

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN COMPLIANCE AND REGULATION [LLM(CR)]

(These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the LLM[CR]curriculum in the academic year 2022-23 and thereafter.)

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

LLMCRI. Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Laws in Compliance and Regulation, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (i) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
 - (ii) shall hold the degree in a discipline other than law with at least second class honours of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose and have at least two years relevant experience and professional qualifications; or
 - (iii) shall have obtained either the Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University provided that in either case the candidate has also obtained at least second class honours degree of this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose and have at least two years relevant experience and professional qualifications;
 - (b) shall satisfy any other admission requirements which may be prescribed from time to time for the curriculum; 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 Regulations G2(b).
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LLMCR2. 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.
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LLMCR3. Period of study

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws shall normally require one academic year of full-time study and two academic years of part-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.
 - (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years in the case of full-time candidates and four academic years in the case of part-time candidates, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
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LLMCR4. Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Compliance and Regulation, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) satisfactorily complete 72 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, including a capstone experience, or 36 credits in the case of a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study, including a capstone experience.
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LLMCR5. 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).

LLMCR6. Dissertation

- (a) Candidates, whether full-time or part-time, who elect to submit a dissertation shall submit the title within four weeks of the first day of the semester registered for. The dissertation must be presented not later than December 31 or May 31 of the year for a 9-credit or an 18-credit dissertation enrolled in the first semester respectively. The May 31 deadline shall also be applicable to candidates who enroll in a 9-credit dissertation in the second semester.
- (b) In exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the period at least three months before the expected date of submission. Application for extension less than the required period 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.

LLMCR7. Progression in curriculum

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirement as prescribed in the curriculum regulations and syllabuses, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law:
 - (i) Candidates, who are on one-year full-time mode of study, shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester).
 - (ii) Candidates, who are on two-year part-time mode of study, shall normally be required to take not fewer than 9 credits nor more than 18 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester).
 - (iii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits.

- (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 (under one-year full-time study) or 18 or more credits (under two-year part-time study) in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester);
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in LLMCR3(b).
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LLMCR8. Exemption

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses 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.

LLMCR9. 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.
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LLMCR10. 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 seven calendar days 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.

LLMCR11. Requirements for graduation

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Laws in Compliance and Regulation, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;

- (b) complete the curriculum requirements prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses within the maximum period of registration and satisfy the examiner in not fewer than 72 credits in accordance with the regulations governing examinations procedures, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone experience as specified in the syllabus; and
 - (c) have achieved a Cumulative GPA of 1.50 or above.
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LLMCR12. Grading system

Individual taught postgraduate 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.

LLMCR13. Classification of awards

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

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS

COURSEWORK

The Board of Examiners shall decide what proportion of the final assessment for each module 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 LLM in Compliance and Regulation enables students to gain exposure to the laws, regulatory codes, industry practices, policies, international influences, and other considerations that affect the compliance task.

The area of compliance and regulation continues to undergo significant development and changes in response to a growing body of legal and regulatory requirements – and the consequences for breaching them – that affect how business in the financial services sector is now undertaken. Teaching provided by a team of knowledgeable and experienced academic staff as well as industry and professional practitioners bring different perspectives to the topic.

Students have the opportunity to study the current issues impacting on various areas of the financial services sector, such as financial and securities law, wealth management, insurance, money laundering, etc. as well as gaining wider perspectives including Hong Kong in the international context and relevant laws in the PRC. The range of courses offered on the programme enable students to choose subjects that suit them.

DISSERTATION

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

STRUCTURE

Candidates are required to complete 72 credits, including (i) two 9-credit compulsory courses as foundations of the curriculum, (ii) a minimum of two 9-credit core compliance and regulation courses, (iii) a minimum of one 9-credit course from a list of specialized topics courses, and (iv) 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.

COURSE OUTLINES

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

Compulsory foundation courses

LLAW6255 Compliance and financial markets

LLAW6254 Compliance: regulation in practice

(Note: Candidates will not be allowed to take LLAW6093 Regulation of Financial Markets.)

Capstone courses

(Candidates must choose at least one 9-credit course from the list below)

LLAW6245 Compliance in the Hong Kong securities industry

LLAW6127 Current issues in financial law

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation*

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation (18 credits)*

LLAW6244 Securities regulation II

Core compliance and regulation courses

(Candidates must choose at least two 9-credit courses from the list below)

LLAW6153 Business and human rights

LLAW6025 Company law and securities regulation in the People's Republic of China

LLAW6257 Compliance for listed companies

LLAW6082 Corporate governance and shareholder remedies

LLAW6088 Derivatives: law and regulation

LLAW6303 EU financial regulation and technology

LLAW6282 Financial crime: governance, risk and compliance

LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong and international perspectives

LLAW6107 Insurance law

LLAW6133 International economic law

LLAW6057 International securities law

LLAW6265 Law, regulation and compliance for insurance industry in Hong Kong

LLAW6239 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management

LLAW6110 Law and regulation of banking and insurance in the People's Republic of China

LLAW6256 Law of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing and compliance issues

LLAW6312 Legal and regulatory aspects of financial risk management

LLAW6097 Pension and investment funds in Hong Kong and the PRC

LLAW6046 Privacy and data protection

LLAW6266 Regulatory compliance in international finance and OTC derivatives documentation

LLAW6049 Securities regulation I

Specialized topics courses

(Candidates must choose at least one 9-credit course from the list below)

