

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS (LLB)**

*These regulations apply to students admitted to the LLB curriculum under the 4-Year '2012 curriculum' in the academic year 2024-25.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for First Degree Curricula for candidates admitted under the 4-Year '2012 curricula')*

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### **Admission to the Degree of Bachelor of Laws**

- LL 1. To be eligible for admission to the degree of Bachelor of Laws, candidates shall
- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for First Degree Curricula; and
  - (c) satisfy all the requirements of the curriculum in accordance with these Regulations and syllabus.
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### **Period of Study**

LL 2. The curriculum for the degree of Bachelor of Laws shall normally require eight semesters of full-time study, extending over not fewer than four academic years, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester. Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of six academic years, except with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.

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### **Completion of the Curriculum**

- LL 3. To complete the curriculum a candidate shall
- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) satisfy the requirements prescribed in UG5 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula;
  - (c) follow instruction and attend classes as required, and complete all coursework requirements;
  - (d) satisfy the capstone requirement; and
  - (e) pass in courses totalling at least 240 credits in value, in the manner specified as follows:
    - 156 credits of Professional Core including 114 credits of compulsory courses<sup>1</sup> and 42 credits of disciplinary electives<sup>2</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> A pass in LLAW1016 Legal research and writing shall be deemed to satisfy the "English in the Discipline" requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

<sup>2</sup> Law electives, including a 6-credit Designated Disciplinary Elective and a 6-credit Designated Research Course.

- 6 credits in Core University English<sup>3</sup> in accordance with UG5(a);
  - 6 credits in Chinese language enhancement<sup>4</sup> in accordance with UG5(b);
  - 36 credits of Common Core<sup>5</sup> courses in accordance with UG(5)(c);
  - Any other non-credit bearing courses as required in accordance with UG5(e); and
  - 36 credits of free electives<sup>6</sup>.
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### **Advanced Standing**

LL 4. The Board of the Faculty of Law may grant advanced standing to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the University in accordance with UG2 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Advanced standing credits granted will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate but shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA nor be taken into consideration for the honours classification of the degree to be awarded.

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### **Transfer of Credits**

LL 5. Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions at any time during their candidatures. 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 number of credits to be transferred shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the degree curricula of the candidates during their candidature at the University.

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<sup>3</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see Regulation UG6.

- <sup>4</sup> (a) Non-local Putonghua/Mandarin-speaking students should take CUND9001 Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers, or CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society, or CUND9003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students, or CUND9004 Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students; and
- (b) Students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course, CLAW9001, should seek approval from the Board of the Faculty for exemption from the Chinese language requirement, and
- (i) take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students; OR
  - (ii) take an elective course in lieu.

<sup>5</sup> Candidates shall complete successfully 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits.

<sup>6</sup> Free electives are courses offered by any Faculty of the University, including Faculty of Law.

## **Selection of Courses**

LL 6. 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.

LL 7. Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons and 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).

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## **Specialisation**

LL 8. Candidates who have obtained at least 36 credits of law electives listed under one of the specialisations in the syllabus will be duly recognised by having that specialisation stated in the official academic transcript.

LL 9. Candidates shall declare their choice of specialisation, if any, in the beginning of the third academic year. Declaration made beyond the first semester of the fourth academic year will not be considered.

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## **Minor in Another Discipline**

LL 10. Candidates who have obtained the requisite number of credits (which shall not be fewer than 36 credits and not more than 48 credits) to declare a minor in a department, centre, school, programme or disciplinary field will be duly recognised by having the minor stated in the official academic transcript.

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## **Progression in Curriculum**

LL 11.

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to take not fewer than 24 credits nor more than 30 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester) unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty, or except in the last semester of study when candidates may be required to take fewer than 24 credits to satisfy the outstanding curriculum requirements.
- (b) Candidates may, of their own volition, take additional credits not exceeding 6 credits in each semester, and/or further credits during the summer semester, accumulating up to a maximum of 72 credits in one academic year. With the special permission of the Board of the Faculty, candidates may exceed the annual study load of 72 credits in a given academic year provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 288 credits for the normative period of study specified in LL2, save as provided for in LL11(c).

- (c) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty may give permission for candidates to exceed the annual study load of 72 credits provided that the total number of credits taken does not exceed the maximum curriculum study load of 432 credits for the maximum period of registration specified in LL2.
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## **Grades**

LL 12. Grades shall be awarded in accordance with UG8 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula. Any course for which a candidate is given an F grade shall be recorded on the official academic transcript, and shall be taken into account in the calculation of the GPA. A pass in a selected capstone course shall be recorded on the transcript but shall not be counted towards the GPA.

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## **Passing a Course**

LL 13. Candidates shall pass a course if the Board of Examiners is satisfied by the candidates' performance in the assessment.

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## **Assessment**

LL 14.

- (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 are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner as prescribed in the curriculum regulations:
- (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.

- (d) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ assessment in an alternative course under (c) 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 GPA.
  - (e) A candidate shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which he or she has received a pass grade for the purpose of upgrading.
  - (f) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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### **Absence from an Examination**

LL 15. Candidates who are unable, because of 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.

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### **Overall Pass**

LL 16. Subject to LL3, LL4 and LL5, a candidate who has passed courses totalling 240 credits in value shall be awarded the degree of LLB.

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### **Discontinuation of Study**

LL 17. Candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they fail to satisfy the examiners in the examinations in accordance with UG4(e) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula as follows:

- (i) fail to complete successfully 36 or more credits in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
  - (ii) fail to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
  - (iii) exceed the maximum period of registration specified in LL 2.
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## Award of Degrees

LL 18.

- (a) The degree of Bachelor of Laws shall be awarded in five divisions in accordance with UG9 of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula:

First Class Honours  
Second Class Honours Division One  
Second Class Honours Division Two  
Third Class Honours  
Pass

- (b) The classification of honours shall be determined by the Board of Examiners for the degree in accordance with the following Graduation GPA (GGPA) scores, with all courses taken (including failed courses) carrying weightings which are proportionate to their credit values<sup>7</sup>:

<b>Class of Honours</b>	<b>GGPA range</b>
First Class Honours	3.60 – 4.30
Second Class Honours	(2.40 – 3.59)
<i>Division One</i>	3.00 – 3.59
<i>Division Two</i>	2.40 – 2.99
Third Class Honours	1.70 – 2.39
Pass	1.00 – 1.69

- (c) Honours classification may not be determined solely on the basis of a candidate's Graduation GPA and the Board of Examiners for the degree may, at its absolute discretion and with justification, award a higher class of honours to a candidate deemed to have demonstrated meritorious academic achievement but whose Graduation GPA falls below the range stipulated in (b) above of the higher classification by not more than 0.1 Grade Point.
- (d) A pass list of successful candidates shall be posted on Faculty notice boards and the student homepage.

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<sup>7</sup> For students in the 2017-18 intake and thereafter who have successfully completed six Common Core courses, the calculation of Graduation GPA is subject to the proviso that either five Common Core courses with the highest grades (covering all four Areas of Inquiry), or all six courses will be counted towards Graduation GPA, depending on which generates the higher Graduation GPA.

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## SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS

1. A candidate shall, unless otherwise approved by the Board of the Faculty of Law, complete 156 credits of professional core including 114 credits of compulsory courses and 42 credits of disciplinary electives of the curriculum in accordance with LL3 and the syllabuses as set out below. Subject to LL11, candidates shall select 60 credits of courses in each of their First, Second, Third and Fourth Years.

