advised to gain some knowledge of trial procedures early on in the course.

Prerequisite / co-requisite: Have taken and passed (or concurrently taking) Criminal Law I & II

Assessment: 80% examination, 20% tutorial participation

---

### **LLAW3103 Evidence II (6 credits)**

The course is intended to provide an opportunity for (a) in depth study of specialist areas of the law relating to evidence and procedure and (b) introducing students to different approaches towards problems of proof suggested by scholars in other disciplines.

Topics for study will be selected on a yearly basis from the following list: expert evidence; similar facts evidence; police practices and a fair trial; public interest immunity; interrogatories and other forms of admission; the use of forensic science; probability theory and proof; comparative evidence and procedure; admissibility/relevance of the confessions of third persons; evasions of the hearsay rule; features and problems of identification testimony; pre-trial and trial experiments; reforms; codification, together with any current controversies or developments in the general area of evidence and procedure the teachers or students find appropriate or interesting.

(*Note:* Students enrolling for this course must have completed Evidence I or an equivalent course.)

Assessment: 25% continuous assessment, 75% examination

---

### **LLAW3138 Carriage of goods by sea (6 credits)**

This is a half-semester intensive course, the purpose of which is to introduce students to the basic common law framework of the contract for the carriage of goods by sea, which together with the contract for international sale is the basis of international trade the world over, and to show students how to analyse disputes occurring in this context - of which in seaports such as Hong Kong there are many. It is a course on common law, some form of which governs a large proportion of such contracts. If the law of a non-common law country, for example China, Korea or Japan, governs the contract, the reasoning used would be likely to be different; but it would be recognisably similar because the institutions of maritime law contain many common features known to all who transact business or advise in the area.

The following topics will be covered:

1. Types of contract for the carriage of goods by sea.
2. Express and implied terms in contracts of affreightment (concerning seaworthiness, deviation, dangerous cargo, laytime, demurrage etc).

3. Voyage charterparties and time charterparties.
4. Bills of lading and other sea transport documents (e.g. waybills, delivery orders).
5. The Hague and Hague-Visby Rules and proposal for reform (the Rotterdam Rules).
6. Effects of bills lading issued where ship under charter.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

### **LLAW6002 Credit and security law**

The legal aspects of supplying and securing credit in respect of consumers and companies; the legal means of taking security over different types of property.

The forms of credit and security are divided into the “real” securities and the “quasi-securities”. The real securities are: charges, mortgages, pledges and common law liens. The quasi-securities include hire-purchase, bills of sale, assignments of the benefit of a chose in action, sales and re-sales, finance leases, retention of title transactions, and many other forms usually involving indirect money lending. All of these forms of security are available to consumers as well as corporate borrowers. A common corporate loan is a charge over book debts. A common consumer loan transaction is a mortgage over land.

Topics to be studied include:

- the concept of security,
- the role of equity in security transactions, real and personal securities,
- types of business finance,
- insolvency,
- drafting of documentation to achieve particular purposes,
- reviewing new or novel forms of property, e.g. carbon sequestration;
- reviewing overseas developments in codifying commercial law; and
- remedies.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% examination

---

### **LLAW6005 Hong Kong intellectual property law**

A comparative study of the Hong Kong law relating to patents, copyright, registered designs, trade marks, trade secrets, trade descriptions, common law remedies including and akin to passing off and injurious falsehood, and associated rights in information. Previous study or practice in the area of intellectual property would be an advantage but is not essential provided some preliminary private study is undertaken.

Assessment: 0% or 25% optional assignment, 100% or 75% take-home examination

---

## **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

---

## **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

---

## **LLAW6024 Banking law**

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the major issues in banking law in Hong Kong. It is concerned with:

- the law governing the nature of the contract (and its termination) of the banker-customer relationship;
- legal issues arising in relation to special types of accounts such as joint accounts, trust accounts, professionals and various types of business associations;
- banker’s duties including confidentiality and the duty of care;
- fiduciary duties;
- lending and investment services, including securities and guarantees/indemnities;
- the role of the bank in documentary credits, and the growing stress on autonomy of

these documents;

- banker's rights including appropriation of payment, the lien and set-off;
- bills of exchange; and
- newer developments including shadow banking, Islamic finance, charge-backs, non-performing loans and others.

In the financing area, there will be an introduction to the key issues relating to bank loans and banker's security, and an in-depth study of autonomous payment obligations including guarantees, standby letters of credit and performance bonds. There will be discussion on a new development in relation to proposals for "implied good faith" to operate contrary to the principle of autonomy.

Students who enrol in this course are expected to be familiar with the common law of contract and trust.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% examination

---

### **LLAW6027 Comparative law and practice of construction and projects**

This course provides a detailed appraisal of construction law, projects and practice in five representative Asian jurisdictions: the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea. Through detailed explanation, analysis and case studies, students will gain an integrated and advanced understanding of the key features of each jurisdiction, both in isolation and in a comparative context. Students will develop their capacity to operate and advise in and across these jurisdictions as well as deriving lessons for application in Hong Kong or other jurisdictions.

The focus will be with:

- The size, importance, opportunities and trends in each construction sector.
- Key legal and regulatory frameworks, tender practices and project management norms.
- The principal standard forms of contract in use.
- Recent build-own-transfer, build-lease-transfer, and design-build-finance-operate projects and planned public private partnerships in economic and social infrastructure.
- Resource management, financing, innovation and competitiveness on a comparative basis in the development of their construction sectors in the wider Asian building and projects market.
- Case studies on construction, including the Beijing Metro No. 4 Line and MTR international projects; planning, financing, construction and appraisal of the Anhwa school project in Korea; recent NEC procured pilot projects in Hong Kong; tendering, construction, operation and issues surrounding the Taiwan High Speed Rail project; and tendering, financing, construction and operation of the Singapore Sports Hub compared with the Kai Tak Sports Park.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

---

### **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

---

## **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

---

## **LLAW6049 Securities regulation I**

The overall aim of the course is to develop an understanding of the regulatory framework governing the securities markets in Hong Kong and how regulations affect securities activities and transactions undertaken by issuers, intermediaries and investors. An underlying theme of the course will be to understand why regulations put in place and to critically assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the regulatory framework and specific regulations.

The course is structured in three conceptual parts. (1) Orientation: the nature of regulation and the products, actors and marketplaces with which the course will be concerned. (2) Framework: the core laws, regulations and regulators comprising the regulatory framework. (3) Application: how regulation interacts with the business of effecting transactions in the marketplace.

The course will examine key securities laws and regulations, in particular: the Securities and Futures Ordinance (SFO), the prospectus provisions of the Companies (Winding-up and Miscellaneous Provision) Ordinance, regulatory codes issued by the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), and the Listing Rules. The objectives, principles and purposes of regulation will be introduced. The nature and functions of a stock market will

be considered.

The function of key bodies undertaking regulatory functions, namely the SFC, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, the Market Misconduct Tribunal and the Securities and Futures Appeals Tribunal will be examined. The impact of regulation on corporate transactions and the general practices of the market and its intermediaries will be studied. A portion of the course will be given over to studying the impact of regulatory requirements on the conduct of initial public offerings.

The course will conclude by bringing together the knowledge gained over the duration of the course to consider the benefits and drawbacks of regulation for the market and critically assess the impact and effectiveness of regulation. What are the shortfalls of regulation, and where is regulation heading?

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

---

#### **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

---

#### **LLAW6055 Law of international finance 1**

Law of international finance 1 examines the fundamentals of financial transaction formation and its connection with national and transnational law, financial sector innovation and contemporary commercial practices – that is, “How deals work”, and how law and regulation influence the decisions of banks and other intermediaries operating in organised markets.

The course aims to (i) create from first principles a usable understanding of four elemental capital market transactions; and (ii) provide a common scholarly platform for those new to financial law or to common law practices. This includes consideration of the institutional incentive that influences the commercial actions of transaction parties; contract formation; why transactions succeed or fail; important regulatory settings; and the forms of documentation used to structure transactions and allocate commercial and legal risks.

Four generic transactions will be examined using examples of recent real applications - international syndicated loans; major currency bond issues and debt issuance programmes;

simple asset-backed securities; and interest rate and currency swaps. Standardised documentation and topical materials will be used throughout.

Prerequisite: Non LLM(CFL) students must demonstrate a workable understanding of contract and commercial law or a strong professional background in contemporary finance.

Assessment: 90% take-home examination, 10% mid-term group assignment

---

### **LLAW6057 International securities law**

International securities law is an advanced course and LLM(CFL) capstone for students who have successfully completed Law of International Finance 1 and Securities Regulation I or whose professional background is considered appropriate by the instructors.

It deals with two related concerns — the law and regulation of organised markets and exchanges and the law and regulation of cross-border equity new issues. It is taught both from academic and practitioner perspectives.

The course aims to develop a usable understanding of the law, practice and regulation of international IPOs, and those contractual risks and governance issues associated with organised markets or exchanges and central counterparties. This includes considering the motives of users, contract formation, why new issues succeed or fail, the documentation involved in structuring and marketing equity new issues, and how regulation impacts transaction design and entrenched market practices.

Prerequisites: LLAW6049 and LLAW6055

Assessment: 25% group project presentation, 75% two take-home examinations issued at intervals over the semester

---

### **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 prerequisites 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

---

### **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

---

### **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

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6082 Corporate governance and shareholder remedies**

This course aims to investigate competing approaches to the concept of corporate governance explored in comparative literature and to canvass major debates on corporate governance reform among academic, business, and policy circles in selected jurisdictions, primarily Hong Kong and mainland China. The course will examine important corporate governance institutions in select jurisdictions, particularly the legal standards and arrangements for shareholder protection and remedies, as well as regulatory initiatives to promote good corporate governance practices and addressing corporate governance failures. Useful examples from overseas jurisdictions, such as the United States and United Kingdom, will be drawn on to illustrate international experience in corporate governance reform.

Assessment: 100% research paper, subject to prior approval of research proposal

---

### **LLAW6084 Cross-border insolvency law**

The course is aimed to provide students with a basic and clear understanding of the issues confronting financially distressed companies. To that end, the options available to insolvent companies, the intricacies of corporate restructuring and insolvency, and the various elemental aspects of the reorganization and insolvency procedures will be explored and examined. Relevant and highly pragmatic issues such as forensic accounting, cross-border and transnational insolvencies will also be introduced to students who are interested in choosing a professional career as private insolvency practitioners.

Assessment: 30% group research project and presentation, 70% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6087 Current issues in insolvency law**

Insolvency cases in Hong Kong are at an all-time high and the entire insolvency legal regime - including the bankruptcy of individuals and the liquidation and rescue of companies – is in transition. This course will cover both personal and corporate insolvency and will address the ongoing initiatives to reform Hong Kong law.

Detailed knowledge of insolvency law is not a prerequisite. The *Hong Kong Corporate and Personal Insolvency Manuals* will be assigned and will provide students with both an overview of insolvency law in Hong Kong and a detailed analysis of practical considerations. Discussions in class will consider the adequacy of existing insolvency laws and procedures in Hong Kong and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the law reform amendments and proposals. Comparisons will be made with insolvency law developments in other jurisdictions.

There will be four primary areas covered: (1) personal insolvency law (both bankruptcy and voluntary arrangements); (2) corporate liquidation; (3) corporate rescue (including out-of-court rescues and the proposed Provisional Supervision procedures); and (4) cross-border insolvency.

Assessment: 100% research paper

---

### **LLAW6088 Derivatives: law and regulation**

Covers the historical and market developments of swaps and derivatives, market innovations as to financial, capital market and commodities based derivatives, use of derivatives in emerging economies, regulatory and supervisory concerns, and selective case studies of regulatory and litigation issues as to derivative arrangements.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

---

### **LLAW6090 Emerging markets: finance and investment**

Consideration of the fundamental regulatory and contractual aspects of financing and investment in developing countries and transitioning economies, with a particular focus on the One-Belt One-Road (OBOR) Initiative. Specific subject matters to be studied will include the role of law in privatization and foreign direct investment in emerging economies and the basics of infrastructure project financing, particularly in OBOR countries. Challenges facing finance and investment in emerging markets including corporate social responsibility issues, corruption, local opposition and businesses operating in conflict zones will also be examined.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% two simulate practices, 60% research paper

---

### **LLAW6093 Regulation of financial markets**

Designed for students considering or planning to work in the financial sector, this is an overview perspective course, for LLM (and JD) students without financial background. Specifically, the course will examine, from legal and policy perspectives, the fundamentals respecting regulation of the primary financial intermediaries and markets: i.e., money and banking, investment banking, and asset management and insurance. Emphasis will be on the on-going phenomenon of globalisation and interdependence/interconnection of financial markets and intermediaries, and the need for economies to develop viable and robust financial markets, with a particular focus on the current global financial crisis. Use of international, comparative (especially PRC, US and EU) and interdisciplinary materials will be made.