- LLAW6236 ASEAN law
- LLAW6172 Carriage of goods by sea
- LLAW6139 China information technology and electronic commerce law
- LLAW6185 China investment law
- LLAW6186 China trade law
- LLAW6003 Civil and commercial law in the People's Republic of China
- LLAW6124 Communications law
- LLAW6284 Comparative company law
- LLAW6279 Comparative corporate law and theories
- LLAW6027 Comparative law and practice of construction and projects
- LLAW6264 Competition law and policy in China
- LLAW6154 Competition law I
- LLAW6155 Competition law II
- LLAW6101 Competition, mergers and acquisitions
- LLAW6252 Construction of commercial contracts
- LLAW6223 Copyright and creativity
- LLAW6207 Corporate conflicts
- LLAW6171 Corruption: China in comparative perspective
- LLAW6002 Credit and security law
- LLAW6206 Cross-border corporate finance: issues and techniques
- LLAW6084 Cross-border insolvency law
- LLAW6114 Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)
- LLAW6117 Cybercrime
- LLAW6311 Data and privacy regulation in China: law, economics and politics
- LLAW6111 E-business law
- LLAW6126 e-Finance: law, compliance and technology challenges
- LLAW6090 Emerging markets: finance and investment
- LLAW6210 Energy law
- LLAW6194 Global business law I
- LLAW6195 Global business law II
- LLAW6304 Governing online platforms: law, economics and politics
- LLAW6005 Hong Kong intellectual property law
- LLAW6120 Intellectual property and information technology
- LLAW6140 Intellectual property, innovation and development
- LLAW6212 Intellectual property protection in China: law, politics and culture
- LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law
- LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration
- LLAW6007 International dispute settlement
- LLAW6037 International environmental law
- LLAW6128 International trade law I
- LLAW6129 International trade law II
- LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union law
- LLAW6227 Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)
- LLAW6295 Issues in consumer law: theory and policy
- LLAW6230 Law and practice of international investment treaty arbitration

LLAW6246 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management II
LLAW6170 Law and the internet
LLAW6302 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) lab - tech startup law plus
LLAW6283 Law of international civil aviation and aircraft finance
LLAW6055 Law of international finance1
LLAW6094 Law of international finance 2
LLAW6181 Management and commercialization of intellectual property
LLAW6029 Managing commercial disputes in China: law, issues and techniques
LLAW6224 Mergers and acquisitions
LLAW6176 Online dispute resolution
LLAW6219 Patent law
LLAW6201 PRC taxation law and policy
LLAW6314 Regulatory aspects of sustainable finance
LLAW6305 Sanctions: law and practice
LLAW6187 The interface between competition law and intellectual property law
LLAW6250 The regulation of biomedical research
LLAW6200 Topics in trademark law
LLAW6102 White collar crime: law and practice
LLAW6211 World trade law, policy and business

* LLAW6014 and LLAW6054 are mutually exclusive.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN COMPLIANCE AND REGULATIONS [LLM(CR)]

Compulsory foundation courses

LLAW6254 Compliance: Regulation in Practice

The finance industry is facing increasing demand of compliance to the changing regulatory landscape. The increase of regulations stem from the need of investors' protection, building investors' confidence and maintaining market integrity. Understanding the universe of regulation and the factors influencing the industry's conduct is an important cornerstone for the development of the finance industry.

The course focuses on the development of the local regulatory framework governing business operations of financial institutions as well as market conduct and the conduct of financial intermediaries. The course will provide a framework to understand financial regulations, codes and guidelines in banking, securities and asset management industry applying to persons licensed by or registered with the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC") and their application in practice. The course will cover the SFO and the various regulations issued by the SFC and the HKMA since the 2008 crisis. The impact to the risk and compliance functions of financial services sector will be discussed. Reference with other areas of law, including contract law and tort law will be made as appropriate.

The course is aimed at a practical approach from a policy. Case studies on a local and international level may be used to assist a better understanding the regulatory nexus of Hong Kong as a global finance centre. The course will review important cases to support understanding and application. Practical examples will be used where possible.

Prerequisite: LLM(CR) students have taken and passed LLAW6255 Compliance and Financial Markets.

Assessment: 30% in-class coursework presentation, 70% take home examination

LLAW6255 Compliance and financial markets

The finance industry is facing increasing demand of compliance to the changing regulatory landscape. The increase of regulations stem from the need of investors' protection, building investors' confidence and maintaining market integrity. There is also a need of building a risk and compliance culture within the industry and within the industry practitioners.

The course will start with the discussion of globalization of finance, the background leading to the global financial crisis in 2008 and the post crisis regulatory reform. The objective of the course is to develop an understanding of the development of financial markets, the role and function of financial markets, their risks and international efforts to

address those risks. This will form the basis to understand the evolving global, regional and local regulatory and compliance landscape.

The course will look at the regulatory structures in different key financial centres with a comparison of how global regulators regulate respective financial markets in light of the need of investors' protection and maintaining market integrity.

The course reviews Hong Kong's regulatory structure for the banking and investment industry, namely the function, powers and responsibility of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Securities and Futures Commission how they work together and how they interact with the industry players. The Lehman minibonds crisis in Hong Kong and its impact to regulatory development will be discussed. The Lehman Minibonds Report issued by SFC/HKMA/Legco will form the basis of such discussion.