### **First Year (60 credits)**

LLAW1001	Law of contract I (6 credits)
LLAW1002	Law of contract II (6 credits)
LLAW1014	Criminal law I (6 credits)
LLAW1015	Criminal law II (6 credits)
LLAW1016	Legal research and writing <sup>8</sup> (6 credits)
LLAW1008	The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)
CAES1000	Core University English OR Free elective (if exempted from Core University English) <sup>9</sup> (6 credits)
CCXXxxxx	Common Core course <sup>10</sup> (18 credits)

### **Second Year (60 credits)**

LLAW1005	Law of tort I (6 credits)
LLAW1006	Law of tort II (6 credits)
LLAW2001	Constitutional law (6 credits)
LLAW2009	Introduction to Chinese legal system (6 credits)
LLAW2018	Land law I (6 credits)
LLAW2019	Land law II (6 credits)
LLAW3093	Administrative law (6 credits)
CCXXxxxx	Common Core course <sup>10</sup> (18 credits)

### **Third and Fourth Years (120 credits, 60 credits per year)**

LLAW2012	Commercial law (6 credits)
LLAW3001	Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)
LLAW3010	Business associations (6 credits)
LLAW3094	Equity and trusts I (6 credits)
LLAW3095	Equity and trusts II (6 credits)

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<sup>8</sup> A pass in LLAW1016 Legal research and writing shall be deemed to satisfy the “English in the Discipline” requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

<sup>9</sup> Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and Core University English is optional. Those who do not take this course should take an elective course in lieu, see Regulation UG6.

<sup>10</sup> Candidates shall complete successfully 36 credits of courses in the Common Core Curriculum, comprising at least one and not more than two courses from each Area of Inquiry with not more than 24 credits of courses being selected within one academic year except where candidates are required to make up for failed credits.

LLAWxxxx	Capstone course (6 credits)
LLAWxxxx	Disciplinary electives <sup>11</sup> (42 credits, including a 6-credit Designated Disciplinary Elective and a 6-credit Designated Research Course)
XXXXxxxx	Free electives <sup>12</sup> (36 credits)
CLAW9001	Practical Chinese for law students <sup>13</sup> (6 credits)

**Capstone course (Choose one of the following courses)<sup>14</sup>:**

LLAW3148	Clinical legal education
LLAW3198	Clinical legal education (China)
LLAW3256	Clinical legal education (special needs financial planning)
LLAW3280	Clinical legal education - refugee and human trafficking stream
LLAW3246	Disability rights clinic
LLAW3281	Human rights in practice clinic
LLAW3187	Mooting and dispute resolution <sup>15</sup>
LLAW3230	Public interest clinic
LLAW3252	The global migration legal clinic

**Designated disciplinary elective (choose one of the following courses):**

LLAW3205	Advanced legal theory
LLAW3016	Comparative law
LLAW3157	Foundations of international law
LLAW3216	Justice
LLAW3128	Law and literature
LLAW3172	Law and social theory
LLAW3283	Law and society
LLAW3233	Law, history and culture
LLAW3039	Legal history
LLAW3235	Punishment and society
LLAW3282	The economic analysis of law
LLAW3278	The legal profession

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<sup>11</sup> Law electives, including 6 credits Designated Disciplinary Elective and 6 credits Designated Research Course. For the purpose of fulfilling specialisation requirements, students are required to take and pass at least 36 credits of law electives under one of the specialisation clusters as indicated in the syllabus, of which the additional 6 credits can be made up from the free electives category.

<sup>12</sup> Free electives are courses offered by any Faculty of the University, including Faculty of Law.

<sup>13</sup> (a) Non-local Putonghua/Mandarin-speaking students should take CUND9001 Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers, or CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society, or CUND9003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students, or CUND9004 Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students; and  
 (b) Students who have not studied Chinese language during their secondary education or who have not attained the requisite level of competence in the Chinese language to take the Chinese language enhancement course, CLAW9001, should seek approval from the Board of the Faculty for exemption from the Chinese language requirement, and  
 (i) take a 6-credit Cantonese or Putonghua language course offered by the School of Chinese especially for international and exchange students; OR  
 (ii) take an elective course in lieu.

<sup>14</sup> Any of the listed capstone courses shall be graded with a pass/fail and shall not be counted in the calculation of the GPA. Any additional capstone course(s) taken will be counted towards the disciplinary elective requirement.

<sup>15</sup> This may be substituted by participation in Jessup mooting or any other international moot competition approved by the Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes).

2. The disciplinary electives are listed as follows<sup>16</sup>:

LLAW3206	Advanced law of obligations
LLAW3205	Advanced legal theory
LLAW3151	Advanced seminar in law and technology
LLAW3265	Advanced seminars in trust and equity
LLAW3214	Advanced topics in constitutional law
LLAW3007	Alternative dispute resolution
LLAW3244	Alternative finance
LLAW3140	Animal law
LLAW3164	Arbitration and conflict of laws in Greater China
LLAW3112	Arbitration law
LLAW3207	Arms control and disarmament law
LLAW3213	ASEAN law
LLAW3008	Bank security
LLAW3009	Banking law
LLAW3186	Business and human rights
LLAW3138	Carriage of goods by sea
LLAW3046	Child and the law
LLAW3153	China investment law
LLAW3154	China trade law
LLAW3081	Chinese commercial law (in Putonghua)
LLAW3173	Chinese family law in comparative perspective
LLAW3011	Chinese laws governing foreign investments
LLAW3097	Civil procedure
LLAW3266	Climate and environmental law in practice
LLAW3241	Climate change law and policy
LLAW3088	Commercial dispute resolution in China
LLAW3015	Company law
LLAW3125	Comparative constitutional law
LLAW3204	Comparative constitutional law theories
LLAW3257	Comparative corporate law
LLAW3144	Comparative environmental law
LLAW3016	Comparative law
LLAW3231	Comparative law of elections
LLAW3191	Comparative family law
LLAW3156	Comparative remedies in trust law
LLAW3123	Competition law I
LLAW3124	Competition law II
LLAW3199	Competition law and intellectual property
LLAW3236	Competition law in the digital economy
LLAW3098	Constitutional and administrative law in the PRC
LLAW3196	Constitutionalism in emerging states
LLAW3067	Construction law
LLAW3223	Construction of commercial contracts
LLAW3202	Contract drafting and selected legal issues in commercial practice

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<sup>16</sup> For the purpose of PCLL admissions, a candidate must satisfactorily complete Evidence I (or Evidence II), and comply with any other requirements as may be specified in the PCLL regulations from time to time.