Assessment: 80% take-home examination, 20% group research project and in-class group presentation

---

### **LLAW6094 Law of international finance 2**

Law of international finance 2 is an advanced course for students who have completed Law of International Finance 1. Its theme is non-traditional 'shadow' finance, dealing in context with contract formation, regulatory reforms and market practice.

The course provides insights to complex financial transactions and structured finance. This includes consideration of the parties involved and their various objectives; why transactions succeed or fail; and the impact of regulation on transaction design and shifts in activity between the 'conventional' and shadow financial systems.

Topics include the uses and risks of special purpose vehicles; non-recourse finance for movable objects (ships and aircraft) and infrastructure; credit derivatives and synthetic transactions; mis-selling to retail and professionals; and conflicts in debt restructuring. The course will consider the roots and features of complex transactions; how they contributed to the 2007-09 financial crisis; and examine legal and commercial aspects of recent transactions, especially when one elemental instrument is combined or embedded

with others.

Prerequisites: LLAW6055 or an academic equivalent; or substantive and demonstrable professional experience.

Assessment: 100% Three take-home examinations issued at intervals over the semester

---

### **LLAW6096 International tax and tax planning**

This course:

1. highlights and explains the major concepts of international taxation and tax planning by focusing upon the taxation implications arising from cross-border business transactions (and, to a lesser extent, employment), as well as suggests appropriate structures for implementing those transactions.
2. examines and contrasts the ways in which selected jurisdictions deal with the problems of taxing cross-border activities, with a particular focus upon important concepts such as jurisdiction to tax, controlled foreign companies legislation, foreign tax credit (and exemption) regimes, transfer pricing, withholding taxes, taxation compliance and anti-avoidance rules, and particular attention to the role, application, and interpretation of double taxation agreements (DTAs).
3. examines, in particular, specific and general anti-avoidance rules in (a) domestic legislation and (b) DTAs and, generally, the role of the courts in this area, anti-avoidance doctrine and tax ethics in relation to tax planning.
4. with regard to 2. and 3. above, examines in detail the taxation systems of several jurisdictions (specifically, Singapore, Hong Kong and the PRC (Mainland) and, for comparative purposes, Japan and the United States) by considering the taxation implications of outbound and inbound investments and appropriate structuring for (a) residents of those jurisdictions and (b) non-residents who carry out business operations (or who perform employment-related services) in those jurisdictions.
5. studies topical issues of international tax policy such as jurisdiction to tax, taxation of internet transactions, transfer pricing, tax administration, recent changes to the OECD Model Tax Convention and the implications for tax policy and practice arising from the OECD's 'BEPS' (base erosion and profit shifting) project.

Assessment: 50% take-home examination, 40% group presentation (including written-up report), 10% class participation

---

### **LLAW6097 Pension and investment funds in Hong Kong and the PRC**

This course is a comparative study of (a) the private law rights and obligations in and (b) the regulatory regime of pension funds and investment funds in Hong Kong and in the PRC. In relation to (a), emphasis will be placed on the different legal structures used in the two jurisdictions to operate pension and investment funds, and the differences in the extent of the rights and duties of the parties arising thereunder. In relation to (b), emphasis will be placed on a few recent legislative developments in both jurisdictions, such as the

new legislative framework on mandatory provident funds in Hong Kong, and the provisional regulation on investment funds in the PRC. Knowledge of PRC law is helpful, but not a prerequisite to this course.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

---

### **LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration**

International commercial arbitration is well established as the preferred binding mechanism for resolving cross-border commercial disputes. It has seen particularly marked growth and acceptance in the last 20-30 years, including in the Asia Pacific region. The law and practice of international commercial arbitration, while scarcely regulated, has evolved into a highly specialised craft based on international best practices. This course will consider the international and domestic legal framework for international commercial arbitration, as well as the broader regime including international arbitration rules, international arbitration institutions and organizations and international arbitration practices. However, a key focus will be the inside workings of international arbitrations, revealing the sometimes obscure practices of the discipline. The main topics covered include the making and enforcement of arbitration agreements, establishment of and powers of arbitration tribunals, jurisdictional issues, applicable law (both procedural and substantive), arbitration procedure and evidence, interim and final remedies and rendering and enforcement of arbitration awards (including challenges and appeals). The course will be taught with case examples principally from the Asia Pacific region, and extensive examples from the practices of well known arbitral institutions, such as the ICC International Court of Arbitration, and of arbitrators sitting under the auspices of the ICC.

Students will be expected to have grasped an understanding of the core features of international commercial arbitration as a distinct discipline and to have developed a sense of how to approach technical legal problems that can arise in this field. They should also know their way around the UNCITRAL Model Law and 1958 New York Convention, and be able to apply that knowledge to relevant factual scenarios.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6101 Competition, mergers and acquisitions**

This course covers the merger review aspect of competition law from a global perspective. The course is divided into two sessions. The first session focuses on the merger review practices of the US, with a particular focus on the case law and agency practices regarding the review of mergers. The second session will introduce students to basic principles of merger review under EU law. Emphasis will be placed on both the institutional framework and substantive review of mergers under EU law.

Assessment: 100% two take-home examinations

---

## **LLAW6102 White collar crime: law and practice**

White collar crimes are often defined as non-violent offences that are committed for financial gain. They are characterised by, among other things, deceit, concealment, and violation of trust. Every organisation can be potentially exposed to different types of white collar crimes, though its level of exposure to such issues, be it in scale and complexity, may vary depending on its nature and size. White collar crimes not only reflect a social problem, but they can sometimes create an issue of such magnitude that can ultimately bring an organisation to its knees once they strike its very core.

While the focus of this course will predominantly be on the legal/regulatory aspects of white collar crimes, part of the discussion will include examining the ways to how an organisation can prevent this types of issues in practice and event of occurrence.

Assessment: 15% research synopsis, 85% research paper

---

## **LLAW6107 Insurance law**

The course covers the operation and regulation of the insurance market; the definition, importance and reform of the concepts of “Insurable Interest” and “Utmost Good Faith”; the specific terms of insurance contracts; how losses and claims under insurance contracts are dealt with; the rights of insurers, including subrogation and contribution; the rights and duties of insurance intermediaries; and the nature of property insurance, marine insurance, reinsurance and liability insurance.

Prerequisites: Law of contract

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

---

## **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

### **LLAW6111 E-business law**

More and more companies and organisations are embracing information technology to add value to their business and to remain competitive. In the e-business environment, on one hand, existing law is being applied in a new setting. On the other hand, development of law is needed in order to address specific issues that online business creates.

The course looks at the main legal issues generated by the developments in e-business, their possible solutions and how to strategize and create value in the e-business context accordingly.

Topics to be covered include the international and national framework for e-business, branding and trade marks, contractual issues of online trading, online security issues, privacy and data protection, liabilities of online service providers, online tort issues and jurisdictional issues.

Prior knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Assessment: 40% written assignment(s) and/or case preparation note(s), 60% research paper

---

### **LLAW6114 Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)**

The course will focus on the constitutional, criminal and civil aspects of cross-border legal relations, which will include:

- The status of PRC constitution and the Basic Law and the issue of congressional supremacy,
- Criminal jurisdictions,
- Repatriation of fugitives and sentenced persons and mutual legal assistance in other criminal matters,
- Mutual recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and judgments,
- Procedures of cross-border services and evidence taking, and
- Cross-border insolvency and family law matters.

The course will be taught in both Putonghua and English. The medium of coursework and examination will be in Chinese.

Assessment: 100% research paper

---

## **LLAW6117 Cybercrime**

‘Cybercrime’ refers to computer-mediated activities which are either criminal or regarded as illicit and which can be conducted through global electronic networks. It encompasses cybercrimes against the person (e.g. cyber-stalking, cyber-pornography), cybercrimes against property (e.g. hacking, viruses, causing damage to data, cyber-fraud), and cyber-terrorism. The computer-age has also provided organised crime with more sophisticated and potentially secure techniques for supporting and developing networks for a range of criminal activities, including drugs trafficking, money laundering, illegal arms trafficking, and smuggling.

Cybercrime poses new challenges for criminal justice, criminal law, and law enforcement. This course will examine the nature of and problems created by cybercrime, along with some of the legal and policy challenges arising in relation to the development of national and international law enforcement and regulatory responses to cybercrime.

Assessment: 60% research paper, 40% assigned research, review and presentation

---

## **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

---

## **LLAW6120 Intellectual property and information technology**

Given the ubiquity of information technology (IT) today, intellectual property (IP) issues related to IT have never been more challenging. With the predominance of frequent

headlines about IT-related IP matters, IP and IT is, indisputably, one of the topics that has aroused great interest and attention today.

The course looks at the main IP issues related to IT, how IP can be used to protect, manage and create value from IT innovations, products and creations, and how the dynamic nature of IT would never leave IP law remain static.

Assessment: 10% presentation and class participation, 10% quiz, 30% examination, 50% research paper

---

### **LLAW6124 Communications law**

This course examines how the telecommunication and broadcasting industries are regulated in Hong Kong, and introduces the main features and problems of the relating legislation and regulation.

Topics may include:

- TV and radio licensing
- Foreign ownership control
- Cross media ownership control
- Content regulation
- Competition regulation in broadcasting sector
- Telecommunications licensing
- Interconnection
- Competition regulation and consumer protection in telecommunications sector
- Convergence
- Interception and surveillance

Assessment: 20% group project, 70% research paper, 10% class participation

---

### **LLAW6126 e-Finance: law, compliance and technology challenges**

The overall aim of this is to help students understand how regulatory compliance and enforcement processes are being transformed by increased global competition and accelerating technological innovation in financial markets.

Topics covered will include how the role of information technology in the delivery of modern financial services has evolved over time as well as how recent developments in information technology are transforming compliance processes inside firms and enforcement efforts of regulators.

The impact of digital transformation of compliance in financial services on law firms, legal departments in companies, government attorneys, compliance managers, internal and external auditors, and system administrators will be considered.

A case study examining the impact of global competition and technology innovation on data protection/information privacy compliance efforts under Hong Kong, European Union and US law will be used to integrate theoretical and practical perspectives on the delivery of e-finance services.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 40% coursework, 50% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6127 Current issues in financial law**

Current issues in financial law is an advanced ‘capstone’ course for postgraduate students nearing the completion of their degree programmes, who will have completed Law of international finance 1, and at least one of Banking law, Credit and security law, International securities law, Law of international finance 2, Securities regulation 1 or 2.

The course covers current and contentious topics in financial, banking and securities law, and post-crisis reforms in regulation dealing with financial stability, malpractice and codes of business or product conduct. It will examine these and other issues according to events and developments at the time of the course, both locally and at international level.

The course uses a seminar format to stimulate interaction and make the discussions relevant to participants’ academic and professional interests. Issues to be examined include judicial shocks and risks for commercial parties; recent OTC derivatives cases and the choice of arbitration in contract disputes; Hong Kong’s prospects as an international financial centre; recent cases and current concerns in insolvency law; benchmark reform and financial misconduct; and aspects of gender diversity in financial law.

Prerequisites: LLAW6049 or LLAW6055 or LLAW6057 or LLAW6094 or LLAW6244

Assessment: 70% take-home examination; 30% class presentation

---

### **LLAW6128 International trade law I**

This course will provide students with a practical insight into a number of areas of international trade law and the practices of the Admiralty and Commercial Courts. It will use shipping scenarios to illustrate the various contracts and issues that arise in private international trade.

The course is designed to make students research and use case law, ordinances and international conventions. It is taught in a practical way and requires students to think of commercial solutions to problems.