Relevant sections of local law relating to the banking and investment industry, including the Securities and Futures Ordinance, the Banking Ordinance and the Exchange Fund Ordinance will be discussed. (Note: Anti-money laundering law and regulation is a separate course, and will not be covered in this course.) The course will also cover what is "compliance", what role does compliance play in a financial institution? The role, duties and responsibilities of compliance officer, and how it interacts with the management, business units, risk and audit, legal and operations, and with the regulators will be discussed.

Assessment: 100% take home examination

Capstone courses

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

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

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% Research paper

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

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

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% research paper

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

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 takeover 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.]

Core compliance and regulation courses

LLAW6025 Company law and securities regulation in the People's Republic of China

This course covers both company law and securities regulation in the People's Republic of China. The part on company law involves an examination of the legal framework governing the structure and organization of business corporations and the responsibilities of and protection afforded various groups participating in a corporation's affairs, in particular, shareholders, creditors and management. The basic conceptual framework reflected in modern corporate legislation, and especially recent Chinese statutes, regulations, and administrative rules is emphasised, with particular attention to the concept of corporate entity, scope of business activities, shareholders' rights and responsibilities, directors' duties, the governance of joint stock companies, management and control of limited companies. The part on securities regulation involves an analysis of the scheme of securities regulation in the PRC. Topics covered will include efficient capital markets, types of securities and capital structure, agency theory, portfolio theory, regulation of primary market offerings, trading in secondary markets, inside trading, mergers and acquisitions, stock exchanges, and securities market professionals.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6046 Privacy and data protection

This course will explore privacy and data protection in an increasingly interconnected data economy. The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and the data protection principles in particular will be studied in depth, making reference to relevant court judgments and Administrative Appeal Board cases. Privacy protection under other ordinances and common law principles (such as breach of confidence, misuse of private information, nuisance, trespass, copyright infringement and defamation) will also be covered. Emphasis 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) global developments and international cooperation; (c) privacy and media intrusion; (d) regulation of direct marketing; (e) Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data: powers, functions and enforcement. 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

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

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 Hong Kong and selected jurisdictions, such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. The course will examine important corporate governance norms, mechanisms and institutions, particularly the legal standards and arrangements for shareholder protection and remedies, as well as regulatory initiatives to promote good corporate governance practices and address corporate governance failures.

Assessment: 50% research assignment, 50% examination

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

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 pre-requisite to this course.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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

LLAW6110 Law and regulation of banking and insurance in the People’s Republic of China

This course involves an examination of the legal framework governing banking and insurance. The course begins with a discussion of the central bank, the People’s Bank of China, regarding its role, activities, and regulatory power. The course will cover other main financial regulators such as CBRC, CSRC and CIRC. Entry into the business of banking and regulation of the activities of banking business are examined. In addition to the regulatory regime, the law of negotiable instruments and the international transaction aspects of banking business are also treated. The course will discuss such matters as the types of security interests, principal terms of most common forms of loan facilities, basic structure of syndicated loan and international bond issues. The course will also address the causes, systemic risks and potential regulatory instruments in relation to China’s booming shadow banking sector.

The course then moves into the regulatory regime governing the insurance industry. Restrictions of entry and activities of insurance companies are examined. Prudential management and investment limitations are also dealt with. Regulatory supervision of insurance companies and regulation of insurance agents and brokers are analysed. Other topics of insurance law include: insurable interest, subrogation, the insurance contract, third party claimants, and bad faith claims.

Prerequisite: Basic knowledge of the Chinese legal system

Assessment: 100% 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

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

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

LLAW6239 Law and regulation of private banking and wealth management

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. This has also been reflected locally through the changes in various regulatory regimes implemented by our local regulators.

A proper risk and crisis management process and procedures meeting regulatory challenges become mandatory for banks and financial intermediaries. Also, the instillation of corporate governance culture and process is important and key to balancing investor protection and market development.

For practitioners (risk and compliance professionals, bankers, financial advisors 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, with a focus on understanding the Code of Conduct for Persons Licensed by or Registered with the Securities and Futures Commission (“Code of Conduct”). In addition to the academic requirement, the course emphasizes real-life experience and sharing from practitioners’ perspectives. Case laws and SFC Disciplinary Actions on compliance and regulatory areas (i.e. Know Your Client, product due diligence, suitability and selling

process, 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, SFC's disciplinary power on regulated persons will also be discussed.

Assessment: 30% mid-term essay, 70% take home examination

LLAW6256 Law of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing and compliance issues

Money laundering and terrorist financing are examples of financial crimes that can, among other things, undermine the integrity and stability of financial institutions and the economic system at large, deter foreign investment, and distort international capital flows. Money launderers and terrorist financiers are now deploying increasingly sophisticated methods and schemes to disguise and achieve their illicit purposes, and are particularly attracted to exploit those jurisdictions with weak or ineffective anti-money laundering (“AML”) and counter-terrorist financing (“CTF”) controls. Thus, developing a solid and comprehensive understanding of the concepts of money laundering and terrorist financing as well as keeping abreast of the respective regulatory frameworks are crucial to appreciating and managing such risks and challenges in the context of a financial services business.

This course is designed to not only provide students with an overview of the legal and regulatory aspects of AML and CTF, but also to equip students with practical skills and best practices to detecting and managing these types of financial crime risks in a financial institution setting. To achieve these objectives, this course is made up of three main modules. The first module explores the concepts and typologies of money laundering and terrorist financing. These concepts will be contextualised against the international efforts that been deployed to combat these illicit activities. The Hong Kong AML and CTF framework, and the roles of the respective enforcement agencies, will also be discussed. The second module examines the key components of a sound AML and CTF compliance programme in a financial institution. The way how this programme should be embedded within the broader internal control, risk management, and governance framework will also be considered. The third module focuses on some thematic issues of an AML and CTF compliance programme, including customer due diligence, escalation and exit strategies, suspicious activities, suspicious transaction reporting, and dealing with customers and regulators.