LLAW3200 Copyright and creativity  
 LLAW3017 Copyright law  
 LLAW3232 Courts  
 LLAW3184 Credit and security law  
 LLAW3099 Criminal procedure  
 LLAW3018 Criminology  
 LLAW3211 Critical theory in legal scholarship  
 LLAW3182 Cross border corporate finance: issues and techniques  
 LLAW3245 Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions  
 LLAW3195 Current issues in Chinese law  
 LLAW3100 Current issues in comparative commercial law  
 LLAW3092 Current issues in insolvency law  
 LLAW3019 Current legal controversies  
 LLAW3101 Cybercrime  
 LLAW3127 Dealing with legacies of human rights violations  
 LLAW3237 Designing dispute resolution systems: public and private sector applications in a global perspective  
 LLAW3179 Digital copyright  
 LLAW3119 Dispute settlement in the WTO: practice and procedure  
 LLAW3117 Economic, social and cultural rights  
 LLAW3063 Emerging markets: finance and investment  
 LLAW3218 Energy law  
 LLAW3071 Equality and non-discrimination  
 LLAW3267 Equity financing  
 LLAW3268 Essential lawyering skills in practice  
 LLAW3247 Ethical lawyering for public interest  
 LLAW3091 Ethnicity, human rights and democracy  
 LLAW3102 Evidence I  
 LLAW3103 Evidence II  
 LLAW3258 Financial regulations and compliance  
 LLAW3157 Foundations of international law  
 LLAW3220 Gender, sexuality and the law  
 LLAW3165 Global business law I  
 LLAW3166 Global business law II  
 LLAW3169 Globalisation and human rights  
 LLAW3080 Governance and law  
 LLAW3203 Guided research  
 LLAW3217 Guided research II  
 LLAW3133 Healthcare law  
 LLAW3047 Hong Kong Basic Law  
 LLAW3110 Human rights and cyberspace  
 LLAW3168 Human rights and governance  
 LLAW3022 Human rights in Hong Kong  
 LLAW3083 Human rights: history, theory and politics  
 LLAW3259 Innovation, creativity and ethics for globalized legal practice  
 LLAW3023 Insolvency law  
 LLAW3024 Insurance law  
 LLAW3238 Intellectual property and conflict of laws  
 LLAW3084 Intellectual property and information technology  
 LLAW3155 Intellectual property law and philosophy  
 LLAW3104 Intellectual property, innovation and development

LLAW3085 International and comparative intellectual property law  
 LLAW3086 International and regional protection of human rights  
 LLAW3072 International business taxation  
 LLAW3111 International commercial arbitration  
 LLAW3025 International commercial litigation  
 LLAW3076 International commercial transactions  
 LLAW3078 International economic law  
 LLAW3134 International environmental law  
 LLAW3026 International human rights  
 LLAW3175 International humanitarian law  
 LLAW3158 International law in a world of crises  
 LLAW3058 International moot competition<sup>15</sup>  
 LLAW3135 International protection of refugees and displaced persons  
 LLAW3136 International securities law  
 LLAW3028 International trade law I  
 LLAW3160 Interpretation of statutes, contracts and treaties  
 LLAW3170 Introduction to Chinese law and legal system  
 LLAW3248 Introduction to class action litigation in the USA  
 LLAW3263 Introduction to consumer law  
 LLAW3209 Introduction to Hong Kong securities law  
 LLAW3150 Introduction to information technology law  
 LLAW3120 Introduction to international human rights law  
 LLAW3159 Introduction to negotiation theory and practice  
 LLAW3032 Issues in family law  
 LLAW3033 Issues in intellectual property law  
 LLAW3059 Jessup international law moot court competition<sup>15</sup>  
 LLAW3216 Justice  
 LLAW3034 Labour law  
 LLAW3190 Language and the law  
 LLAW3249 Language rights and linguistic justice  
 LLAW3285 Law and colonialism  
 LLAW3130 Law and development in the PRC  
 LLAW3065 Law and ethics of artificial intelligence  
 LLAW3141 Law and film  
 LLAW3128 Law and literature  
 LLAW3174 Law and policy  
 LLAW3142 Law and politics of constitutions  
 LLAW3208 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration  
 LLAW3118 Law and religion  
 LLAW3239 Law and social justice at the intersections: gender, race, religion  
 and sexuality  
 LLAW3172 Law and social theory  
 LLAW3283 Law and society  
 LLAW3292 Law and society in China  
 LLAW3253 Law and society in South East Asia  
 LLAW3233 Law, history and culture  
 LLAW3035 Law in East Asia  
 LLAW3037 Law of agency  
 LLAW3056 Law of international finance I – debt  
 LLAW3048 Law of restitution I  
 LLAW3121 Law of restitution II

LLAW3049 Law of the sea  
 LLAW3145 Law, economics, regulation and development  
 LLAW3250 Law, governance and development in Asia  
 LLAW3254 Law, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship: tech startup law  
 LLAW3273 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) lab - social impact entrepreneurship  
 LLAW3036 Law, justice and ideology  
 LLAW3161 Law, meaning and interpretation  
 LLAW3061 Law, the individual and the community: a cross-cultural dialogue  
 LLAW3090 Legal aspects of white collar crime  
 LLAW3234 Legal and legislative drafting  
 LLAW3226 Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America  
 LLAW3269 Legal foundations for global health and development  
 LLAW3039 Legal history  
 LLAW3275 Legal language in Hong Kong: issues and directions  
 LLAW3270 Legal pluralism in Hong Kong  
 LLAW3162 Legal translation  
 LLAW3255 LITE lab: emerging technology and business models (undergraduate)  
 LLAW3272 LITE lab: legal technology and the future of the profession sandbox  
 LLAW3215 Luxury brands and trademark law  
 LLAW3073 Media law  
 LLAW3192 Mediation  
 LLAW3040 Medico-legal issues  
 LLAW3178 Online dispute resolution  
 LLAW3042 Planning and environmental law  
 LLAW3107 PRC civil law (in Putonghua)  
 LLAW3108 PRC criminal law and procedure  
 LLAW3109 PRC economic law  
 LLAW3087 PRC intellectual property law  
 LLAW3152 PRC property law  
 LLAW3181 PRC security and insolvency law  
 LLAW3129 PRC tort law  
 LLAW3043 Principles of family law  
 LLAW3075 Privacy and data protection  
 LLAW3194 Property protection in China: law, politics and culture  
 LLAW3044 Public international law  
 LLAW3163 Public international law in domestic courts  
 LLAW3235 Punishment and society  
 LLAW3180 Regulation of cyberspace: theories of internet and normativity  
 LLAW3069 Regulation of financial markets  
 LLAW3229 Regulatory compliance in international finance and OTC derivatives documentation  
 LLAW3045 Remedies  
 LLAW3224 Resolution of transnational commercial disputes: processes and principles  
 LLAW3068 Rights of the child in international and domestic law  
 LLAW3227 Securities law and regulation in Hong Kong I  
 LLAW3228 Securities law and regulation in Hong Kong II  
 LLAW3077 Selected issues: WTO and China

LLAW3116	Selected legal issues in commercial practice
LLAW3051	Selected problems in international law
LLAW3290	Seminar on human rights and constitutionalism in Asia
LLAW3277	Seminars in private law
LLAW3274	Shakespeare and the law
LLAW3053	Sociology of law
LLAW3225	Sovereignty in law, theory and culture
LLAW3147	Space law and policy
LLAW3054	Succession
LLAW2011	Summer internship
LLAW3251	The beginnings of English law and literature
LLAW3282	The economic analysis of law
LLAW3264	The law of signs: interpretative controversies in legal semiotics
LLAW3212	The law on financial derivatives and structured products
LLAW3278	The legal profession
LLAW3260	The Mainland China legal internship programme
LLAW3261	The regulation of technological platforms: theory and practice
LLAW3276	The rule of law education project
LLAW3240	The theory and history of the PRC constitution
LLAW3262	Theory and practice of constitutional interpretation
LLAW3143	Topics in law and literature: Flaubert and Eliot
LLAW3171	Topics in English and European legal history
LLAW3113	Topics in technology law
LLAW3176	Trademarks and unfair competition
LLAW3221	Trusts in practice
LLAW3055	Use of Chinese in law I
LLAW3004	Use of Chinese in law II
LLAW3070	World Trade Organization: law and policy