The course covers the following areas:

- International sale of goods – the contracts and terms found in sale contracts

involving an international element

- Marine Insurance – what is covered by insurance and the duties on an insured
- Letters of Credit – the method of financing the sale contract and the obligations on the banks and parties
- Carriage of goods by sea – who has a right to sue the sea carrier of the goods, the obligations on the sea carrier of the goods and whether the sea carrier can sue anyone for their losses
- Jurisdiction and choice of law – in which country a claim can be brought and which law will be applied to the claim
- Litigation – the most useful procedures used in commercial litigation such as security for costs, freezing injunctions, orders for inspection, arrest of ships
- Arbitration – the procedures that apply to an arbitration of a claim

Prerequisites: Law of contract and law of tort

Assessment: 100% Take-home assessment

---

### **LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law**

This course introduces the international framework within which intellectual property law operates, including copyright, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, unfair competition, trade secrets, geographic indications, and other forms of intellectual property (IP). The course examines how multilateral conventions and agreements such as Berne Convention, Paris Convention and TRIPS Agreement shape national IP laws, the role of international bodies such as WIPO and WTO, the effect of bilateral agreements, and other international influences on the development of IP law. The course also introduces the enforcement provisions and WTO dispute settlement mechanism concerning international IP disputes. While devoting special attention to IPRs protection for cutting edge technologies such as biotechnology and information technology, the course also discusses the protection for traditional knowledge and folklore, and the overall implications of international IP protection for global competition between developed and developing countries in an integrated world market.

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

---

### **LLAW6133 International economic law**

The recent dramatic transformation of the international economic legal order is generally attributed to “globalization”, on the one hand, and liberalization, harmonization and unification of national policies and laws that affect trade, investment, and financial and commercial transactions across national borders, on the other hand. Concerns arise as to the coherence and compatibility of these processes and efforts with respect to national and global economic development, and overall welfare. This is the domain of international economic law; the law and policy of relations between national governments concerning the regulation of economic transactions that have cross-border effects. The course will broadly introduce those areas of international law and institutions that have

shaped, or are the resultant of, the recent transformation of the international economic legal order, under three general themes: international trade, investment and competition law; international financial and monetary law; international commercial transactions. It will cover the relevant activities of international organizations such as the WTO, ASEAN, APEC, NAFTA, EU and ICSID. In addition to trade, investment and competition, the subject matter will include topics dealing with banking, insurance and securities. The role of institutions such as central banks through the BIS and the Basle Committee in the development of regulatory frameworks will be examined. The activities of two Bretton Woods international institutions, the World Bank and IMF, as well as the IOSCO will be studied. Efforts to unify or harmonise laws that affect international commercial transactions by international institutions such as the ICC, UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, Hague Conference in Private International Law and OECD will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6138 Arbitration law**

The aim of the Arbitration Law course is to provide students with sufficient knowledge and understanding of the law of arbitration.

During the course, the students will focus on the dispute resolution process, as set out in more detail in the syllabus, including the following ADR methods:

- Negotiation;
- Mediation;
- Early Neutral Evaluation
- Expert determination;
- Adjudication
- Dispute Boards
- Arbitration
- State Court Litigation

Further in the course, the students will learn about the history of arbitration and about the major international arbitration legal instruments (NY Convention, UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, UNCITRAL Model Law, the Washington Convention, and others). Further, the students will explore the differing statutory approaches to arbitration in the globalized world (common and civil law), the choices available to the parties in dispute resolution, the concepts of arbitration agreements, the arbitral procedure (commencement, tribunal appointment. Evidence, document production, written submissions, hearings, and others).

The students will learn about the duties and obligations of an arbitral tribunal, the notion of independence and impartiality, jurisdiction and powers, costs, and awards.

At the end of the course, the students will learn about the role of the state courts in arbitration, and about their supervisory powers.

The specific educational learning outcomes of this course are as follows:

#### A. Knowledge and Understanding

- To enhance understanding of arbitration as a private consent-based method of resolving disputes.
- To introduce the fundamental principles of arbitration law set out in detail in the syllabus below.
- To introduce the importance of the Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance when deciding disputes.
- To introduce the essential elements of a binding arbitration agreement and an enforceable arbitration award.
- To introduce the important role of reading and analyzing the sources of arbitration law, including both statutes (particularly domestic arbitration statutes such as the Arbitration Ordinance) and judicial decisions (case law).

#### B. Intellectual and Practice Skills

This course seeks to help students develop the following intellectual skills:

- Ability to analyse and solve complex factual legal problems by selecting and applying relevant arbitration law principles;
- Ability to apply rules of law to hypothetical factual situations;
- Ability to isolate crucial issues in hypothetical factual scenarios; and
- Ability to support oral and written arguments using relevant judicial decisions and statutory provisions.

This course also seeks to help students develop the following practical skills:

- Ability to undertake the reading and research of the sources of arbitration law;
- Ability to express ideas both orally and in writing in a clear and coherent manner; and
- Ability to translate technical legal terms into language appropriate for users of arbitration and dispute resolution generally.

Students will consider a range of theoretical issues and substantive topics in this course, including:

- General Introduction to Arbitration and ADR
- Agreement to Arbitrate
- Appointment of Arbitrator
- Rights, Duties and Powers of an Arbitrator
- Commencement of Arbitration and Interlocutory Proceedings
- Arbitration Hearings
- Evidence in International Arbitration
- Costs & Interest in Awards
- Appeals
- Enforcement and Execution of Awards

Assessment: 30% research paper, 70% written final examination

---

**LLAW6140 Intellectual property, innovation and development**

This course examines the interplay between intellectual property law, innovation social and economic development. While it covers copyright and trademark laws and examines how these two areas are affected by digital and Internet innovations, the focus of this course will be on patent law. Particularly this course will explore how cutting-edge technologies such as information technology, biotechnology and green technology have changed the landscape of patent law on the one hand, and how patent law has affected the development of these technologies on the other hand. It uses judicial cases and empirical examples to illustrate how patents for biotech and pharmaceutical inventions have affected the access to technology and essential medicines, and how patent regime has been employed to protect genetic resources/traditional knowledge and green technologies, and whether such protection promotes or impedes innovation and technology transfer in these industries, and how IP protection has affected social and economic development of developing countries and least-developed countries. Last but not least, the course investigates IP-related antitrust issues, and discusses how to strike a balance between IP and competition for the benefit of technology innovation and economic development.

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

---

**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

---

**LLAW6150 Comparative law**

The common law system provides principles and methods for responding to society's needs and values. Some of those principles and methods will be compared with the legal and extra-legal equivalents in non-common law nations. The influence of special social and economic characteristics will be noted. Appropriate jurisprudential theory will be discussed.

Assessment: 10% presentation, 10% class participation, 80% 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

---

### **LLAW6155 Competition law II**

Despite being relatively new to Hong Kong, competition law has become highly pertinent in East Asia in recent years. In Hong Kong, the Legislative Council finally adopted a cross-sector competition law for the city in June 2012, and the Competition Ordinance has been in full operation since December 2015.

This course takes a comparative look at the connections and differences between Hong Kong and European Union (EU) competition law. Given the Conduct Rules of the Competition Ordinance in Hong Kong are substantially modelled after Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the EU law (including “soft” law such as guidelines) on Articles 101 and 102 TFEU will provide useful guidance to the interpretation and application of the Hong Kong Conduct Rules. This course will examine in detail the First Conduct Rule and Article 101 TFEU; and the Second Conduct Rule and Article 102 TFEU. We will also consider competition law enforcement, Hong Kong specific issues and past paper questions (to illustrate the workings of competition law). This course excludes merger review, which forms the subject of a separate course.

Assessment: 55% take-home examination, 25% commentary, 20% class presentation and 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

---

### **LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting**

The aim of the Arbitration Practice, Procedure & Drafting course is to provide students with sufficient knowledge of and practice in the key procedural features in an arbitration (including preliminary meetings and the hearings, discovery and inspection of documents, interlocutory proceedings, pleadings and submissions, evidentiary issues, decision making and arbitration awards). There is particular focus on developing the students' ability to dispense independent advice of the arbitration process with confidence. The course also considers the knowledge and practical skills necessary to write a final, reasoned and enforceable arbitration award.

The specific educational objectives of this course are:

#### **A. Knowledge and Understanding**

- To give an overview of the dispute resolution processes in both common and civil law jurisdictions, including negotiation, mediation, early neutral evaluation, expert determination, adjudication, dispute boards, arbitration, and court litigation;
- To introduce the history of arbitration and its development as a private method of dispute resolution;
- To introduce the background to, and scope of the New York Convention, the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and the UNCITRAL Model Law, as well as their key characteristics;
- To introduce global harmonisation and different statutory approaches to arbitration (including both common and civil law jurisdictions and “soft law”);

- To set out choices available to parties in dispute resolution and discuss the importance of the seat of the arbitration and arbitration rules, as well as the implications of party autonomy;
- To introduce the drafting requirements of an arbitration agreement and procedural elements of the arbitration process;
- To describe the processes and requirements relating to the appointment of an arbitral tribunal, recognise the importance of its independence and impartiality, as well as explain its jurisdiction, powers, duties and procedural choices;
- To introduce the key procedural features of the arbitration process, including preliminary meetings, discovery and inspection of documents, arbitration hearings, making submissions before an arbitrator or tribunal, making interlocutory applications, and the presentation and reception of evidence, decision making and arbitration awards;
- To explain the nature of and principles relating to remedies, costs, interest and arbitrator's entitlement to fees and expenses, as well as to recognise the impact of currency on costs and damages issues;
- To introduce the essential elements of how to draft a final, reasoned and enforceable arbitration award that is clear, cogent, comprehensive and concise, and to address ambiguities and corrections in an award; and
- To consider the role of courts before, during and after an arbitration process.

#### B. Intellectual and Practical Skills

This course seeks to help students develop the following intellectual skills:

- i) Ability to analyse and solve complex factual legal problems by selecting and applying relevant arbitration law principles;
- ii) Ability to apply rules of law to hypothetical factual situations;
- iii) Ability to isolate crucial issues in hypothetical factual scenarios;
- iv) Ability to support oral and written arguments using relevant judicial decisions and statutory provisions;
- v) Ability to evaluate submissions and distil relevant issues from them;
- vi) Ability to evaluate evidence, deduce facts from it; and
- vii) Ability to decide issues and make rational decisions by applying legal principles to facts.

This course also seeks to help students develop the following practical skills:

- Ability to undertake the reading and research of the sources of arbitration law;
- Ability to express ideas both orally and in writing in a clear and concise manner;
- Ability to translate technical legal terms into language appropriate for users of arbitration and dispute resolution generally;
- Ability to act as counsel in an arbitration proceeding and make oral and written submissions and interlocutory applications before an arbitrator or tribunal;
- Ability to act as an arbitrator and control the arbitration process in a fair and impartial manner, giving the parties balanced opportunity to make submissions and present their cases;
- Ability to render fair and rational procedural and substantive decisions within an arbitration hearing;
- Ability to select appropriate rules and procedures and apply them in a reasoned

manner;

- Ability to draft and publish a final, reasoned and enforceable arbitration award; and
- Ability to intelligently and intelligibly use language that is grammatically correct and correctly spelt.

The following topics will be covered in the course:

- Overview of dispute resolution processes
- History of arbitration, international conventions and rules, and global harmonisation
- Choices available to parties in dispute resolution
- Arbitration agreement and commencement
- Arbitral Tribunal: Appointment, independence and impartiality, jurisdiction and powers, and duties and procedural choices
- Procedures: Pleadings, documents and evidence, applications to the tribunal and hearing
- Remedies, costs, interest and currency
- Awards
- Role of the courts

Prerequisites: Have taken and passed LLAW6138

Assessment: 30% Take-home award writing exercise, 70% 3-hour limited open book written examination (For purposes of CI Arb accreditation, students must achieve a minimum of 55% of the final mark of the written examination alone.)

---

## **LLAW6164 Principles of family law**

Family law is about people in a domestic setting; how domestic relationships are created, dissolved (which involves status alteration), reconstituted (remarriage, adoption), how relationships are regulated and disputes resolved. Hong Kong Family law is both common law and statute-based. However, the rules and principles are not ends in themselves, but they serve certain purposes or goals.

In this course, we examine the basic principles governing the creation of family relationship, termination and its consequences, how does the law deal with the evolving notion of domestic relationships, abuse occurring within such relationships, the protection it offers to the weaker party and the reconstitution of family relationships.

Families are undergoing changes constantly, as is society. Debates on transsexual marriage, same-sex marriage reflect this. Families are the microcosm of society bearing all the pressure which society exerts on its members. The challenge of the course is to understand the problems facing families today, to what extent the law is in tune with these problems, how best these problems could be alleviated, minimised or resolved by law reform or other means.