In this course, students will be learning through different activities. Besides the lecture component, students will be provided with an opportunity to deliver presentations and participate in in-class discussion on different case studies and court cases. Where appropriate, practitioners in the relevant field will be invited to share with students their experience and insights on how different AML and CTF issues come into play and handled in practice.

Assessment: 80% take home exam, 20% group presentation

LLAW6257 Compliance for listed companies

The course will focus on the compliance issues relevant to companies listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited in view of the relevant legal and regulatory requirements. The approach taken in the course will be very interactive with an emphasis on the procedures and methodologies to ensure compliance with the extensive framework of rules that HKEX listed companies are subject to. Practical compliance exercises will be completed for the topic areas covered.

The course will give students an awareness and deeper understanding of the obligations and procedures applicable or relevant to a listed company. The course will be of particular relevance to those working in listed companies as well companies that provide services to listed companies.

The course is delivered via two complementary components: a Seminar/Lecture component and an Online component comprising (1) video presentations that students may watch in their own time, (2) online exercises that students will have to complete to confirm their understanding of the video materials - performance in these exercises will count towards the overall course mark, and (3) a forum for discussion of questions and topics related to the course - participation will be monitored by the course teacher and taken into account in assessing the course participation mark.

Prerequisites: Have taken and passed LLAW6049 , or demonstrated knowledge of the underlying laws and regulations relevant to listed companies.

Assessment: 50% take home exam, 30% online assessments, 20% class participation

[Students are required to score not less than 50% in each component to be eligible to pass the course.]

LLAW6265 Law, regulation and compliance for insurance industry in Hong Kong

Insurance is playing a more prominent role in the business portfolio of many financial institutions. Since the financial crisis in 2008, consumers have become more risk-averse in choosing financial solutions, those relatively complex investments like derivative products are less receptive by the market. People are looking for other long-term financial planning solutions to give themselves a better protection and security for future, while getting a decent return. Insurance becomes an obvious choice among various financial products. Further, some banks are offering lending facilities for insurance products, with the low-interest environment, this further boosts up the attractiveness.

Insurance is historically a less regulated industry when compared to the banking world. Laws and regulations in the whole financial industry is generally getting more stringent, there is quite a significant change in the regulatory landscape in the insurance industry.

This course will cover the essential laws, regulations and compliance requirements for the insurance business in Hong Kong from a practical perspective.

This course is suitable for students who would like to understand the latest laws, regulations and compliance requirements for the insurance industry in Hong Kong and how they apply in the industry from a practical perspective.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% presentation

LLAW6266 Regulatory compliance in international finance and OTC derivatives documentation

Regulatory Compliance in International Finance and OTC Derivatives Documentation is a course for students planning to venture into today's interconnected legal and financial world. Theories will be explored in this course, complemented by practical insights, with an aim to provide students with hands-on understanding of complex legal, compliance and risk management concepts applicable to international finance, particularly in respect of client on-boarding and over-the-counter derivatives ("OTC derivatives").

This course will introduce students to the client on-boarding processes, which are crucial to banking institutions to ensure that anti-money laundering, anti-terrorist financing and sanctions regulations are followed. Moreover, emphasis will be placed on the compliance framework and the standard contractual documentation for OTC derivatives, which are essential for international financial risk management. The relevant OTC regulations and documentation under certain common law jurisdictions and the PRC jurisdiction will be explored.

Assessment: 20% in-class participation, 20% class work, 30% test, 30% exam (oral)

LLAW6282 Financial crime: governance, risk and compliance

The overall aim of the course is to develop an understanding of the financial crime risks with a focus on Financial Institutions (FIs,) and how financial crimes compliance (FCC) has/is developing internationally including the law enforcement actions, expectation from the regulators, the response from FIs and the expectation from the stakeholders including shareholders and the general public.

Underlying themes of the course will be (a) the development of FCC related enforcement trends and regulatory expectations in the region and globally, and the development of FCC in FI (b) challenges in the areas of legal, regulatory and social expectations and conflicts, and governance, responsibility and operational challenges, (c) the future of FCC in FI and beyond. The focus of the course is on the compliance response to criminal liability under financial laws rather than a study of the laws in detail, in particular at a market practitioner level on how to achieve compliance based on current market best practices.

The course will begin with the landscape of financial crime, where we were and where we are now, the role of regulatory agencies, and an overview of the kind of laws and regulations the course will be concerned with. The approach taken by major regulators concerned with financial crime will be introduced and compared, including the HKMA, SFC, U.S. Department of Justice, OFAC, FinCen, FRB, NYDFS, U.K. FCA and others in the region. The objective and enforcement basis for each of these bodies and how it creates an impact in the FCC compliance space will be examined. The roles of international bodies such as FATF, APG, Wolfsberg group, Transparency Index, Egmont group will be reviewed.

The key elements of FCC will be examined including regulatory expectations, the sharing of intelligence locally and internationally, the public/private partnership, how sanctions programmes are developing, as well as the policies, systems and resources utilized by FI to comply with sanctions regulations. Case studies will be used to illustrate, for example, how financial crime was detected and how sanctions compliance is developed.