The advanced disciplinary electives are listed as follows<sup>17</sup>:

LLAW3289	Armed conflict, humanitarian law and human rights
LLAW3066	Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)
LLAW3030	Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)
LLAW3286	Law and wealth management
LLAW3287	Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions
LLAW3291	Mental disability and the law
LLAW3183	Mergers and acquisitions
LLAW3201	PRC shipping law (in Putonghua)
LLAW3115	Rights and remedies in the criminal process
LLAW3293	Securities regulation I
LLAW3288	Transnational criminal law

3. For the purpose of LL 8, the following specialisations are available for any student

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<sup>17</sup> Students must meet the following requirements before enrolling in any of the courses on the list:

- (i) must achieve a CGPA of 3.3 or above at the point of enrolment,
- (ii) choose no more than two from the course list during their undergraduate studies, and
- (iii) enrolment in any of the courses is subject to places being available. No guarantee of successful enrolment in a selected course.

who has obtained 36 credits by completing courses listed below in the respective category or such other courses as may be approved by the Assistant Dean (Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes) for the purposes of inclusion in that category. Not all specialisations are necessarily on offer every year.

- Chinese law
- Commercial, corporate and financial law
- International trade and economic law

Chinese law

LLAW3151	Advanced seminar in law and technology
LLAW3164	Arbitration and conflict of laws in Greater China
LLAW3153	China investment law
LLAW3154	China trade law
LLAW3081	Chinese commercial law (in Putonghua)
LLAW3173	Chinese family law in comparative perspective
LLAW3011	Chinese laws governing foreign investments
LLAW3088	Commercial dispute resolution in China
LLAW3204	Comparative constitutional law theories
LLAW3156	Comparative remedies-in trust law
LLAW3098	Constitutional and administrative law in the PRC
LLAW3245	Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions
LLAW3066	Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua) <sup>17</sup>
LLAW3195	Current issues in Chinese law
LLAW3028	International trade law I
LLAW3130	Law and development in the PRC
LLAW3270	Legal pluralism in Hong Kong
LLAW3272	LITE lab: legal technology and the future of the profession sandbox
LLAW3107	PRC civil law (in Putonghua)
LLAW3108	PRC criminal law and procedure
LLAW3109	PRC economic law
LLAW3087	PRC intellectual property law
LLAW3152	PRC property law
LLAW3181	PRC security and insolvency law
LLAW3201	PRC shipping law (in Putonghua) <sup>17</sup>
LLAW3129	PRC tort law
LLAW3194	Property protection in China: law, politics and culture
LLAW3077	Selected issues: WTO and China
LLAW3260	The Mainland China legal internship programme
LLAW3240	The theory and history of the PRC constitution

Commercial, corporate and financial law

LLAW3206	Advanced law of obligations
LLAW3151	Advanced seminar in law and technology
LLAW3265	Advanced seminars in trust and equity
LLAW3007	Alternative dispute resolution
LLAW3244	Alternative finance
LLAW3164	Arbitration and conflict of laws in Greater China

LLAW3213 ASEAN law  
 LLAW3008 Bank security  
 LLAW3009 Banking law  
 LLAW3153 China investment law  
 LLAW3154 China trade law  
 LLAW3081 Chinese commercial law (in Putonghua)  
 LLAW3088 Commercial dispute resolution in China  
 LLAW3015 Company law  
 LLAW3156 Comparative remedies in trust law  
 LLAW3123 Competition law I  
 LLAW3124 Competition law II  
 LLAW3199 Competition law and intellectual property  
 LLAW3223 Construction of commercial contracts  
 LLAW3017 Copyright law  
 LLAW3184 Credit and security law  
 LLAW3182 Cross border corporate finance: issues and techniques  
 LLAW3245 Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions  
 LLAW3100 Current issues in comparative commercial law  
 LLAW3092 Current issues in insolvency law  
 LLAW3063 Emerging markets: finance and investment  
 LLAW3267 Equity financing  
 LLAW3258 Financial regulations and compliance  
 LLAW3165 Global business law I  
 LLAW3166 Global business law II  
 LLAW3023 Insolvency law  
 LLAW3024 Insurance law  
 LLAW3238 Intellectual property and conflict of laws  
 LLAW3072 International business taxation  
 LLAW3136 International securities law  
 LLAW3028 International trade law I  
 LLAW3160 Interpretation of statutes, contracts and treaties  
 LLAW3263 Introduction to consumer law  
 LLAW3209 Introduction to Hong Kong securities law  
 LLAW3030 Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws)<sup>17</sup>  
 LLAW3033 Issues in intellectual property law  
 LLAW3208 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration  
 LLAW3286 Law and wealth management<sup>17</sup>  
 LLAW3254 Law, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship: tech startup law  
 LLAW3273 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) lab -  
 social impact entrepreneurship  
 LLAW3037 Law of agency  
 LLAW3048 Law of restitution I  
 LLAW3121 Law of restitution II  
 LLAW3287 Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions<sup>17</sup>  
 LLAW3255 LITE lab: emerging technology and business models  
 (undergraduate)  
 LLAW3272 LITE lab: legal technology and the future of the profession sandbox  
 LLAW3215 Luxury brands and trademark law  
 LLAW3183 Mergers and acquisitions<sup>17</sup>  
 LLAW3109 PRC economic law  
 LLAW3069 Regulation of financial markets

LLAW3229 Regulatory compliance in international finance and OTC derivatives documentation  
 LLAW3045 Remedies  
 LLAW3227 Securities law and regulation in Hong Kong I  
 LLAW3228 Securities law and regulation in Hong Kong II  
 LLAW3293 Securities regulation I<sup>17</sup>  
 LLAW3277 Seminars in private law  
 LLAW3212 The law on financial derivatives and structured products  
 LLAW3260 The Mainland China legal internship programme  
 LLAW3176 Trademarks and unfair competition

*International trade and economic law*

LLAW3151 Advanced seminar in law and technology  
 LLAW3213 ASEAN law  
 LLAW3138 Carriage of goods by sea  
 LLAW3153 China investment law  
 LLAW3154 China trade law  
 LLAW3123 Competition law I  
 LLAW3124 Competition law II  
 LLAW3245 Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions  
 LLAW3119 Dispute settlement in the WTO: practice and procedure  
 LLAW3165 Global business law I  
 LLAW3166 Global business law II  
 LLAW3238 Intellectual property and conflict of laws  
 LLAW3085 International and comparative intellectual property law  
 LLAW3111 International commercial arbitration  
 LLAW3025 International commercial litigation  
 LLAW3076 International commercial transactions  
 LLAW3078 International economic law  
 LLAW3028 International trade law I  
 LLAW3263 Introduction to consumer law  
 LLAW3208 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration  
 LLAW3250 Law, governance and development in Asia  
 LLAW3035 Law in East Asia  
 LLAW3049 Law of the sea  
 LLAW3145 Law, economics, regulation and development  
 LLAW3272 LITE lab: legal technology and the future of the profession sandbox  
 LLAW3044 Public international law  
 LLAW3077 Selected issues: WTO and China  
 LLAW3051 Selected problems in international law  
 LLAW3070 World Trade Organization: law and policy

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The courses available to students are listed below. Where two courses are described as “I and II” (12 credits), this means that they may either be taught separately in two semesters in the same academic year or be taught as one combined course in one semester, and may either be examined separately or at the same time.