The objectives of the course is to enable you to learn the basic family law rules, understand how these rules are applied to a particular legal problem (which you need to utilise as a lawyer). As rules are not ends in themselves and they promote certain underlying values – you are required to critically analyses and assess what outcomes/values these rules promote; whether these values are consistent with prevailing societal values along certain theme, such as: (i) effective dispute resolution, (ii) protective (physical/economic) function of family law and (iii) upholding fundamental societal values concerning family, personal relationships and human rights.

Assessment: 45% written examination, 45% assignments and presentation, 10% class participation

---

### **LLAW6170 Law and the internet**

Information and communication technologies are part of the very fabric of contemporary societies. Their understanding and mastery are a required form of literacy in the 21st century. Social dynamics everywhere have changed because of these technologies, and in their image a new social paradigm has been formed. As a social science, law is not immune to these transformations but is rather profoundly influenced by them and perhaps no technological development has shaped the face of law more profoundly than the Internet.

This course will empirically assess some core transformations which, in different areas, the Internet has brought to the law. While other courses in our programme (for instance, “Regulation of Cyberspace”) question at a higher level of abstraction the normative foundations of such transformations, in “Law and the Internet” our aim is to give you an introductory overview of the concrete, practical shifts that the institutions of law have been experiencing in a number of different areas because of the Internet – from Identity and Privacy to Copyright, and from Defamation and Liability in Online Environments to Cybercrime and Jurisdiction.

Main topics will vary slightly from year to year. The focus of our course is on major common law jurisdictions, taking the law in the Hong Kong and United Kingdom as a starting point. Nonetheless, occasional – and in some areas extensive – references to the law in the European Union will be made.

Assessment: 35% mid-term essay, 65% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6172 Carriage of goods by sea**

Bills of lading and other sea transport documents (e.g. waybills, delivery orders); express and implied terms in contracts of affreightment (concerning seaworthiness, deviation, dangerous cargo etc); the Hague and Hague-Visby Rules; voyage charterparties and time charterparties; maritime arbitration; electronic data interchange (EDI) and electronic bills of lading.

Assessment: 100% examination

---

### **LLAW6174 Family mediation**

Using a combination of lecture, discussion, demonstration, and simulation, Family Mediation will present students with the theory and practice of family mediation, including: a basic grounding in the practice and theories of mediation, an understanding of the many variations of how mediation is actually conducted in family law cases, critical judgment as to when family law mediation might or might not be appropriate in individual cases, a familiarity with legislation involving family law mediation and critical inquiry as to the efficacy of different legislative initiatives, special issues facing mediators in family law mediation, and ethical consideration both as a family law mediator and as an attorney in family law mediation.

Assessment: 20% participation, 30% presentation, 50% written assessment

---

### **LLAW6176 Online dispute resolution**

This course will introduce students to the use of information technology as a means of facilitating the resolution of disputes between parties. Despite the prevalent impression that online dispute resolution (ODR) is simply the online equivalent of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the course will demonstrate to the students that ODR can augment the traditional means of resolving disputes by applying innovative techniques and online technologies to the process. Although the course will focus on the technological application in out-of-court alternative dispute resolutions, it by no means ignores the potential that these technologies have for direct application in the litigation system. The course will examine online negotiation, mediation, arbitration, their combinations or other alternatives. The course has both theoretical and practical value to practitioners and academics.

Assessment: 60% research paper, 40% in-class Moot Court practice

---

### **LLAW6178 Law, economics, regulation and development**

This course is premised on a conviction that the law does not exist in a vacuum, and the study of the law should therefore not be confined to a narrow focus on legal doctrine and case law. The aim of this course is to provide a broad survey of inter-disciplinary approaches to the law, which will provide students with the basic toolkit to question and analyze legal theories and institutions from alternative perspectives. The belief is that students will gain a richer and more nuanced understanding of the law and legal methods as a result.

The course comprises of three broad components: (1) Law and Regulation, (2) Law and Economics, and (3) Law and Development.

The law and regulation component of the course seeks to examine the role of law as an instrument of regulating economic and social activity. The course will explore theories of regulation, regulatory techniques and instruments, and issues of efficiency, accountability and legitimacy in relation to regulation. It will also explore the application of economic concepts to the law, focusing on areas such as torts, contracts, and property rights. For instance, the course will examine how economic concepts have been applied to provide a benchmark for determining negligence in torts.

Finally, the law and development component will examine the relationship between law and economic, social, and political development. It will survey theories concerning the meaning of development and the potential role of law and legal institutions in the development process.

Assessment: 30% class participation, 30% homework, 40% final essay

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6181 Management and commercialization of intellectual property**

Topics include:

- Technology transfer and licensing
- Commercialization of innovations
- IP portfolio management
- IP issues in merger and acquisition
- IP issues in franchising and outsourcing
- IP and standard setting
- IP and competition
- IP litigation strategies
- IP issues in innovation industries such as ISP's liability and safe harbor, keyword advertising and digital music licensing.

Assessment: 100% in-hall examination

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6183 Animal law**

This course examines the law relating to non-human animals. The course will introduce a range of theoretical perspectives on the way in which we think about animals, with a focus on moral/ethical theories of animal interests and animal rights. The welfare model of animal law, as expressed through relevant legislation and case law, will be critically analysed. While much of the consideration of this law will have an Asian orientation, attention will also be given to international developments in animal law. Finally, the course will explore practical ways in which lawyers may advance the interests of animals.

Assessment: 70% Written research assignment; 30% seminar presentation

---

### **LLAW6194 Global business law I**

Global business law I deals with the growth of a business from being a mere domestic seller all the way through to its decision to become a foreign investor operating half-way across the world. In the course of that growth it will face international litigation, arbitration, choices about business from abroad, lawsuits abroad, investment treaties, its own lawsuits against foreign “host” states, and questions about how it plans to finance its foreign ventures.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6195 Global Business Law II**

The course employs a problem-oriented approach, and focuses on the law in action; namely, strategic choices which a business engaged in international trade would face.

The course starts off by introducing the global trading system (GATT, WTO, etc.). The first few weeks will introduce you to a problem faced by a firm which is either trying to sell or buy from abroad but faces a host of regulatory barriers. Some of these barriers are in the form of tariffs, others are not. While some firms are manufacturers seeking new markets abroad, others are domestic retailers or manufacturers trying to source internationally for cheaper goods or manufacturing inputs.

We will then address the case where the firm is not selling abroad, but wishes its own government to purchase its products to the exclusion of foreign products.

The course then turns to a different kind of business problem. What happens when a domestic firm finds itself facing such stiff competition from foreign imports that its very survival may be at stake? What tools are available to it to fend off such competition? When can such a firm claim that competition from abroad is “unfair”, and does the law recognise such claims? Should it? In other cases, competition may not be unfair, but can the firm claim that it should be protected by its government nonetheless? What can other firms do in response to such action?

All these problems involve public/governmental regulation. To that extent we are dealing with public law. However, the issues we will address matter to whether a business will fail or succeed, depending on the available rules and how such rules may be used by these firms.

While we will be using a US casebook, many of the issues you will encounter are universal. The more minute details of the US regime may be peculiar in places, but there is in fact a high degree of world-wide convergence in the sorts of trade rules we will encounter due to widespread membership of the WTO. By using a US casebook, we also benefit by learning from a body of trade rules which has had a genuine, historical impact on the evolution of the global trading system. For many participants in the course (excepting exchange and other students from US law schools), there will be an opportunity to explore the rules of a major export market and to learn some US law. Most importantly, the casebook we will use is probably the best of its kind in introducing the subject from a business viewpoint.

Assessment: 100% take-home examination

---

### **LLAW6196 Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution**

Lawyers can play a key role not just in the resolution of disputes, but also in the prevention and management of conflicts within organizations and societies. This course will explore key processes through which a system is consciously created to address conflicts among individual and entities, as well as legally defined disputes. Similar to the public health model, which aims to promote positive individual and collective habits that stem the occurrence of disease, this course seeks to examine those mechanisms, principles and processes oriented toward the prevention of conflict. The approach of the course will be both theoretical and participatory in nature.

Assessment: 75% research paper, 25% class participation

---

### **LLAW6197 Law and social theory**

Amongst the most powerful of contemporary analyses of law and legal institutions are those which draw on the tradition of social theory. These trends now constitute a discrete area of academic enquiry that is of growing importance and relevance. This course offers a series of readings which draw on that tradition and think them through in relation to contemporary legal problems.

The course will develop students' knowledge of the basic paradigms of social theory as it relates to law and place the development of law in social theoretical and historical context. By developing a critical understanding of the relationship between law and social theory students will assess the differences between diverse theoretical approaches and be able to develop and articulate their own understanding of the appropriate paradigms for analysis in legal and social theory. The aim is therefore to enhance students' understanding of contemporary law and legal institutions.

Topics to be covered may include: competing theories of law and modernity; analyses of alternative approaches to power and security; the role and consequences of processes of juridification; and theories of globalisation.

Assessment: 20% presentation, 80% research essay

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6200 Topics in trademark law**

Trademarks play a crucial role in merchandizing all varieties of goods and services and protecting consumers' interests. The course will explore the cutting-edge issues and landmark cases in trademark law. It will cover issues and cases concerning trademark registration, anti-confusion protection, anti-dilution protection, trademark fair use, and e-commerce. Landmark cases will be drawn from the United States, the European Union, China and Hong Kong. Moreover, the course will discuss the social, cultural, and political dimensions of trademarks. It will critically consider the public interest and social concerns arising from the legal protection.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% two essays

---

### **LLAW6206 Cross border corporate finance: issues and techniques**

The course will provide an understanding of the underlying principles and policies of corporate finance law, and will familiarise students with the actual practices of the markets and techniques of key transactions. It will focus on the consideration and treatment of issues that arise when financing transactions. Seminars to introduce the topics will be augmented by exercises which will be designed to simulate real transactions. Students will be divided into teams, which will be pitched against other teams, role-playing, lawyers, financiers, borrowers/ fund-raisers and investment bankers.

The course will be useful to those who intend to work in the corporate and corporate finance sectors, in law firms or investment or commercial banks.

Assessment: 30% participation in team exercises, 70% research paper

---

## **LLAW6209 Comparative family law**

The course focuses on family law issues in a comparative and international context and prior knowledge of family law or comparative law is not required.

Topics include: property and maintenance on divorce; the grounds for divorce; the legal status of cohabitants; legal regulation of adult relationships and changing family constructs; marital agreements (i.e. pre-nuptial, post-nuptial and separation agreement), the relevance of gender in family law and changing one's legal gender; parenthood and parental responsibility.

All topics are covered from a comparative perspective.

This course will be of interest to students and practitioners wanting to acquire an up-to-date understanding of current policy and issues in family law around the world and anyone with an interest in family law, comparative law and social policy.

Assessment: 25% class participation, 75% research paper

---

## **LLAW6210 Energy law**

Energy law became recognised as a distinct subject following the energy crisis that resulted from the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. This course will introduce Energy law which concerns the laws and regulations that relate to the process and technology of production, distribution, conservation and development of carbon-based energy sources such as coal, oil and natural gas; non-carbon-based sources such as nuclear power; and renewable clean sources such as hydroelectricity, solar and wind power. More specifically, this course will introduce the law concerning the title, usage, development and control of those natural resources and technology which are used to manufacture energy. This specialisation is important because the energy industry remains to be a non-static, technologically developing, but heavily regulated and strategic, sector of the economy.

Areas covered in this course will include: the history of energy law; basic principles of energy law; theoretical perspectives on regulations as part of the modern legal system; regulatory issues for different types of energy; the common law rules of ownership; statutory ownership of sources; the law relating to the development of sources and technology; international energy investment law; soft regulatory laws in developing countries; alternative regulatory instruments; market mechanics; the role of law and the development of renewable energy technologies; national and supranational regulatory changes; regulatory developments in China; environmental regulations of energy and natural resources; territorial disputes over energy sources; nuclear power and the law; regulations of company structures and/or performance; regulating the largest (energy) companies in the world.

Assessment: 100% essay

---

**LLAW6211 World trade law, policy and business**

This course may only be taken by graduate students. While there are no prerequisites and no prior knowledge is required, the course is designed to be especially attractive to students who have taken Global Business Law I, or International Economic Law. It is not, however, open to graduate students who have previously taken Global Business Law II.