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. The course will also look into the likely future landscape of FCC and how technology could be utilized to increase efficiencies and effectiveness.

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

[Students must pass the take home examination to be eligible to pass the course.]

LLAW6303 EU financial regulation and technology

The course aims at introducing students to the European regulation of the financial sector including compliance dimensions with a particular focus on the role of technology.

Digital technology and finance have been inextricably linked for decades, but we are entering a new era. Technologies like machine learning, data analytics, biometrics or blockchain are creating new possibilities to address credit and risk management, identity management, information security, secure payments or portfolio management. The full impact on the financial sector is yet to be seen, but a new comprehensive EU regulation is arising slowly. According to this trend, the course will cover four main areas of EU financial regulation: (i) financial markets, (ii) banking and financial institutions (iii) corporate governance regulation and compliance (iv) fintech.

In the first part of the course students will be introduced to the most significant piece of UE financial legislation, such as MiFID 2, PSD2, Prospectus regulation Amended, BRRD, Antimoney Laundering Directive (AMLD 5), etc. as well as to some recent proposal such as those concerning AIFMD and UCITS Directive and DRSPs regulation and the consequences of Brexit.

The second part of the course will then be devoted to explore fintech regulation and policy in Europe, with particular reference to the new Regulation on Crowdfunding, the EBA Guidelines for Outsourcing Arrangements, as well as the Proposal of Market in Cryptoasset Regulation; Robo advice, Cybersecurity and Data protection policies in the financial sector.

To have a better understanding of the effective application of the EU framework, also CJUE decisions will be analysed.

Pre-requisite: Students should have at least some basic knowledge of company law and regulation

Assessment: 10% class participation, 20% in-class small groups course discussions, 20% coursework formal prepared presentation, 50% take home examination

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

LLAW6312 Legal and regulatory aspects of financial risk management

The course introduces students to the legal and regulatory aspects of risk management in financial institutions focusing on the compliance dimensions. An important element of the course is understanding derivatives and how they are used as risk management tools.

Financial institutions play a crucial role in the economy by providing liquidity and services which allow a higher level of economic activity than would otherwise be possible by taking or transforming risk. Consequently, risk management lies at the heart of financial institutions' business model. Uncontrolled risks may transcend and affect other institutions and the economy at large. New legal, regulatory and operational requirements introduced following the 2007/7 financial crisis allow different stakeholders to monitor, assess and prevent excessive or concentrated risk or its transmission to other institutions potentially leading to default or insolvency. The course will cover four main areas: (i) introduction to derivatives, (ii) use of derivatives and other techniques to mitigate credit risk; (iii) risk disclosures and legal data management; and (iv) regulatory initiatives related to the foregoing.

The use of financial derivatives will be examined from two perspectives: (i) internal, which concerns the considerations and steps taken by financial institutions when entering into financial derivatives and subsequently managing the trade; and (ii) external, which concerns how counterparties and regulators can assess, monitor and prevent excessive risk leading to a potential default. The course will review the changes to the Hong Kong landscape as a result of the introduction of OTC derivatives regulation in view of international regulatory standards and notable national approaches.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 10% in-class small groups coursework discussions, 10% coursework formal prepared presentation, 70% take home examination

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

Specialized topics courses

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

LLAW6003 Civil and commercial law in the People’s Republic of China

This course examines PRC civil and commercial law from a functional perspective. In the course students will be introduced to the fundamental legal concepts relating to civil and commercial relations and transactions in China as well as the principles underlying the areas of law, including contracts, secured transactions, and payment mechanisms. In addition to teaching the formal law in these areas, the course will examine the relationship between contract enforcement and economic development. In the teaching, both a descriptive account of law and interdisciplinary methods of studying some areas of law will be provided. Through the study of the above specific areas of law and their theoretical foundations, students will be provided with the necessary analytical skills and judgmental power essential for their future work.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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

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

LLAW6029 Managing commercial disputes resolution in China: law, issues and techniques

This course takes students to the areas of significance in the field of dispute resolution in Mainland China, particularly with respect to resolving business and commercial disputes. All major methods of dispute resolution will be examined, including civil litigation, commercial arbitration, and mediation in Mainland China. Some topical issues such as corporate disputes, securities enforcement, private international law, civil justice reform, and cross-border judicial assistance on commercial matters with Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan will be looked into as well.

Assessment: 30% mid-term response report, 70% research paper

LLAW6037 International environmental law

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

This course aims to provide students with a contextual and elementary understanding of the key global and domestic environmental issues and the purported legal solutions. After a broad survey of the major international environmental laws, this course will look at some selected jurisdictions and see the way in which these jurisdictions deal with

environmental problems legally. The jurisdictions that will be looked at include China, the UK and Hong Kong, as well as some major regional organizations such as the EU and ASEAN. Moreover, this course will delve into specific areas of environmental concerns such as the marine environment, climate change and the protection of wildlife. Prior knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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

LLAW6084 Cross-border insolvency law

The course is designed to provide students with a clear and basic 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 reorganisation and insolvency procedures will be explored and examined. Relevant and highly practical 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.