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### *Compulsory courses (in the order listed in the syllabus)*

#### **FIRST YEAR**

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

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

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

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##### **LLAW1014 and LLAW1015 Criminal law I and Criminal law II (12 credits)**

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

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

Assessment: Magistrate’s court report\*, 50% mid-term examination, 50% final examination

\*[Students who fail this component will not be allowed to take the examinations and will be considered to have failed the courses. The assessment is assessed to Pass/Fail.]

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##### **LLAW1016 Legal research and writing (6 credits)**

Legal Research and Writing is a foundation skills course offered in the first semester of the first year. It introduces students to judgments, ordinances, and specific genres such as case notes and legal memoranda. As a practice-focused skills course, the lectures and tutorials work in tandem to help students develop the following inter-related skills, which are essential for the study of other law subjects and for future legal work:

Legal analysis – to closely read and analyse common law judgments, to use and interpret legislation, and to identify legal issues from fact-patterns.

Research – to identify and locate appropriate cases, legislation, and secondary sources.

Legal writing – to write succinctly and effectively, and to construct logical and persuasive arguments.

Assessment: 15% class contribution, participation in tutorials, 35% writing exercises / presentations, 50% final assessment

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

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

Assessment: 10% tutorial participation, 90% examination

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### **CAES1000 Core University English (6 credits)**

The Core University English (CUE) course aims to enhance first-year students' academic English language proficiency in the university context. CUE focuses on developing students' academic English language skills for the Common Core Curriculum. These include the language skills needed to understand and produce spoken and written academic texts, express academic ideas and concepts clearly and in a well-structured manner and search for and use academic sources of information in their writing and speaking. Four online-learning modules through the Moodle platform on academic speaking, academic grammar, academic vocabulary, citation and referencing skills and avoiding plagiarism will be offered to students to support their English learning. This course will help students to participate more effectively in their first-year university studies in English, thereby enriching their first-year experience.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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## **SECOND YEAR**

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

Tort is one of the first subjects undertaken in the LLB degree. Along with contract and unjust enrichment (also sometimes referred to as restitution), it forms part of the law of obligations, which covers the situations in which one person may be liable to another person in private law. In tort, that liability is, generally, to pay damages as compensation for a wrong. The law of torts covers a vast array of circumstances in which an individual incurs responsibility for conduct that the law classifies as wrongful.

For the most part, the law of torts comprises a set of doctrines and principles that have been developed by the common law courts. It is, accordingly, for the most part a subject that demands familiarity with the rules enshrined in case law. But, as with most other areas of law today, statute law now also plays an important role. As such, students who study this course will need to master both a large number of cases and a limited number of statutes.

While the law of torts has been around in one form or another for centuries, the rules it contains are far from settled. Much of the law—including new developments—remains controversial. Mastery of the subject thus requires familiarity not just with the established principles that are clear and universally accepted, but also some appreciation of those parts that are unsettled and the subject of ongoing debates.

Assessment: 50% mid-term examination, 50% final examination

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

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

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

Constitutional law is closely related to politics, political philosophy and history. In students' previous legal studies, they have already come across aspects of constitutional history and constitutional theory (e.g. in the Law and Society course), as well as some constitutional controversies in Hong Kong (e.g. in the Legal System course). We hope that this course on constitutional law will provide for students the opportunity to study the subject more systematically and intensively. However, as it is only a one-semester course, it can do no more than opening the door for students, so that students who are interested in a broader and deeper understanding of the subject may acquire a solid foundation for their future studies in this interesting, exciting and challenging domain of public law.

Assessment: 30% take home assignment, 70% examination

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### **LLAW2009 Introduction to Chinese legal system (6 credits)**

The course provides an overview of the basic rules and institutions of the legal system that is operating in the mainland of People's Republic of China (PRC) and the fundamental concepts in the core areas of Chinese law. The aim of the teaching is to introduce the structures, institutions, and distinctive features of the Chinese legal system and improve the understanding of Chinese law as compared with other legal systems, including the common law-based legal system in Hong Kong.

Assessment: 20% tutorial participation, 40% essay, 40% final examination

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### **LLAW2018 and LLAW2019 Land law I and II (12 credits)**

Introduction to property and land law.

Acquisition of interests in land: legal and equitable methods.

Concurrent interests under ownership; trusts; joint ownership (including partition of land)

Acquisition of interests by proprietary estoppel or adverse possession.

Priority: enforceability of interests against third parties.  
Leases: nature; creation; termination; relationship of landlord and tenant.  
Leasehold covenants: nature; enforceability; remedies.  
Licences: nature; revocability; enforceability.  
Easements: nature; creation; determination.  
Security interests: mortgages; charges.  
Government leases and Conditions of grant  
Deeds of mutual covenant  
Special features of the New Territories: small house policy and tsos and t'ongs  
Planning (time permitting): Outline Zoning Plans; planning permission; planning through building controls; Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance

Assessment: 50% mid-term, 50% examination

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

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

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed LLAW2001 Constitutional law (or its equivalent).

Assessment: 50% mid-term assessment, 50% examination

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## **THIRD YEAR AND FOURTH YEAR**

### **LLAW2012 Commercial law (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the fundamental legal concepts and principles relating to commercial law in Hong Kong and covers the following topics:

#### **A: Personal Property**

- Types of Personal Property
  - Chose in Possession
  - Chose in Action
- Types of Rights and Interests
  - Possession
  - Ownership
- Legal and Equitable Assignment

#### **B: Sale of Goods**

- Scope and Application of the Sale of Goods Ordinance (Cap. 26)
- Passing of Property
- Transfer of Risks
- Transfer of Title and the *Nemo Dat* Rule
- Implied Terms
- Duties and Remedies of Seller and Buyer

**C: Agency**

- Creation of Agency
- Types of Authority
- Undisclosed Agency
- Effects of Agency
- Duties of an Agent
- Termination of Agency

**D: Credit and Security**

- Types of Security
  - Real Security - Pledges, Liens, Mortgages, Charges
  - Personal Security – Guarantee, Indemnity
- Rules of Priority

Assessment: 20% in-class participation, 80% in-hall final examination

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**LLAW3001 Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)**

This course encourages critical reflection on the nature of law, the central issues of jurisprudence and the concepts and techniques used in the operation of legal systems. Topics to be covered will include the following: assessing the relationships between law, politics and morality; natural law; legal positivism; theories of justice; adjudication and legal reasoning; legal realism; feminist jurisprudence; sociological jurisprudence.

Assessment: 15% class participation, 35% essay, 50% examination

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**LLAW3010 Business associations (6 credits)**

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

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

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Commercial Law

Assessment: 20% in-class participation, 80% final examination

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**LLAW3094 and LLAW3095 Equity and trusts I and II (12 credits)**

History and nature of equity; equitable obligations (fiduciary obligations, breach of confidence other than trade secrets); equitable remedies (account, rescission, compensation, Lord Cairns' Act, injunction). History and nature of trusts; creation of express trusts (the three certainties, formal requirements, constitution of trusts); offshore trusts; pension trusts in Hong Kong; administration of trusts; variation of trusts; the duties of trustees and rights of beneficiaries; liability for breach of trust, personal and proprietary; resulting and constructive trusts.