The course is tailor-made for graduate students who, in past years, would likely have taken Global Business Law II instead. Unlike Global Business Law II, the current course provides students with the opportunities to write a paper of no more than 6,000 words comprising 50% of the examination, and incorporates materials on the policy and business aspects of trade in East Asia (China, Korea and Japan). The course will also address specific policy and business challenges in other Asian countries and sub-regions (e.g. Vietnam, Southeast Asia more generally, and India).

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

---

**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

---

**LLAW6216 Graduate seminar**

The principal goal of the Graduate Seminar is to examine issues and questions regarding to comparative Chinese legal research which has been carried out in the English language. This is an interactive course which examines Chinese law scholarship and the underlining methodological questions.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

---

## **LLAW6219 Patent law**

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are among the most important catalysts for growth and innovation in the modern economy. IPRs – in particular patents - are worth billions if not trillions of dollars. What are patents and why are they so valuable? This course will look at patents, first in the context of all IPRs, then will examine rights under a patent, criteria for patentability, and the process of getting and challenging a patent. The class will also cover issues related to patent claims and will look at some current patent issues including:

- Commercial dealings: ownership, licensing, assignments, employees' inventions
  - Protection of discoveries
  - The process of getting a patent
- Patent infringement: Literal infringement and a comparison of UK and US treatment of non-literal patent infringement
- Protection of information technology products and the controversy surrounding software patents
- Design patents
- The value of patents

Prior technical knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Assessment: 10% class performance, 10% quiz, 30% patent drafting exercise, 50% take-home examination

---

## **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

---

### **LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong & international perspectives**

In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis various dispute resolution responses occurred. In respect of consumer/institution disputes, the course will focus on the new financial dispute resolution regime in Hong Kong and the establishment of the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre (FDRC) and what these developments may signify for the future of resolving financial disputes in Hong Kong. In addition, the course will provide a comparative overview of financial dispute resolution from some selected markets globally. In response to increasing investor participation in financial markets, regulators and governments have sought different ways of responding to investor-broker disputes. This course will analyze these different approaches and discuss the impact of legal systems, markets and cultural preferences. The course will consider what choices have

been made by Hong Kong in order to adapt to local circumstances and will challenge students to assess these choices in the light of global experience.

In respect of institutional disputes, the course also considers how institutional clients are beginning to turn to ADR to solve their disputes e.g. PRIME Finance. The design of dispute resolution systems can be key to their success. Students will be expected to understand who the stakeholders are in financial disputes, what their specific needs are and how systems can be designed to address these concerns.

The class will be assigned reading in advance of class. Students will be expected to participate in discussions and role-plays during class. Students will work on a specific case study and work to resolve the dispute through negotiation, mediation and arbitration.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 20% individual presentation, 60% research paper

---

### **LLAW6223 Copyright and creativity**

The course investigates the relationship between copyright protection and creativity by targeting creative sectors such as film, music, publishing, and software. Through in-depth analysis of the cases and empirical data involving copyright protection or infringement in these industries, the course aims to assess to what extent these sectors have benefited from or are impeded by copyright protection, how “fair use” systems can be employed to achieve a better balance between copyright industries and users/consumers of copyrighted works, whether alternative regimes such as public or free licenses including creative commons and open source initiatives are helpful in promoting creativity, and finally, how to capitalise on or commercialise the copyrights so that the works can generate financial gain for start-up creative companies or individuals. These issues will be discussed in the context of both traditional and internet-related creative sectors and activities such as parody, file-sharing, snippets and thumbnails, streaming, and copying for non-transformative personal use on internet, iPad or iPhone, and online games. The countries or regions of which the copyright laws and creative sectors are examined include but are not limited to Hong Kong, the mainland China, the United States and the European Union.

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

---

### **LLAW6224 Mergers and acquisitions**

The course will consider the specific circumstances of mergers and acquisitions in Hong Kong. Both private and public/listed M&A situations will be considered.

The course will commence with an examination of the reasons for M&A transactions occurring and a consideration of how M&A transactions are to be assessed, for example, in terms of their value creation. Although the course is focused on practices in the Hong Kong market, the course will also explore M&A transactions internationally, particularly with a view to gaining an understanding of the art and science of conducting an M&A transaction.

The different ways M&A can be conducted will be examined. The process of negotiating and executing transactions will be considered as well as the typical documents involved. This will cover standard terms in contracts, such as purchase price payment mechanisms, warranties and undertakings. Other aspects of the transaction process will be considered, in particular, the role of due diligence will be examined closely including as to how due diligence interacts with contractual documentation and the negotiation process. Problems arising in the cross-border context will also be considered.

A focus of the course will be the application and relevance of the Code on Takeovers and Mergers and the relevant Listing Rules of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. These regulations will be considered in the context of both commercial practices as well as regulatory objectives such as investor protection and the promotion of good corporate governance.

There will be an emphasis on coursework comprised of actual and hypothetical M&A transactions that require legal analysis and solution via class presentations and discussion.

Assessment: 50% take-home examination, 40% coursework, 10% class participation

[Students are required to pass the exam to be eligible to pass the course.]

---

### **LLAW6226 Comparative constitutional law theories**

This course is designed to examine constitutional law from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. It will cover a series of topics arising in the comparative study of constitutional structure and law in countries including the USA, Germany, and China. In addition, the course will deal with questions of constitutional purpose, function, design, and rules. In case studies, the course will examine underlying values, the interpretation of constitutional law as well as the role of the judiciary. Readings will be drawn from legal and social science literature, including works from economics and political science. This course is theory-based and has a significant research component.

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

---

### **LLAW6227 Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)**

The field of private international law, otherwise known as “the conflict of laws”, is a body of principles by which Hong Kong courts deal with cases involving a mainland or overseas element. It is particularly important in this jurisdiction. Hong Kong’s economy is an intersection of many different people and places, including the mainland and elsewhere in Asia, as well as Europe and the Americas. Therefore, a significant proportion of disputes here have a connection outside of Hong Kong. An understanding of the conflict of laws will be useful to you as members of Hong Kong’s legal profession and if you are involved in international business.

In private international law, there are three questions that a judge must ask himself or herself. The answers to those questions form the backbone of this course:

- Is it appropriate for me to exercise jurisdiction in this dispute, even though it is connected in some way with a place outside Hong Kong?
- If I decide that I will exercise jurisdiction, is it right for me to apply only the law of Hong Kong to the dispute? Or does its “foreign element” mean I should, to some extent, apply the law of some other jurisdiction?
- Has the dispute already been the subject of a decision by a court outside Hong Kong? Should I somehow give effect to that decision within Hong Kong?

The aim of this course is to giving you a working knowledge of private international law so that you can competently advise your clients on such issues.

Assessment: 100% take-home assignment

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration**

This course is about a form of arbitration which is specific to disputes arising between international investors and host states – i.e. investor-state disputes – involving public, treaty rights. In contrast, international commercial arbitration typically deals with the resolution of disputes over private law rights between what are usually private parties.

It will be of interest to those interested in arbitration, or the law of foreign investment.

The course will be taught from the viewpoint of a commercial law practitioner, and international lawyer and former treaty negotiator who has drafted such treaties.

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

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6233 Critical theory in legal scholarship**

This course will review the most important developments in critical theory as it relates to law and jurisprudence. We will critically engage with the works of the thinkers connected with the critical tradition in Western philosophy including those by Friedrich Nietzsche, Soren Kierkegaard, Sigmund Freud and Michel Foucault. We will then look at the influence of this critical tradition in Western legal theory including the American legal realists, Critical Legal Studies and the emergence of identity based critical movements. Some of the central questions which we will analyse include: What is critique and why do it? What is the role of critique in social movements lawyering? How to apply critical approaches to the understanding of contemporary legal issues?

Assessment: 65% research paper, 25% class presentation, 10% class participation

---

### **LLAW6236 ASEAN law**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional community established in 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand to promote political and economic cooperation, and regional stability. By 1999, it has expanded to ten members to include Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Burma and Cambodia. The ASEAN Declaration in 1967, the association's founding document, formalised the

principles of peace and cooperation to which ASEAN is dedicated. With the ASEAN Charter entering into force on 15 December 2008, ASEAN established its legal identity as an international organization and took a leap into a community-building process with the aim of moving closer to ‘an EU-style community’. The Charter is an important step towards creating a single free-trade area (FTA) for the region encompassing 500 million people. The ASEAN region has a total area of 4.5 million square kilometers, a combined gross domestic product of almost US\$700 billion. China together with Japan and South Korea participate in the forum ASEAN Plus Three (APT) that functions as a coordinator between the ASEAN and these three East Asian nations.

2017 marks the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. Fifty years on, has ASEAN achieved what it aspired to achieve? As a major regional organization, what arrangements has it made with China, with other countries, and with other international organizations, in order to promote trade and other areas of cooperation? Underpinning these arrangements, what is the role of law? How do the ten ASEAN States reconcile their cultural, economic, legal and juridical differences in order to foster cooperation and function as a single entity?

This course begins with an overview of ASEAN’s establishment, its goals and aspirations, before looking at how law is used to govern and regulate relationships between the ASEAN States. This course critically analyzes ASEAN’s existence, whether as a legal entity or otherwise, and the way in which it interacts with other major players in international fora. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to engage with the literature, as well as the relevant debates, on important issues relating to ASEAN’s development, and how this may impact on trade, stability etc. within the region.

Assessment: 100% essay

---

### **LLAW6237 International arbitration: practice, process and strategy**

The course will introduce students to the practice of international arbitration with a focus on administered arbitration (utilizing the HKIAC Administered Arbitration Rules) and investment arbitration. Utilizing a case study as the basis for the course, students will apply the theory of arbitration to a mock case. The course will provide students with the opportunity to manage a case from the beginning to the end. From negotiating and drafting an arbitration clause to drafting pleadings, students will have the opportunity to enhance their legal writing skills in the context of an arbitration. Students will also learn how to strategise and learn the various options available during the course of an arbitration (mediation, negotiation, settlement, etc). An investment arbitration component will be incorporated into the case study whereby students will learn how to navigate the investment arbitration process and options. Mock hearings will also take place before eminent arbitrators in the industry. The class will be assigned reading in advance of class. Students will be expected to participate in role-plays and teamwork during class.

Assessment: 20% completion of a final research paper, 80% class participation, written assignment and oral presentation in class

---

## **LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia**

The course will survey the arbitration laws in major jurisdictions in Asia, including but not limited to Hong Kong, Singapore, China, India, Korea and Malaysia. For the sake of comparison and analysis, reference will be made to the UNCITRAL Model Law and the laws of major European arbitration centers. In addition, the course will survey compare and contrast the various approaches taken by arbitral institutions in these regions (such as HKIAC, SIAC, CIETAC, etc.) with respect to procedural and other matters. Again, reference to the UNCITRAL Model Rules and the rules of other major arbitral institutions (such as the ICC and the LCIA) will be useful for comparison and analysis.

Notwithstanding reference to UNCITRAL and other materials, the course will focus on the laws and procedural rules in use in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular Hong Kong, Singapore, China and India. In addition, although the course will take a comparative approach to these laws and rules across jurisdictions in the region, the interaction of state law and institutional rules within a particular jurisdiction will also be the subject of analysis and discussion. Finally, cultural and other issues which may impact the practice of arbitration in a given jurisdiction will be explored.

Students will be assigned reading in advance of class, and will be expected to participate in discussions and role-plays during class.

Assessment: 80% take-home examination or research paper, 20% class participation (a set of assessment rubrics will be developed to assess class participation)

---

## **LLAW6239 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management I**

The eruption of the global financial crisis in 2008 has led various organizations such as the G20, Financial Stability Board, Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and the IMF, to implement new regulatory and economic policies.

Constant requirement of implementing regulatory changes and placement of proper risk management and crisis management processes and procedures become mandatory for banks and financial institutions. Also, instillation of corporate governance culture and in-place of proper corporate governance process and procedures along the organizational hierarchy is important and key to corporate success.

Many banks and financial institutions, particularly private banks and wealth management institutions, have shifted their focus from risk enhancement to business growth. For practitioners (risk and compliance professionals, bankers and lawyers) and those prepare to enter into the private banking and wealth management industry, to stay advanced in the game, a good understanding of the business, compliance, law and regulations would be highly advantageous.