To keep students abreast with the latest legal and regulatory developments in the areas of insolvency and cross-border insolvency, the course will have two special focuses this year. The first focus concerns Hong Kong-China cross-border insolvencies, which are theoretically characterised as matters of regional conflicts of law. Hong Kong and China differ in both their legal systems and insolvency laws. On 14 May 2021, the Supreme People's Court (SPC) introduced "The Supreme People's Court's Opinion on Taking Forward a Pilot Measure in Relation to the Recognition and Assistance to Insolvency Proceedings in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" (hereinafter the "SPC Opinion"), in which three pilot areas—Shanghai, Xiamen and Shenzhen—were designated for the pilot measure. One of the key purposes of the SPC Opinion is to thoroughly implement Article 95 of the Hong Kong Basic Law, the legal basis for cross-border cooperation between Hong Kong and the Chinese courts.

The second focus is COVID-related insolvency issues. From a health emergency to an economic disaster, the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy is being closely monitored, given that the pandemic is likely to cause another financial crisis. The pandemic has also greatly impacted local small and medium-sized companies (SMEs), with many of them having become insolvent. Since the government's lending support is by no means nor by design a long-term resolution for SMEs bearing the brunt of dwindling cash flow amid the COVID-19 crisis, new opportunity is emerging to learn about Hong Kong's insolvency law and practice. In this regard, the course will examine the proposed corporate rescue regime in Hong Kong. Taking a comparative law approach, the course will further delve into COVID-related insolvency issues in comparable jurisdictions such as the US, the UK and Singapore. Doing so will adequately equip students with the knowledge and skills required for careers in these specialised areas (i.e. insolvency and cross-border insolvency), as there are few talents and ample opportunity in the job market.

Assessment: 20% oral presentation, 80% research paper

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

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

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

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

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

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

LLAW6129 International trade law II

Carriage by sea; carriage by air; multi-modal transport and containerisation; marine insurance; commercial arbitration regimes in Hong Kong and abroad; public regulation

of international trade including aspects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and Multi-fibre Agreement.

Assessment: 100% continuous 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

LLAW6139 China Information technology and electronic commerce law

This course examines the key law and regulations concerning the Internet, information technology and related business in Mainland China. It intends to provide a wide-angle view of the regulatory regime for the Internet and IT industry in Mainland China, in particular as to how such regulatory regime may be helping or damaging the development of the IT industry in Mainland China. The course also intends to compare the regulatory regime in Mainland China with that of other jurisdictions, and examine the impact of the Chinese Internet and IT Regulations on cross-border transactions of IT products and services.

Topics may include:

- Principles of IT and Internet Regulatory System
- Administration and Licensing of Websites
- Electronic Signature
- Online Advertising, Publishing and Media
- Online Intellectual Property Issues
- Big Data and Cloud Computing Issues
- Online Finance, Virtual Monies and Credit Profiling Regulatory Issues
- Domain Name System and Cybersquatting in Mainland China
- Privacy Protection, Real-Name Registration, Encryption and Internet Censorship

- National Security and Anti-Terrorism Measures relating to Online Businesses
- Anti-Monopoly and Anti-Unfair Competition Issues relating to Online Businesses
- Liabilities of Network Service Providers
- Cross-Border Transfer of Electronic Data and Use of Electronic Evidence
- Jurisdiction and Conflict of Law in the Cyberspace
- Online Dispute Resolution

Assessment: 30% presentation and class participation, 70% research paper

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

LLAW6154 Competition law I

This course introduces students to basic concepts of competition law (known as antitrust law in the U.S.). Despite being relatively new to the region, 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. In China, the Anti-Monopoly Law came into effect on August 1, 2008 and has attracted much attention around the world ever since. With its aggressive enforcement stance, South Korea has become a favorite jurisdiction for multinational corporations to lodge complaints against competitors. With increasing cross-border enforcement across the globe, competition law will surely take on yet greater importance in the future.

This course will focus on two of the three main areas of competition law: cartels and restrictive agreements and monopolization. It will focus on U.S. law with some attention paid at the end of the course to the new Hong Kong Competition Ordinance.

Assessment: 50% take home examination, 30% case commentary, 20% 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

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

LLAW6171 Corruption: China in comparative perspective

This course examines the pervasive problem of corruption in the People's Republic of China in comparative perspective. The course aims to combine theoretical understanding of corruption with the best practice in prevention, investigation and punishment of corruption. Subject matters to be covered in the course include perception of corruption, definition of corruption, theoretical observations, case studies on corruption, anti-corruption system, legal framework, education and whistle blowing, and international cooperation.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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

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

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

LLAW6185 China investment law

This course provides a comprehensive, informed treatment and analysis of the legal, policy and business aspects of foreign direct investment in China. Areas covered include: current PRC foreign investment policies and priorities, including “encouraged industries”; investment incentives and investment protection; PRC regulatory authorities and government approval process; offshore structures; PRC foreign-related business and investment organizations: representative offices, branch offices, holding companies, foreign investment enterprises (FIEs): Sino-foreign cooperative and equity joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises (WFOEs), listed and unlisted Sino-foreign joint stock limited companies (JSLCs); practical joint venture contract drafting and operational issues; trading and distribution; technology transfer; conversions; mergers and acquisitions; selected regulatory issues: corporate income taxation, foreign exchange control; FIE debt and equity financing; out-bound China investment.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6186 China Trade law