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Law of contract I and II

Co-requisite: Have taken and passed (or concurrently taking) Land law I and II

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% mid-term test, 50% examination

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### **CLAW9001 Practical Chinese for law students (6 credits)**

The course is designed to enhance the students' proficiency in the use of the Chinese language in the legal profession. It helps to sharpen the students' skills in writing formal letters, notices, announcements, proposals and reports. As a variety of the Chinese language, legal Chinese has its own distinctive characteristics, which are explored in this course. A special topic in this course is "Characteristics of Chinese Legal Language". The students are trained to express their ideas and views lucidly in Chinese in a legal context. Drilling practices are provided to familiarise them with the simplified forms of frequently used legal terms.

Assessment: 50% written assignments, 50% written examination

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### *Capstone courses (listed in alphabetical order)*

(Choose at least one of the following courses)

#### **LLAW3148 Clinical legal education (6 credits)**

In this course the students will through interviewing real clients and handling real cases under the supervision of the course coordinator and voluntary duty lawyers in the private sector develop lawyering skills such as interviewing, negotiation, communication, facts investigation, legal research and analysis, applying the legal theories and principles to the real client's case or situation, legal writing and drafting, as well as professional ethics and responsibilities. The "course" will consist of the following elements – training sessions and legal clinic work (including attending interview and advice sessions and preparing case summary, legal research memos and summary of advice). The applicants for this course are required to submit an application in prescribed form to the course coordinator for consideration and approval.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on a pass / fail basis by reference to the contents of the portfolio and the course coordinator and the supervising lawyers' feedback on their professional attitudes and competence when they handle clients' cases.

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#### **LLAW3198 Clinical legal education (China) (6 credits)**

This is a programme offered to law and mixed degrees students in the Summer Semester. As part of the experiential learning in the Faculty of Law, this course offers an opportunity for Hong Kong students 1) to observe the operation of the Chinese legal system from a close distance; 2) to participate in activities of provision of legal aid to the poor in the Mainland; and 3) to critically reflect the political and legal development in the Mainland.

The summer Internship is placed under the existing Clinical legal education course and offers a scheme of clinical legal education in Mainland China. Each student enrolled in this programme will be placed in one of the hosting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Mainland China between June and August for a period between six and eight weeks. During the placement, the students will work as Interns for the NGOs at the instructions and supervision of the relevant staff of the NGOs.

Hosting NGOs may be located in different parts of China. They include China-based international

NGOs such as the American Bar Association's Beijing Office; domestic NGOs such as Yirenping Centre; or University-based legal aid centre such as the Wuhan University Legal Aid Centre. The Faculty will contact and enter into agreements with the NGOs and match NGOs with the student interest subject to availability.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3256 Clinical legal education (special needs financial planning) (6 credits)**

This course will begin with seminars on affordable planning instruments for individuals with cognitive impairment in Hong Kong, such as will, statutory guardianship, enduring (or continuing) power of attorney and special needs trusts. Selected topics in succession and estate planning; personal care and welfare system for people with disability; probate and intestacy; and family and matrimonial assets distribution will also be covered.

Students will then have an opportunity to apply their knowledge in a real practice setting. Students will provide legal advice and individual assistance to eligible families and individuals (ie families with modest wealth that have individuals with intellectual disability, autism, and mental disorder; and elderly people) seeking to execute the above planning instruments where appropriate. Students will through interviewing real clients and handling real cases under the supervision of the Course Coordinators, Director of the Legal Clinic and pro bono lawyers in the private sector develop lawyering skills such as interviewing, communication, fact investigation, legal research and analysis, legal writing and drafting, as well as professional ethics and responsibilities.

Pre-requisite: Undergraduate LLB and double degree students must have completed at least 2 years of their degree programme.

Assessment: Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis by reference to the contents of the portfolio and feedback by the Course Coordinators / Director on their professional attitudes and competence when they handle the clients' case.

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### **LLAW3280 Clinical legal education – refugee and human trafficking stream (6 credits)**

The CLE – refugee and human trafficking stream (“the Clinic”) is offered to undergraduate and post-graduate students in the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) in partnership with the Centre for Comparative and Public Law (CCPL) and Justice Centre Hong Kong. Justice Centre provides information and individual assistance to claimants seeking non-refoulement protection in Hong Kong (known as “protection claimants”) and advocates for their rights in policy spheres and through campaigns to raise public awareness and change perceptions. The Clinic allows students to learn both the theory and practice of non-refoulement law in Hong Kong. Students will learn the legal Hong Kong for assessing protection needs and develop their legal skills in a real practice setting. Specific skills include: interviewing protection claimants, working with an interpreter, fact investigation, legal research and analysis, and legal writing and drafting. Students will also have opportunities to develop professional judgment through encounters with real legal and ethical dilemmas. Students will learn to take a human rights-based approach to legal work, to recognise challenges, to creatively identify options, and to diligently and ethically assist protection claimants. Students work under the direct supervision of Justice Centre’s Legal Officer and/or other Justice Centre staff.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 100% clinical work: Pass/Fail in two components, namely 1) preparation and participation in

group seminars and clinical sessions; 2) written work

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### **LLAW3246 Disability rights clinic (6 credits)**

This course will provide an opportunity for HKU students to gain knowledge and practical experience in the rapidly developing area of disability rights law. Both for students who will work outside the corporate sector and also within the corporate sector, a working knowledge of disability law is imperative. In recent years, disability law has gained attention and prominence. As a result, there is demand for lawyers with knowledge and experience in this area. This is an area of law that touches all others; for example, from employment law, to education, medical, criminal and tort law. As such, it is desirable even for graduates who will work in private practice to have a working knowledge of disability law.

Through partnerships with innovative and progressive disability rights groups (both domestically and internationally), students will acquire substantive knowledge in international human rights law and disability rights law while actively applying the knowledge to practice through providing service to the community.

The Disability Rights Clinic will challenge students to identify, research, analyse and report on rights violations experienced by people with disabilities. Weekly seminars will incorporate both substantive knowledge and practical skills training.

No prerequisite but a prior or concurrent course in international human rights law is recommended.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 20% project plan; 20% weekly team/partner meetings; 20% mid-term draft work product; 40% final work product

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### **LLAW3281 Human rights in practice clinic (6 credits)**

The Human Rights in Practice course provides students with the opportunity to explore and engage with both domestic and international human rights issues through experiential learning. By working with clients facing infringements to their fundamental human rights, students will gain substantive knowledge in different areas of international law and experience first-hand the relationship between international human rights laws and the Hong Kong legal system.

This course seeks to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the changing global legal environment by providing opportunities to work on public interest legal matters while serving the community. The course aims to expose students to the challenges and skills of acting in the role of a lawyer within the unstructured situations that public interest lawyers confront in practice. Through collaborative work on real cases, students will learn the theory and practice of domestic and international human rights law, as well as comparative legal analysis.

The course encourages critical analysis of the law, the relationship between international and domestic legal systems, and the different roles within Hong Kong's legal regime. It also aims to give students an opportunity to practice their professional skills and ethics, identify and provide service for unmet legal needs, and evaluate the real-life application and effects of international human rights instruments on an individual level. Students will also be given opportunities to work with practising lawyers, counsellors, and social workers, enabling students to recognize challenges and gain valuable skills.

Specific skills taught in this course include litigation skills, designing community legal education materials, collaborative and community-based lawyering, domestic and international legal research and

analysis, including comparative legal research, human rights research, and legal writing. By providing students with practical experiences and critical analysis, this course prepares them to become lawyers who are mindful of the holistic needs of clients in their future legal careers.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 15% In-class presentation; 20% weekly written reports; 65% ongoing clinic assignments

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### **LLAW3187 Mooting and dispute resolution (6 credits)**

Mooting and Dispute Resolution is a 6 credit course. The course takes place in both Semester 1 and Semester 2. Course credits are awarded at the completion of the course in Semester 2.