This course is specially designed to give students a better understanding of the private banking and wealth management business, compliance, operations, laws and regulations. In addition to the academic requirement, the course emphasises real-life experience and

sharing from practitioners' perspectives. Recent scandals from major international banks on compliance and regulatory areas (i.e. Know Your Client, Anti-Money Laundering, Product mis-selling, etc) will be discussed. Important legal and regulatory components and Ordinances on clients on-boarding process, compliance requirement, sales process, end-to-end client relationship management, corporate governance, sales ethics, clients suitability and sustainability & risk profiling, data privacy, etc. will be discussed in details. In addition, dispute handling on financial disputes will also be discussed.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% presentation

---

## **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 be 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

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6244 Securities regulation II**

The course will build on and develop concepts and issues that were considered in Securities Regulation I as well as introducing new topics.

The development and marketing of investment products and complex products are subject to developed regulatory requirements that will be examined in detail. A preliminary overview of derivatives and traded futures will be undertaken for the purposes of providing a basis for understanding structured investment products. This will also provide

a basis for appreciating the role of OTC derivatives in the marketplace, their role in the global financial credit crisis and the development of regulatory oversight of this market.

A focus of the course will be on the rapidly developing body of case law in the Hong Kong courts arising out of the increased activity of the Securities and Futures Commission in bringing misconduct matters under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (SFO) to trial. Regulatory enforcement cases will also be examined. This will require a closer examination of the relevant provisions of the SFO.

The course will also review the Code on Takeovers and Mergers, which regulates takeovers activity. The ways in which the Code affects the commercial execution of takeover and acquisition activity will be considered.

How the regulatory system is responding to relatively new phenomena, such as dark pools and high-frequency trading, as well as developing new approaches to existing issues, such as the position of the fiduciary concept and the treatment of information in the regulated marketplace, will also be considered. The development of behavioural or smart regulation will also be considered. A focus will be to develop a deeper understanding of the factors that influence such developments.

This Part II course will require a higher level of class interaction and will include a workshop component.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed LLAW6049 , or demonstrated knowledge of the securities industry consistent with the scope of LLAW6049.

Assessment: 65% take-home examination, 25% group course work, 10% class participation

[Students are required to pass the exam to be eligible to pass the course.]

---

### **LLAW6245 Compliance in the Hong Kong securities industry**

The course will provide students with an understanding of the core roles, tasks, challenges and issues that a regulated intermediary must deal with when seeking to comply with applicable laws and regulations. While ‘compliance’ can readily be understood as an objective, much of the course will be concerned with the hurdles and issues that face compliance as a function when implemented in the complex matrix of regulatory requirements, business needs, management styles, and cultural and behavioural factors.

The course will commence with a brief recap of the regulatory framework for Hong Kong’s securities industry, including the overarching objectives of regulation, and an ad hoc review of some important failures that serve to highlight the relationship between compliance, regulations and the proper operation of markets.

With a view to giving a 360-degree review of the compliance function, the course will examine (a) the different roles of compliance in different types of organizations, (b)

positioning the compliance function in the context of an organization's culture, corporate governance practices, and ethics, (c) the proper role of compliance in the organization's relationships with third parties (including customers, clients, counterparties, and regulators) and (d) compliance as a risk management function.

While the focus of the course will be on regulated intermediaries such as securities dealers, corporate finance advisers and asset managers, the course will also consider the position of issuers, particularly the challenges facing newly listed issuers.

The development, purpose and important aspects of the in-house compliance manual will be examined. How policies and procedures should be tailored, applied to an organization's operations, and reviewed and assessed will be considered.

With a view to giving students closer contact with the realities of the compliance task, the course will make extensive use of speakers from the industry and the regulators. The format of each lecture will in general be comprised of two halves, the first being in a lecture format, the second being discussion-based and driven by small group work and question and answer discussions. Accordingly, student participation is expected and required to contribute to the learning context.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed LLAW6049, or demonstrated knowledge of the securities industry consistent with the scope of LLAW6049.

Assessment: 60% take-home examination, 15% individual course work, 15% group course work, 10% class participation

[Students are required to pass the exam to be eligible to pass the course.]

---

## **LLAW6246 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management II**

This course covers the design and compliance requirements of products offered by banks and other financial institutions in the context of private banking, wealth management and family office operations. In addition to the legal, regulatory and compliance components, a significant portion of the course covers the technical aspects of design of products and services including investments, insurance, tax planning, succession planning, philanthropy, etc, so as to provide a full spectrum of cover for the participants. Throughout the course, emphasis will be made on ethical issues and risks. In addition to the theoretical framework of issues, the course emphasises practical dimensions and involves experience sharing by seasoned industry practitioners.

This course gives practitioners (lawyers, risk and compliance professionals and bankers) a good refreshment of knowledge. And for those who prepare to enter into the private banking and wealth management industry, this module gives a good understanding of the Financial Products compliance and regulatory requirement.

This module is a good complementary to LLAW6239 and with the two modules together, will give an end-to-end view of the services/business provided by Private Banking and Wealth Management industry.

Assessment: 20% individual presentation and 80% research paper

---

## **LLAW6247 Medico-legal issues**

Advances in medical knowledge and technologies have transformed the modern world, altering the very fabric of societies by greatly improving the quality of life and extending life expectancies in the developed world. But increasingly, advances in medical knowledge and technologies is seen as delivering ever-marginal returns, and as merely postponing inevitable mortality at considerable cost to the quality of life in many circumstances.

**Life and Death.** This course begins with an examination of some of the most fundamental human concepts: the meaning and definition of life, and of death. We start first with an inquiry into the meaning of life, and when it begins. This inquiry has profound consequences not only for the criminal law ('can one murder an unborn child? Is an unborn child alive and distinct from its mother to begin with?'), but also for modern clinical technologies such as artificial reproductive techniques such as *in vitro* fertilization, and also for cutting-edge research involving human stem cells derived from the destruction of human embryos. The definition of life, too, is central to the shape of the law in relation to issues such as abortion. The definition of life in the body of the law and of ethics is inextricably bound up with the definition of death: in this second line of inquiry, we explore the consequence of modern technologies that extend biological function in ways not historically within the experience of humankind. Is a person dead when the heart stops? When it does, is it ethical and legal to remove the heart for transplant into another person, with the intent of restarting it in the recipient? What is the social, ethical and legal approach to the status of patients who are not wholly brain-dead, but are in irreversible states of unconsciousness such as PVS (Persistent Vegetative State)? Is it ethical and lawful to let such people die by removing them from life support? What is the meaning of 'brain dead'?

The next inquiry is a logical extension of the inquiry into death: people don't have any choice about being born, or of the circumstances of their birth, but do or should people have a choice about how they die? Do patients have a right to refuse treatment? Do patients have a right to die? Do patients have a right to be helped to die if they cannot achieve this themselves (for example, if they are paralysed)? What kind of advance decisions may a dying person make regarding his treatment and care at the end of life? Are living wills or advance directives lawful in Hong Kong? Do they bind doctors and families? Who is entitled to make decisions for a patient at the end of life when the patient is no longer competent or conscious? We examine in this context the notion of medical futility and its place in the law.

**The Human Body and the Law.** In this section, we explore a series of related inquiries, beginning first with the question of what kind of property rights may be asserted in the

human body and its parts. Is a human body (or any part thereof) property which a testator may lawfully devise and make a binding gift of in his will? Is a corpse, or a preserved organ or tissue samples capable of being 'owned' in the sense of personal property in the law? The legal answer to this question may be surprising to most people, and it has profound implications for current developments such as intellectual property claims to or derived from human tissue or genes or proteins, as well as to the rapidly developing field of human tissue banking, biobanking and genetic or genomic banking.

Closely tied to the question of property in the body is the concept of human organ transplantation. Is transplantation legal, and what are the ethical and legal rules governing it? Do rules differ for *inter vivos* transplants (where the donated organ is taken from a living person) and cadaveric transplants (where the donated organ is taken from a dead person – but when is a person 'dead' for the purposes of transplantation?). We examine in particular the ethical and legal difficulties involved when organs are harvested from donors declared dead on cardiovascular death criteria instead of whole-brain death criteria. How should scarce resources such as human organs be allocated? To the sickest? To the best immunologically-compatible match? Should trade in organs be allowed, and if not, why?

**The Physician-Patient Relationship.** In this third part of the course we examine the standard duties imposed on physicians by the law, and consider especially the standard of care to be applied in the global duties of diagnosis, disclosure and treatment. Starting from the standard background of the *Bolam* rule, we consider the implications of the recent (March 2015) change in the common law relating to the standard of care for disclosure directed by the UK Supreme Court. Who decides how much information a patient should be given? Are there any circumstances in which a doctor may deliberately withhold information from the patient? What kinds of risks may a doctor take on behalf of the patient?

In this part, we also examine the obligation of confidence, starting first with an inquiry into the operation of the duty of confidence in the 'traditional' context or 'traditional' situations. But increasingly, the advent of modern technology and new applications for medical information is straining the traditional justifications for the confidence rule. We examine the modern formulation of the confidence rule in the context of new technologies such as genetic testing, genetic screening – and genetic research.

**Human Biomedical Research.** In this final part, we survey key developments in a rapidly-developing field which is becoming an increasingly important part of the work (and ambitions) of every healthcare institution in the developed world – biomedical research. The student is introduced to basic concepts in the field of human experimentation, research involving human subjects, clinical trials (drug or pharmaceutical trials), institutional ethical governance for biomedical research, human tissue banking, the use of medical information and biobanking.

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

---

### **LLAW6248 Comparative contract law**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of contract law from a comparative perspective. Regulation of the same contractual issues differs in different legal systems. Through the introduction of basic definitions, concepts and relevant contractual issues, this course shall assess different regulations and discuss the most efficient ways to regulate contractual issues.

The course covers the following issues: the boundaries of contract (contract and tort), contract law theory, formation of contract, pre-contractual duties, incapacity, contents of contracts; interpretation of contracts, and remedies.

Assessment: 90% research paper, 10% class participation

---

### **LLAW6249 Entertainment law**

This course provides practical knowledge about the legal, regulatory and business aspects of the entertainment industry in Hong Kong. The lecture room will turn into the legal office of a mass media and entertainment conglomerate. Students, positioned as recruits of the legal office, will learn how to deal with the common legal issues in the daily operations of the conglomerate. The conglomerate has broad-based business ranging from production, acquisition and distribution of TV programmes of different genres (drama, non-drama, news etc.), production and distribution of theatrical films, music publishing and recording to artiste management. Thus, the legal issues to be dealt with may include:-

- Copyright in entertainment industry
- Passing off
- Defamation
- Contempt of Court
- Privacy issues of celebrities
- Recruitment and management of artistes
- Advertising regulation
- Legal/ regulatory traps in producing a TV programme/ theatrical film or organizing a public entertainment event

Assessment: 50% research paper, 50% group project

---

### **LLAW6250 The regulation of biomedical research**

The course is aimed at students seeking an understanding of the framework of legal and ethical regulation (both locally and internationally) of biomedical research in all its common aspects, and the legal and regulatory requirements that must be met before new drugs, vaccines, biologics or medical devices may become accessible to the public.

Topics that will be covered in the course include international standards for clinical trials (involving pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical product); direct human experimental and biomedical research involving human subjects; ‘non-invasive’ epidemiological and other studies involving only the use of data; human tissue banking and biobanking; cohort studies; genomic research; the research use of ‘legacy’ diagnostic tissue or data collections; the sharing of personal, medical and genomic information; public ‘diseases registries’ and the use of medical information for public health research purposes; the legal and ethical regulation of multi-centre and multi-jurisdictional collaborative biomedical research; EMR (electronic medical records) databases; data-mining and the implications of migration to large-scale national health records systems; human embryonic stem cell and induced pluripotent stem cell research; genome editing and gene therapy; medical device trials (including devices based on artificial intelligence or machine learning); and ethical and regulatory standards for governance of biomedical research at the institutional level (through IRBs, ECs, HRECs).

Fundamental concepts such as the informed consent of subjects (at common law and under international clinical trial good practices) with particular emphasis on the consent given by or on behalf of minors, incompetent subjects and vulnerable populations, social value of the research, right to science, return of benefits to research subjects or affected populations, risk-benefit assessment, clinical trial designs and clinical equipoise will be considered, as along with the impact and requirements of national laws and regulations international guidelines.