This course provides a focused, legal and policy treatment of China's conduct and regulation of international trade at both the macro- and micro-economic levels. Areas covered include: China's participation in the WTO, and in other multilateral, regional and bilateral trade-related arrangements, including ASEAN+ and China-ASEAN FTAs; Regulation of China's foreign trade: PRC regulatory authorities, PRC Foreign Trade Law, foreign trade operators (FTOs), foreign trade agency: commissioning and entrustment arrangements; PRC customs, licensing and inspection/standards systems, and trade remedies: particularly, China's anti-dumping regime; WTO, US and EU anti-dumping and subsidies/countervailing codes and related non-market economy (NME) treatment of China's export enterprises and industries; Trade transactions: standard-form contracts, import-export sales contract issues arising under the PRC Contract Law and CISG.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6187 The interface between competition law and intellectual property law

This course focuses on the interface between intellectual property laws and competition law. The interface between these two bodies of law is one of the most complex and controversial, and yet theoretically interesting, areas of competition law. This interface juxtaposes the public policy rationale behind intellectual property laws and competition policy, and requires the enforcement agencies and the courts to strike delicate balances between these two policies. With respect to patent law, for example, the treatment of patent rights under competition law requires the courts to calibrate the provision of innovation incentives without incurring an excessive loss in consumer welfare. Similar tradeoffs are also found in the interface between copyright law and competition law, and to a lesser extent, between trademark law and competition law.

This course will focus on the interface between competition law and patent law, which presents the most acute policy conflict with competition law among all the main areas of competition law, with some attention paid to copyright and trademarks. The course presumes no background on either competition law and patent law. It will begin with a brief overview of these two areas of law so that students will be equipped with the basic knowledge necessary for the course. Topics covered in the course include: price fixing, market allocation, group boycotts, vertical price restraints, royalty issues, fraudulent intellectual property enforcement, tying, unilateral refusal to deal, deceptive conduct in standard-setting organizations, predatory product design, reverse payments, and no challenge clauses, among others.

Assessment: 30% class presentation, 70% research paper

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

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

LLAW6201 PRC taxation law and policy

The course first examines legal, economic and political considerations relevant to the formulation and implementation of tax law and policy in the PRC. It then introduces the legal framework of tax law in the PRC from the legislative, administrative and judiciary perspectives and illustrates how tax law is developed, implemented, interpreted and enforced. The major components of China's tax system will be reviewed, including VAT, business tax, enterprise income tax and individual income tax. Other types of taxes which are experiencing rapid developments in the regulatory framework, e.g., real estate related taxes and environmental related taxes, will be explored and discussed. Given the increasing significance of the PRC in international trade and investment, tax implications arising from cross-border transactions involving PRC parties and the application of tax treaties will be analyzed.

Assessment: 20% participation, 80% research paper

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

LLAW6207 Corporate conflicts

With increasing globalisation many corporations today operate beyond their domestic borders. Many businesses operate transnationally by means of a multinational group structure or through the medium of a joint venture. This course seeks to introduce students to the issues that arise in dealings with corporations that have a presence in more than one jurisdiction.

Some of the issues which we will be looking at are: What laws regulate companies that are incorporated in one jurisdiction but operate in another? How are mergers and amalgamations of corporations done when corporations operate in a number of

jurisdictions? What are the issues that arise in the transnational collapse of corporations such as those we have witnessed in recent years? How are they dealt with?

The financial and securities markets are grappling today with issues arising from dealings in securities from multiple jurisdictions. We will also consider these issues.

The course will be useful to those who intend to have a corporate practice, or to work in the corporate, securities or banking sectors.

Assessment: 20% presentation and defense of paper, 80% 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 pre-requisites 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

LLAW6212 Intellectual property protection in China: law, politics and culture

This course will examine all major areas of Chinese intellectual property, including trademarks, patents, copyright, competition and related trade and technology transfer issues, with a brief introduction to background, policies and administrative procedures. Reading knowledge of Chinese may be helpful but not a must. Prior knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Topics to be covered: the IP challenge and common ground; overview of IP administration and ARR/ALL procedures; trade and service marks; patents and technology transfer; copyright and software protection; and competition (trade secrets, advertising etc).

Assessment: 10% class participation, 90% four short essays

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

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.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

LLAW6264 Competition law and policy in China

The unveiling of the Anti-Monopoly Law (the “AML”) on August 30, 2007 marked a symbolic commencement of a new era of competition for China. Long heralded as the economic constitution, the AML is the first modern competition law adopted in China. Although China only began to enforce the law in 2008, Chinese administrative antitrust agencies have not shied away from bringing high-profile cases with lasting impact on both the domestic and global markets. For instance, in 2015, China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) imposed a record-high fine against Qualcomm for charging excessive licensing fees in China, fueling speculation that China is using its competition policy to protect domestic industries from foreign competition. However, the AML has not only been applied to foreign firms. Chinese domestic firms, including state-owned firms, are also frequent targets under the law.

This course aims to provide students with a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the AML and its enforcement practice by situating the discussion in the broader institutional context of the Chinese political economy. It covers all the substantive aspects of the AML, including horizontal agreements, vertical agreements, abuse of dominance, concentrations, and abuse of administrative monopoly. It also covers the procedural aspects of the AML, including the enforcement structure, the administrative agencies, the courts, the merger review process, remedies, leniency and fines, and the newly introduced fair competition review system. More specifically, this course will introduce students to the major investigations brought by the administrative agencies and the leading cases decided by the Chinese courts in civil litigations. It will conduct a critical evaluation of the enforcement record by Chinese administrative agencies and will compare enforcement practices in China and those in other major jurisdictions, such as the EU and the United States. To help students understand the pattern of enforcement, this course will also examine the forces that have propelled the active enforcement of the AML in recent years.