The course is designed to introduce you to the following:

1. Appellate Advocacy

- You will participate in a moot.
- You will be in teams of two, acting as Counsel for one of the parties in an appeal from a (fictional) trial decision. You will be required to prepare and submit to the court a skeleton argument of the legal arguments you intend to advance along with a list of authorities. You will also be required to argue the case before the court.
- This course builds upon the writing and oral presentation skills you have developed in Legal Research and Writing.

2. Dispute Resolution Methods (such as litigation, arbitration and mediation).

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Legal research and writing

Assessment:

This is a pass/fail course.

In order to pass the course, students must complete all of the following **three** elements:

- (i) Attend one moot coaching session;
- (ii) Attend at least 80% of the lectures; and
- (iii) Participate in one mandatory moot in the competition, including:
  - prepare and submit a skeleton argument at the moot competition to a satisfactory level; and
  - prepare and present an oral argument to at the moot competition to a satisfactory level.Please note that for the mandatory moot, **both** your oral presentation and skeleton argument must be of satisfactory standard.

In order to select the semi-finalists and the finalists of the moot competition, and to provide feedback to students on their performance, the moot (written and oral presentations) will be graded. However, the grades will have no impact on the students' GPA.

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### **LLAW3230 Public interest clinic (6 credits)**

The Public Interest Clinic is a clinical legal education subject which combines practical experience and

academic learning.

Under the supervision of the course instructors and in collaboration with legal practitioners, students will provide legal assistance to non-governmental and non-profit organizations in addition to engaging directly with clients from underserved communities, including 1) individuals seeking asylum 2) those affected by human trafficking 3) mental health patients 4) persons facing discrimination, ensuring these clients receive critical legal support tailored to their unique circumstances.

Students will work with lawyers and other professionals to provide a diverse range of services. Working in small groups on allocated projects, students will gain practical legal skills by providing assistance and information to clients.

The precise nature of the practical experience will vary depending on the needs of the relevant organisations and clients requiring assistance during the academic semester.

During the course, students will conduct in-depth interviews with clients from underserved populations to establish the scope and goals of each case, identifying key deliverables that address their specific needs. While assisting these clients, students will leverage their foundational knowledge of doctrinal law and enhance their competencies through targeted legal research, particularly in areas less familiar to them. They will be encouraged to understand the broader context of their clients' legal situations, striving to provide comprehensive support that encompasses the full spectrum of their needs.

In addition to their direct client engagements, students will actively participate in a variety of research activities that support the broader work of the clinic. These efforts will include analyzing legal trends, evaluating procedural effectiveness, and developing educational materials that serve to inform both clients and the broader community. These projects, guided by experienced legal practitioners and utilizing advanced research tools, will enhance students' understanding of law in practice. Such activities not only complement the practical legal experience gained but also contribute to academic growth and professional readiness in addressing complex legal challenges.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 20% weekly reports, 20% class presentations and written reviews, 50% ongoing clinic

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### **LLAW3252 The global migration legal clinic (6 credits)**

The Global Migration Legal Clinic aims to empower and equip HKU students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in a changing global legal environment by providing students with the opportunity to learn by doing and by providing service to the community.

This experiential course will focus on the growing number of people across Asia who migrate from their home each year in search of better work opportunities. In Hong Kong alone, 10% of the working population are foreign domestic workers. And the HK government recently announced that the number of said workers will grow from approximately 370,000 to over 600,000 in a matter of decades. Moreover, because of ageing populations and diminishing growth, unskilled migrant workers are increasingly important to economies across Asia, with nations such as China, Japan, and South Korea recently enacting laws allowing unskilled migrants to work in-country.

Conversely, as the amount of labor migration increases, the instances of abuse also increase. There are more slaves and bonded workers in the world today than at any time prior, and the vast majority of these workers are found in Asia. Recent studies have shown that a majority of foreign domestic workers in HK have been abused or deceived in some fashion, and the US government has categorized HK as a Tier-2 Watch country on its Trafficking in Persons Report for multiple years running.

Students in this Clinic will be tasked with focusing on specific legal cases and problems, and devising holistic solutions to said problems. While their solutions will obviously involve legal recourse or research of some kind, students will be required to also consider broader solutions, including: media and social media exposure, lobbying, commercial solutions, etc.

The aims of the Clinic are:

1. to expose students to the challenges and skills of affecting real change in real-life situations;
2. to expand opportunities for collaborative experiential learning;
3. to instruct students in the theory and practice of various legal disciplines;
4. to give students an opportunity to practice their professional skills and ethics;
5. to encourage students to identify and provide service for unmet legal needs; and
6. to encourage critical analysis of the law, the relationship between international and domestic legal systems, and the clients' place and the lawyer's role within the international legal system.

Specific skills taught include interviewing, working with an interpreter, oral advocacy, negotiation, fact investigation, legal research and analysis, legal writing and drafting, collaborative problem solving, and lobbying.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 35% weekly seminar, team meetings, written weekly report, 35% ongoing clinical work, 30% final work product

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### *Designated Disciplinary electives (listed in alphabetical order)*

(Choose one of the following courses)

#### **LLAW3205 Advanced legal theory (6 credits)**

This course provides an in-depth analysis of a number of key themes and texts in legal theory. Each year a core theme is introduced to provide a coherence to the study of several perennial problems in legal theory. This year the theme will be 'Liberty and Obligation'. It has been chosen to allow students to engage with certain key claims and demands that are made by or on behalf of contemporary law and legal institutions, exploring the more or less paradoxical relationship between the binding qualities of law and the promise of liberty it holds out.

The course will work in a sustained way through a range of questions and perspectives so that students gain a deeper knowledge of legal theoretical issues and how they bear on contemporary problems of law in society. These will be explored through a series of engagements with texts, contexts, representations and contestations.

The course is seminar-based and will be taught through a range of materials and disciplinary approaches. These will include conventional scholarly texts in law, politics and philosophy, but may also draw on non-standard resources. The classes will be discussion-based.

Students are expected to pursue their own interests and insights on the issues raised in the course in a 5,000-word research essay. The subject of the essay will be devised by each student individually in consultation with the course convenor. An oral presentation will allow students to articulate their understanding of the ideas being analysed, as well as to answer questions on it.

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

Assessment: 80% research essay, 20% oral presentation

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### **LLAW3016 Comparative law (6 credits)**

This course introduces basic methodologies and theories of comparative law and studies different legal systems. The primary idea of this course is to investigate how different societies and cultures understand justice and order in their own contexts. In addition to centering on two salient legal systems: the common law system and the civil law system, this course will also pay special attention to comparative studies of Chinese law, with a focus on its interaction with the Hong Kong legal system.

The course will start with discussing general topics in the comparative law discipline, and then delve into significant differences in constitutional law, procedure, criminal law, property, contract, tort and family law around the world. In the end, this course will explore some potential usages of comparative law in legal debates.