The course seeks to help students understand and keep abreast of developments (and to enable them to advise the medical and biomedical research sectors) in the rapidly developing field of biomedical research, and to equip them with the basic language and vocabulary necessary to appreciate the legal and ethical implications. To this end, students will be introduced to basic technical (i.e. medical or scientific) information that relates to the research proposals or endeavours (e.g. human genome editing) considered in this course.

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

---

## **LLAW6251 Comparative Property Law**

In 1766, Blackstone wrote that “there is nothing which so generally strikes the imagination, and engages the affections of mankind, as the right of property.” In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote that property in land should be abolished in the most advanced countries. Property rights have been at the very heart of human development in the past centuries. On one hand, property has been viewed as the basis for liberty and economic development. On the other hand, as Proudhon said, property is just another word for theft. In China, land-related social conflicts occur every day and everywhere. From ordinary farmers to university scholars, each person has his own idea of property rights. However, in the fierce debates around property rights, there is lack of consensus on such basic questions: What is property? What things should we keep for ourselves? And what should we share with others? Why should a piece of land belong to you rather than me? How is property rights structured and defined? What is the

relationship between property and development? On the other hand, property rights are behind many challenges facing human beings: can a market of pollution permits save us from air pollution? How to govern the common resources in the oceans? Have intellectual property rights deterred or encouraged technological innovation? Are property rights the key to economic prosperity in the U.S.? How about China? Why have land reform programs sponsored by the World Bank failed in many developing countries? Are indigenous residents in the New Territories of Hong Kong entitled to the development value of their land? This seminar will provide students with the theoretical and comparative perspectives to investigate such questions.

This seminar will begin with an inquiry into how members of a society allocate, and should allocate, formal and informal entitlements to scarce resources such as wild animals, labor, water, ideas, and land. It will explore various forms of private property and also alternative regimes such as communal and state property. It will give students an overview of the contemporary debates on property rights, in particular the debate between law and economics and critical legal studies regarding efficiency and fairness of property regimes. It will draw cases from different jurisdictions of the world, in particular the U.S., China, African and South American countries, and different fields of law, including environmental law.

Through this course, I hope to improve students' understanding of property rights from both theoretical and comparative perspectives. It is more suitable to students who are interested in exploration and proactive learning rather than passive learning of black-letter laws.

Assessment: 30% response papers, 30% class participation and presentations, 40% final essay

---

## **LLAW6252 Construction of commercial contracts**

This LLM elective is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principles of construction of commercial contracts. Unlike the substantive law of contract, construction of contractual terms is essentially intuitive in nature, with no rules but, rather, with fundamental guiding principles which have evolved from a large body of case law and, indeed, continue to evolve. It is, therefore, essential that any commercial lawyer has a solid grasp of such principles so as to enable them to anticipate how contractual terms are likely to be interpreted by the court for the purposes of giving advice and drafting contractual documents.

Other than examining the guiding principles of contractual construction, the course will also consider related concepts, such as implied terms, rectification and estoppel by convention, which are also highly relevant to the overall construction issue. To this end, the course will draw on, develop and deepen the knowledge acquired from their undergraduate study of the Law of Contract.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed the law of contract

Assessment: 80% take-home assignment, 20% group project

---

### **LLAW6253 Law of the cities**

This course explores legal institutions of cities in the world, including two parts: the political law of cities and the economic law of cities. The first part explores the constitution of city governments (e.g., whether it is authoritative or democratic, and in the latter situation whether it is dominated by the legislative council or the executive branch; its relationship with upper level governments; etc.) and its influence on city development. The second part focuses on laws and regulations that govern various economic issues, in particular land use regulations, immigration policies, affordable housing, environmental and other social issues. We will investigate cases from different cities around the world, including but not limited to Chinese cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, and American cities such as New York and Los Angeles. Chinese and American cities are facing similar problems today, such as the ongoing pandemic, conflicts in land use, sky-rocketing housing prices, and tension between property protection and economic development. This course endeavors to provide a universal framework for students to understand urban governance in different contexts. We hope students in this course will learn how to address various challenges to urban governance. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach by building on frontier research in law, politics, sociology and economics. Through this course, we endeavor to answer the question why cities fail or succeed, and hope to improve students' understanding of city governance from both theoretical and comparative perspectives.

Assessment: 30% class participation, 70% final essay

---

### **LLAW6260 Law of state immunity and sovereign debt**

SISD is a highly topical course intended principally for full-time LLM(CFL) candidates, and deals with conflicts arising between public international and private international law in cases of distressed foreign currency sovereign debt. The course will also be of interest to JD, MCL and LLM(CR) candidates with appropriate interests in private and public international law.

The course will address the results of two contemporary developments, the widespread adoption of the doctrine of restricted sovereign immunity in the engagement of states with commercial actors; second, a long-term transition in foreign currency borrowing by central governments from being evidenced by inter-state treaties to private law contracts.

These changes have contributed to increasing conflicts between official interests and diffuse creditor groups in cases involving delinquent or distressed debt; by protracted creditor litigation, for example involving Argentina, Greece, Ukraine and Venezuela; an erosion of engagement among previously-cooperative commercial creditors; and a lack of international consensus in dealing with the odious debts of impoverished states in political flux.

The course will examine all aspects of these issues, in a seminar setting with a high-degree of class participation through weekly discussions of specific course topics, supported by guided readings and issues introduced each week by class members.

Prerequisites: Demonstrable competence in the common law of contract or civilian law of obligations and LLAW6055

Assessment: 40% coursework and class participation, 60% take-home examination

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6279 Comparative corporate law and theories**

This course examines corporate law from comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives. In the course students will be introduced to the fundamental legal principles concerning limited liability, corporate contract, voluntary and/or mandatory nature of corporate law, directors' duties, shareholder protection and external finance, disclosure, insider trading, takeover, shareholder value maximization or stakeholder theories, convergence and divergence of corporate law, and corporate social responsibility.

Through the examination of the above convent/topics, several fundamental issues will be dealt with. They include freedom of contract and its limits, externalities and collective action, transaction costs, goals of corporate law, legal rules and finance, methods of enforcement, interaction of corporate law and market means, and globalization.

The comparative aspects will deal with materials from the US, UK, Germany, Japan and China. Teaching is interdisciplinary. Readings will be drawn from legal and social science literature, including works from economics and finance. This course is theory-based and has a significant research component.

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

---

### **LLAW6280 Introduction to artificial intelligence and law**

Big data and artificial intelligence are poised to become the fourth industrial revolution, fundamentally changing the way we live, work, and learn. This course introduces how data analytics and artificial intelligence are currently applied into legal studies, legal practice, and policy making.

To get a flavor of this course, consider the following questions that we will cover: 1. Recent machine learning algorithms outperform judges in making parole decisions in the United States, that is, algorithms are now better at predicting risks associated with the release of criminal suspects. How do the algorithms accomplish this? 2. Data analysis enables scholars and policy makers to precisely calculate incarceration's influence on criminals' income after release, for example, X years of incarceration will decrease income by \$Y. How do they accomplish this? 3. Data analytics help scholar and business to study when and why individuals obey contracts. What are the exact methods that they use?

This course can be seen as an introduction to data-driven and empirical methods in legal studies. The focus is to use real world examples to give students a basic idea of the underlying logics of applying different methods. Students are expected to achieve critical appreciation for empirical methods and data analytics thinking in law, but are not required to implement empirical research by themselves. In other words, the content covered in this course will be introductory in nature. No computer programming or statistical analysis experience is required. Students who have programming or statistical analysis experience and want to study how to implement an empirical project in law should register LLAW6285 / JDOC6285 Computer Programming, Data Mining, and the Law — An Applied Introduction. And you should not register LLAW6285 / JDOC6285 and this course simultaneously.

Assessment: 20% designing an empirical research, 40% reading reports, 40% essay

---

### **LLAW6281 Research seminars in ADR ethics and policy**

The aim of this course is to help students gain familiarity with the law, ethics and policy of alternatives to court adjudication – including arbitration, mediation, and direct negotiations, and to help counsel clients to select appropriate mechanisms. Recent scholarship examining efforts toward enhancing efficiency, fairness, and access to justice will be examined. In addition, students will be assisted to develop greater awareness of

the underlying ethical dimensions in the practice of ADR, including professionalism, adherence to best practices, and understanding of underlying ethical issues such as confidentiality, implicit bias and fairness. The aim is that through such understanding, students will be assisted to gain relevant tools to resolve ethical dilemmas that may arise in practice. The course will be based on class participation, discussion and a research essay examining a particular area of ADR policy reform.

Assessment: 20% class presentation/participation, 80% research essay

---

### **LLAW6284 Comparative company law**

This course examines critical and controversial topics in company law in a comparative context, in particular the laws of the UK, France, Germany and the United States. Each class will introduce students to definitions and concepts to be considered in detail, followed by presentations of relevant national laws to allow a comparison of how different legal systems deal with similar needs and problems. Against this background, the final part of each class will be consider the comparative advantages and effectiveness of the solutions analyzed in this way.

The principal topics to be examined are:

- The corporation as a legal person and the limits of limited liability, including piercing or lifting the corporate veil.
- Types of business organisations.
- Company formation.
- Governing the corporation: management, board of directors, shareholders meetings and shareholder resolutions.
- Shareholder rights (including those of minorities) and their protection.
- Closely-held public companies.
- The company's share capital.
- The nature of equity claims and classes of shares.
- Mergers, acquisitions and changes in corporate control.
- Corporate groups.

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

---

### **LLAW6285 Computer programming, data mining, and the law – an applied introduction**

This course will introduce students to using data analytics and computational methods in legal studies (or, broadly speaking, empirical studies of law). The course will cover a range of empirical methods that are widely used in sciences and social sciences, including regression analysis, machine learning, and causal inference, and it will use real-world examples to introduce how these methods can be applied into the study and the practice of law. The course will guide students in a hands-on way, focusing on substantive projects that are relevant to legal research and practice.

Designed to serve as an introduction to the field, students can expect to leave the class with an experience of conducting empirical legal study, that is, finding a research question, designing an empirical research, collecting and analyzing data, and presenting the results. Students who aspire to develop a career in law and new technologies, or who plan to pursue a graduate degree (e.g., Ph.D. or JSD), are encouraged to take the course.

Computer programming or statistical analysis experience would help, but is not required. Students without such experience can take LLAW6280 / JDOC6280 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Law. But you should not register LLAW6280 / JDOC6280 and this course simultaneously.

Topics covered will include:

- Decision tree and some other Machine learning techniques
- Regression analysis
- Causal inference
- The application of these methods in a range of legal areas, including criminal law, judicial behavior, property & intellectual property, corporate and financial regulation

Assessment: 10% oral presentation, 20% data analysis task, 30% designing an empirical research, 40% reading reports

---

### **LLAW6286 Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions**

Today many corporations operate and have assets and creditors beyond their domestic borders. When these corporations collapse the legal uncertainties that follow their insolvency are a major obstacle to the advancement of international trade and finance.

The course covers:

- The issues that arise in transnational corporate collapses, with particular focus on the conflicts issues of jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement; and
- The various approaches that have been suggested or implemented for their resolution

As the title suggests, this is a course about cross border issues in corporate insolvency and their resolution. It is NOT a course on the domestic insolvency laws of any particular jurisdiction.

The conflicts consideration of cross border corporate insolvencies has become critical with globalisation and the increasing transnational nature of corporate insolvencies today. The course seeks to provide students with an awareness and understanding of the issues that may arise so that they will be able to identify them, and deal with them sensibly and appropriately in practice.

Attempts at regional and international harmonisation have not to-date found completely viable solutions. Each of the approaches for the treatment of the issues has its shortcomings. Students will be encouraged to consider these approaches critically, and to formulate their own views as to how the issues ought to be dealt with.