This course encourages active class participation. When appropriate, experienced practitioners and enforcers will be invited to share with students their experience and insights with Chinese antitrust practice. The course aims to develop skills that will be of benefit to those students who seek to enter professional practice after their degree, and those who would prefer a career in business. A range of practical skills will be developed including the ability to think broadly beyond just solving legal problems to considering how global businesses can adapt to the new regulatory environment in China.

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

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 content/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

LLAW6283 Law of international civil aviation and aircraft finance

The course will cover (i) the core elements of international civil aviation law and (ii) legal, commercial and practical aspects of commercial aircraft leasing and aviation object finance.

First, the course will give candidates a practical understanding of the civil aviation industry and its legal environment, including sources of aviation law, and the international and domestic legal framework, and regulatory environment faced by an airline operator in Hong Kong. The latter will include access issues, bilateral air service agreements, airline licensing, aviation safety and security, and carriage by air and aviation liability law. While international in outlook, issues arising from the legal and political environment of the Hong Kong civil aviation industry will be specifically addressed. Topics will be illustrated with detailed case studies in relation to local aviation licensing, carriage by air, and aviation security, as well as examining standardised industry documentation.

Second, on aircraft leasing and finance, the course will provide an in-depth insight into common legal structures, documentation packages and the relevant regulatory environment facilitating and guiding such transactions. This will include the adoption and application of the Cape Town Convention and Aircraft Protocol and its interaction with local law, aircraft ownership and trading, operating and finance leasing, aircraft credit documents, aircraft assets as collateral, and other legal issues including operational and legal liability, aircraft insurance, tax, insolvency, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, cross-border sanctions, embargos and other conduct risks.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed LLAW6055

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

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

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

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.

Pre-requisite: Students should have a basic understanding of contract law, and preferably also tort law

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% final examination

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

LLAW6311 Data and privacy regulation in China: law, economics and politics

On November 1, 2021, China's Personal Information Protection Law came into force. This new law, coupled with the Data Security Law that became effective on September 1, 2021 and the 2017 Cybersecurity Law form a broad regulatory framework for data and privacy regulation in China. This course provides an in-depth study into this increasingly important area of regulatory governance, with a particular focus on three areas: data sovereignty, consumer privacy protection, and the intersection between data protection and competition regulation. We will first survey the relevant economic literature to understand the theoretical underpinnings of data and privacy regulation. As many of Chinese data regulations were inspired and closely modelled after the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, we will also study the relevant rules and regulations in the EU and compare them with the Chinese laws. In addition to introducing students to the legal issues surrounding data and privacy protection, we will examine the legal institutions responsible for data regulation in China, the challenges during law enforcement, how businesses and individuals have adapted to these new data laws, and the associated economic impact. To help students gain a global perspective of data governance, we will also discuss the fluid legal developments in other major jurisdictions. We will further guide students to analyse the underlying political and economic institutions that have driven the distinct regulatory approaches adopted by the EU, the United States and China.

Assessment: 30% class participation and presentation, 70% research paper

LLAW6314 Regulatory aspects of sustainable finance

The course introduces students to the legal, regulatory and accounting aspects of sustainable finance.

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues faced by this and future generations and bears significant risks for the economy. Sustainable finance plays a crucial role in financing the transition to a sustainable economy and managing climate-related risks. The transition to sustainable finance is increasingly a high-priority business issue for firms, with global bodies and local policymakers rapidly developing initiatives to support and incentivise investment in low-carbon businesses and activities, as well as enable corporates, institutional investors and banks to take account of climate-related risks.

At the same time, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues are increasingly taking centre stage as institutional investors exert their influence and channel funds towards investments that seek to deliver measurable non-financial benefits along with improved long-term financial returns.

The course will encompass three aspects: (i) governance and strategy, which includes the UN Principles for Responsible Banking, and other major public and private international initiatives focusing on sustainability within the financial sector; (ii) sustainable finance and markets, including approaches to a ESG taxonomy, financing and investing, and the different standards, certifications and principles on financial products (bonds, financial derivatives and loans etc.) as well as approaches to emissions trading; and (iii) sustainable finance and systemic risk, including regulatory approaches (in China, the EU, HK, USA and the Asia Pacific region).

Assessment: 10% class participation, 10% in-class small groups coursework discussions, 10% coursework formal prepared presentation, 70% take home examination

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

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FORMAT, BINDING, AND PRESENTATION OF DISSERTATIONS FOR HIGHER DEGREES BY COURSEWORK

1. Each copy of a dissertation shall be typewritten or printed on one side only of International size A4 paper¹ (except for drawings, maps, or tables on which no restriction is placed), with a margin of not less than 38mm on the left-hand edge of each page.
2. The appropriate Board of the Faculty shall decide whether any dissertation submitted successfully in part-fulfilment of a higher degree by coursework shall be an accession to the University Library.
3. If it is to be an accession to the Library the top copy of the dissertation shall be used, and bound in one or more volumes as determined by the Librarian and between boards faced with cloth in black for MA, MPA, MMedSc, in dark blue for MSW, MBA, and in green for all others. The title, name of author, degree, and date shall be lettered in gilt on the front cover and spine in accordance with the standard layout approved by the Librarian. The title of a dissertation written in Chinese shall be lettered on the cover in Chinese and English.

¹ 297 mm x 210 mm

N.B. Candidates for higher degrees are reminded that any dissertation not typed or printed on the correct paper will not be accepted. Any candidate who has difficulty in obtaining the paper should consult his Faculty Office.