The conflicts considerations and treatment are as necessary before as upon a transnational corporate collapse. Lawyers and investment bankers advising on financing transactions should anticipate and address these issues in the terms of the contracts or in the structuring the financing so that their financier clients are protected in the insolvency of the borrower. The course should be useful to those who intend to have an international practice, or to work in the corporate, insolvency or financial sectors.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed JDOC3015/ JDOC6048/ JDOC6084/ JDOC6087/ JDOC6206/ JDOC6207/ JDOC6227; or significant practical experience in insolvency or conflict of laws.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 30% oral presentation and defence

---

### **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

---

### **LLAW6292 Comparative constitutional review: theory and practice**

This course introduces students to the major features of constitutional review (or judicial review of constitutionality) as an institution, and its decisions from a comparative law perspective, while focusing on the practice of the Constitutional Court in Taiwan. The experience of constitutional adjudication in Taiwan provides fertile soil for comparative constitutional law: Taiwan's constitutional court (established in Mainland China in September 1948) is the oldest constitutional court in East Asia; it has rendered over 700 decisions, officially known as constitutional "interpretations"; and its jurisprudence has been primarily influenced by German and American jurisprudence.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% research paper

---

### **LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes**

Since the early days of the colony, when Hong Kong's first trading houses were established with Jardine & Matheson leading the way, and until contemporary Hong Kong with major listed Chinese conglomerates such as China Merchants investing in major infrastructure projects around the world, Hong Kong has been known for its market-oriented approach and for its outlook to international investment and trade.

The course is a unique offering at a post-graduate level that is tailor-made for Hong Kong's international investment and trade community, whether in-house counsel, practising lawyers, managing directors, or project managers in charge of international transactions. The course is thus designed for students with a legal background (preferably a law degree) and for those students who have a background in international business transactions, international project management, and in transboundary infrastructure and banking projects.

The course is an interdisciplinary programme that unites several key legal disciplines under the general dispute resolution umbrella: public international law, investment and trade, investment structuring, investment protection, political risk insurance, WTO dispute resolution mechanism, and resolution of investment disputes.

Prerequisite: Legal background (a degree in law or a certificate in dispute resolution), background and/or interest in other related industries (international banking, infrastructure, insurance, international business)

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% mid-term examination, 60% in-hall examination

---

### **LLAW6295 Issues in consumer law: theory and policy**

This course involves an in-depth study of consumer law issues at the postgraduate level, emphasising the theoretical underpinnings and policy implications of Hong Kong and global developments in various areas of consumer law, such as the regulation of unfair trade practices, the regulation of standard form contracts and unfair contract terms, the regulation of product quality, the regulation of product safety, and the regulation of consumer finance. The coverage of this course goes beyond Hong Kong legal issues: it will draw on latest, cutting-edge developments in consumer law in foreign jurisdictions (such as the UK, the EU, Australia, and the US) to provide a comparative and global perspective on the subject.

Prerequisite: Students should have a basic understanding of contract law, and preferably also tort law

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% final 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 exam

---

### **LLAW6298 Private equity and venture capital: law and practice**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the legal issues that arise in private equity and venture capital from both theoretical and practical perspectives. The topics that will be covered explore the laws and practices relating to the whole cycle of the venture capital and private equity, including fundraising, investments, exits, foreign investments and regulation.

The course will also discuss emerging methods of SME financing including crowdfunding and ICOs. Certain topics of this course will provide relevant comparisons with private equity and venture capital in the US, the UK, EU, China and Singapore. It will be of interest to legal professionals in the private equity and venture capital sectors.

A basic knowledge of company law but it is not a prerequisite for the course.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% research essay

---

## **LLAW6299 Trusts in commerce, finance, and wealth management**

The course examines cutting edge problems arising from the modern application of the trust and equitable doctrines in modern family succession planning, commerce, and finance.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has presented a series of challenges to trust and equitable doctrines. First, transformation in the form of wealth held by individuals, from real estate to corporate and most recently digital assets, raises interesting issues such as whether data, digital assets and cryptocurrencies may be held upon trust, and how trust law may be used to protect people's rights in these new forms of wealth. Second, the aging of the population and inequality in wealth distribution means that inter-generational transfers of wealth are more complicated than in the past. There is increasing sophistication in the use (or abuse) of trust by high net worth individuals to preserve wealth in the family. This development gives rise to questions such as when is a trust a sham or an illusory trust, how far may settlors protect themselves from creditors, estranged spouses and the tax authorities while maintaining control over the trust property, and what is the minimum core of a trustee's duties. Third, the globalised economy has provided a strong impetus to civil law countries to adopt the trust to enhance their capabilities in international finance. As civil law trust laws interact with common law jurisdictions, there are theoretical and practical uncertainties as to the nature of the rights and proprietary remedies in trust law. The course will consider these modern challenges to trust law and equitable principles.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% research essay

---

## **LLAW6300 Digitalisation: health, law and policy**

This is an Elective designed in part for the LLM in Medical Ethics and Law programme, and will have three key objectives:

(1) Introduce students to the ethical and legal implications of digitalisation of health and related aspects of law, primarily from a policy (or regulatory) standpoint. **Health** is referred to generally as the module will study digitalisation in a variety of health-related contexts, including healthcare (e.g. electronic health records and use of sensors to monitor medical adherence), biomedical research (e.g. use of artificial intelligence (AI) in drug development), health insurance (e.g. use of Big Data analytics in claim and loss predictions) and public / global health (e.g. use of digital technologies to support realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals);

(2) Introduce students to Computational **Law** as applicable to digitalisation of health (as depicted in Objective (1) above). The module will focus on a number of computational models of legal reasoning (and related legal apps that have been developed), and will examine how modern legal expert systems are likely to change in response to the digitalisation of health; and

(3) Introduce students to data visualisation (in both health and law) and means of thinking critically about an increasingly data-driven world (with focus on potential sources of misinformation and disinformation).

**Digitalisation** refers to the added value of applying digital technologies (such as Big Data analytics, AI and robotics) to interventions directed at meeting needs or goals that relate to health, administration of justice and regulatory compliance. The course adopts a **Policy** approach in that different epistemic systems of ethical, legal/regulatory and governance principles (e.g. human-centricity) that guide decisions to achieve health and legal outcomes will be examined. The ethical and legal implications of digitalisation policies in both subjective and objective decision-making will be considered.

The jurisprudential basis of right to information, freedom of expression (as pertinent to health), privacy, as well as concerns with misinformation and disinformation will be studied. The course will also cover the role of national laws, international law, and instruments touching on digitalisation concerns in health and related aspects of legal practice and regulation. Of these laws and normative instruments, this course will focus on those that pertain to data security, collection, sharing and use, control (e.g. through intellectual property) as well as those that apply to data custodians and intermediaries (including cloud platforms). Additionally, the normative impact of social organisations (including business entities) on digitalisation and regulatory trends will be considered.

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

---

### **LLAW6301 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) - postgraduate internship**

The Law, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE) programme is an interdisciplinary and experiential programme for students of all backgrounds. In LITE – Postgraduate Internship, postgraduate students will have the opportunity and commit to be onsite to work with Hong Kong tech companies at least the equivalence of one day in the week during the semester (“host companies”).

Host companies are initially expected to come from Cyberport, Hong Kong Science and Technology Park (HKSTP), and the FinTech Association of Hong Kong (FTAHK). Sectors and business areas may include fintech, digital entertainment, artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain, and cybersecurity, among others.

As compared to the structured project-based LITE Lab - Tech Startup Law (LLAW3255), LITE - Undergraduate Internship is more fluid to reflect the operations of innovation firms, startups, and social entrepreneurs, with tasks assigned supervised by relevant officers of such fast-moving and evolving companies. Supervision is primarily by the host company and may include multiple shorter-term projects and deliverables that evolve during the term of the internship. Priority will be provided to tasks and officers which are legally-related, and accordingly, host companies will tend to be later stage as compared to the companies involved in LITE Lab - Tech Startup Law (LLAW3255).

Student-company pairings will be made based on each student's previous work experience, academic focus, areas of particular interest, and relevant skillsets. In addition to class time, expected time commitment will be 9-10 hours per week devoted to the internship, comprised primarily of time committed to be spent on-site with the host company, reporting and communicating with the LITE instructors about progress.

Students will be assessed on a pass / fail basis.

Assessment: 10% learning reflections, 10% class contribution, 40% internship final project/tool/explainer, 40% internship participation and delivery

---

### **LLAW6302 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) lab - tech startup law plus**

Law, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE) Lab@HKU is an interdisciplinary and experiential programme for students from all backgrounds.

Postgraduate students gain practical experience working with Hong Kong tech startup entrepreneurs through curated legal-related research projects determined between the startup and students that relate to real-world needs of such tech startups that are often at the cutting-edge of legal and technological innovation. For this project-based experiential course, students will regularly interact with tech startups at LITE Lab@HKU on campus, at HKU-Cyberport Fintech Nucleus, at the startup's premises and/or electronically under the supervision of instructors.

Projects will include interviews and consultations with and research to benefit emerging technologies and business models as well as contributing to LITE Lab@HKU's online resource and tools to enable access to justice and democratization of legal information to empower entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency for Hong Kong tech startups. For example, the inaugural undergraduate cohort for LITE Lab - Tech Startup Law (LLAW3255) worked with and conducted legal research for Hong Kong startups on topics including metadata, webscraping, data privacy, online platform liability and blockchain, and created legal primers for licensing agreements and cross-border distribution and sale agreements.

Students will be part of the growing LITE Lab@HKU community and conduct regular peer sharings amongst their cohort, including engaging in case rounds and project management, contributing towards internal knowledge management resources, and using design-thinking principles to create user-friendly deliverables that are comprehensible and helpful to laypersons. These are the skills and professionalism expected for those providing legal services in the future.

To create expand upon the impact, selected student deliverable are expected to be published on the LITE Lab@HKU website to foster the broader Hong Kong tech startup ecosystem.

Students will be assessed on a pass / fail basis.

Assessment: 10% class contribution, 10% learning reflections, 40% project service/product delivery, 40% research/case study

---

#### **LLAW6304 Governing online platforms: law, economics and politics**

In the past two decades, we have witnessed extraordinary growth in the number of online platforms in China and the rest of the world. Governing these platforms, however, poses a daunting task for both the platform operators and state regulators. This course simultaneously explores three dimensions of the governance of online platforms. The first dimension is public governance, as state regulators are applying stricter scrutiny over various aspects of the platform businesses. We will survey the major Chinese laws and regulations that have been applied to platform businesses, such as financial regulation, consumer protection law, antitrust law and data protection law. We then compare the legal developments in China and other major jurisdictions such as the EU and the United States. The second dimension is private governance. We will survey the internal mechanisms developed by Chinese online platforms to govern users. We will also examine the intriguing phenomenon of platform decentralization, where Chinese online platforms engage their own users to participate in rulemaking and dispute resolution. The third dimension is foreign governance. Given the escalating geopolitical tensions between China and the West, Chinese online platforms are facing increasing scrutiny from foreign regulators over national security and competition issues (e.g., TikTok and WeChat). We will explore the legal challenges posed to Chinese online platforms and examine how they are navigating these challenges. In addition to introducing students to the legal issues surrounding platform governance, this course will also guide students to analyze the potential overlaps and conflicts between each of the above governance models, the underlying political and economic institutions that have driven the development of these governance models, as well as the associated economic and financial consequences.

Assessment: 30% class participation, 70% research paper

---

#### **LLAW6305 Sanctions: law and practice**

This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the concept and practice of sanctions from the corporate perspective. It will be divided into two main parts. The first part will consider sanctions regimes on both international and domestic levels. The interactions between the different regimes will be discussed, together with highlighting areas of potential inconsistencies and evaluating their implications to sanctions compliance in practice. The second part will focus on managing sanctions issues in practice. This will include the key components of the sanctions compliance governance framework as well as decision making amidst competing legal, commercial, and policy demands relevant to corporate actors. Throughout this course, various legal and practical issues will be presented for analysis and discussion.

Assessment: 20% group presentation, 80% take-home examination

---

## **LLAW6306 The economic analysis of law**

Judges make policy through their decisions in individual cases. This observation is especially true of jurisdictions that recognize opinions as authoritative sources of law. To distill precedents and extract from them a rule to govern future cases, skillful lawyers imbue doctrine with spirit and purpose. Are case outcomes best explained by the economic notion of efficiency? How should legal regimes be designed to maximize welfare? Finally, should social efficiency and welfare—as defined by the economist—be the normative goal of law and its institutions?

This lecture-based seminar will introduce students to the economic analysis of the common law, including property, contracts, and torts. It will also cover public law themes such as voting and delegation. Finally, challenges to the neo-classical law and economics tradition will be considered. Students should come to each meeting prepared to discuss the assigned readings.

This course is self-contained, and no prior knowledge of law or economics is assumed or required.

Assessment: 40% mid-year examination, 60% 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

---