Assessment: 50% mid-term essay, 50% take home examination

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### **LLAW3157 Foundations of international law (6 credits)**

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

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

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### **LLAW3216 Justice (6 credits)**

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

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

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### **LLAW3233 Law, history and culture (6 credits)**

This course will enable students to research and examine the history of law and its connection with social, political and economic development of Hong Kong and China in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries through students' first-hand exploration of archival documents and images stored in libraries and the Public Records Office. Students, through a close reading of archival materials, will be asked to reflect critically on their conventional basic ideas about the legal system, social customs and culture of Hong Kong and China. These ideas include, among others: 'Imperial China lacks the rule of law'; 'Hong Kong's rule of law is a British colonial legacy'; and 'Chinese traditionally preferred settling disputes

through mediation than resorting to the law'. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, this course will explore how the notion of law functions as a site of discourse in the expression of identity as well as the articulation of ethnic, cultural and socio-economic differences.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 90% research essay

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### **LLAW3128 Law and literature (6 credits)**

This course explores the complex interactions between literature and the law. Even though the two disciplines may seem distinct, both law and literature are products of language and have overlapped in significant and interesting ways in history. Why do legal themes recur in fiction, and what kinds of literary structures underpin legal argumentation? How do novelists and playwrights imagine the law, and how do lawyers and judges interpret literary works? Could literature have legal subtexts, and could legal documents be re-interpreted as literary texts? We will think through these questions by juxtaposing novels, plays, court cases, and critical theory.

Pre-requisite: Haven taken and passed a previous course in legal and/or literary subject.

Assessment: 50% final essay, 30% mid-term essay, 20% class participation

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### **LLAW3172 Law and social theory (6 credits)**

Amongst the most powerful of contemporary analyses of law and legal institutions are those which draw on the tradition of social theory. These trends now constitute a discrete area of academic enquiry that is of growing importance and relevance. This course offers a series of readings which draw on that tradition and think them through in relation to contemporary legal problems. This course will develop students' knowledge of the basic paradigms of social theory as it relates to law and place the development of law in social theoretical and historical context. By developing a critical understanding of the relationship between law and social theory students will assess the differences between diverse theoretical approaches and be able to develop and articulate their own understanding of the appropriate paradigms for analysis in legal and social theory. The aim is therefore to enhance students' understanding of contemporary law and legal institutions. Topics to be covered may include: competing theories of law and modernity; analyses of alternative approaches to power and security; the role and consequences of processes of juridification; and theories of globalisation.

Assessment: 20% presentation, 80% research essay

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### **LLAW3283 Law and society (6 credits)**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the historical, comparative and critical study of issues relating to "law and society". We hope to capture the dynamics between law and society, namely, how law is shaped by social changes, perception and thought, and how society is molded by legal rules and norms. We will discuss broad interdisciplinary perspectives and theoretical, empirical and policy considerations relevant to the study of the relationship between law and society.

In this one semester course, we will consider some topical themes, such as the relationship between law and politics, law and philosophy, law and history, law and culture, law and morality, law and gender, law and family, etc., to illustrate these dynamics. We will be using multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives from anthropology, sociology, political science, history and philosophy. This is a course that is not primarily about law, but about how law-related socio-political and historical issues can be studied by employing these multi-disciplinary perspectives.

Assessment: 5% a written answer to an assigned tutorial question, 10% tutorial participation, 85% examination

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### **LLAW3039 Legal history (6 credits)**

Hong Kong had been a constituent part of both the Chinese and the British Empire and was subjected to the laws and regulations of these two historic domains. This course examines how Western scholarship treats the legal history of both China and Britain to explain the approaches and construction of historical narratives for laws and legal systems. Approaching law through history, this course explains the history of legal ideas that shaped a modern common law legal system in China. The aim is to elucidate the legal nature and temporal position of a modern legal entity such as the 'Hong Kong Special Administrative Region' through the study of the techniques of historical construction.

This course will discuss the following: the Chinese imperial legal system, the paradoxical absence of Chinese civil laws, general Western study of Chinese laws, the works of twentieth century Harvard scholars such as William C. Jones's work on the Great Qing Code, and the Californian sociological challenge to the Harvard school. Discussion on British legal history will include: the works of Blackstone, Holdsworth, Dicey and Maitland, British imperial expansion and Admiralty law, colonisation and the Unequal Treaties, colonisation and the corporate form: the cases of the Virginia Company, the Massachusetts Company and the East India Company. The course will also discuss the postmodernist philosophical critiques of history.

Assessment: 100% essay

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### **LLAW3235 Punishment and society (6 credits)**

This course will explore the institution of punishment from a philosophical perspective.

The first part of the course will focus on the question of justification of punishment (i.e. what provides the positive reason and right for setting up the institution of punishment?) Deterrence, Self-defence, Retribution, Consent, and Forfeiture theories will be covered.

The second part of the course will explore the question of distribution of punishment (i.e. who should be punished and by how much?). Topics that may be covered include the following: Should successful crimes be punished more than failed attempts? Should poverty, youth, or repentance be mitigating factors? Should previous criminal records be taken into account in sentencing? How should we sentence offenders who commit their crimes under civil disobedience?

Assessment: 50% examination, 50% term paper

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### **LLAW3282 The economic analysis of law (6 credits)**

Judges make policy through their decisions in individual cases. This observation is especially true of jurisdictions that recognize opinions as authoritative sources of law. To distill precedents and extract from them a rule to govern future cases, skillful lawyers imbue doctrine with spirit and purpose. Are case outcomes best explained by the economic notion of efficiency? How should legal regimes be designed to maximize welfare? Finally, should social efficiency and welfare—as defined by the economist—be the normative goal of law and its institutions? This lecture-based seminar will introduce students to the economic analysis of the common law, including property, contracts, and torts. It will also cover public law themes such as voting and delegation. Finally, challenges to the neo-classical law and economics tradition will be considered. Students should come to each meeting prepared to discuss the assigned readings. This course is self-contained, and no prior knowledge of law or economics is assumed or

required.

Assessment: 50% mid-year examination, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3278 The legal profession (6 credits)**

This course introduces the legal profession not from the perspective of law practitioners, but from the social science studies on various aspects of this profession in different jurisdictions and social contexts. The course does not teach students how to think like a lawyer, but it provides social science perspectives for understanding how the legal profession is organized, differentiated, and transformed over time. It also examines the relationship between lawyers and other social entities and processes, such as their clients, market competitors, state regulators, and the processes of globalization and political change.

Assessment: 16% weekly reading responses, 30% midterm exam, 24% law firm report, 30% law paper

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### *Disciplinary electives (listed in alphabetical order)*

(† Prescribed PCLL Pre-requisites)

### **LLAW3206 Advanced law of obligations (6 credits)**

This is an advanced-level course that explores the framework of legal obligations. It seeks to deepen students' appreciation of the nature of and relationship between various branches of the law of obligations, and in doing so equip them with the knowledge and skills to master complex transactions in their future practice, where various branches of the law of obligations often overlap.

The course comprises four parts: (1) overview of the nature and foundation of Torts, Contracts, Unjust Enrichment and Equitable Obligations; (2) selected topics to plug gaps of knowledge in important Commercial areas; (3) comparative overview of remedial principles in various branches of the law of obligation; and (4) case studies of hypothetical scenarios where these branches of law interact with each other. The case studies will be based on the topics learned in Part 2, and seek to apply knowledge of these topics to practical fact scenarios.

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

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### **LLAW3151 Advanced seminar in law and technology (6 credits)**

This course introduces participants to cutting-edge issues at the intersection of law and technology. The seminar is structured around five to six ongoing research projects from around the region and the world. Through preparatory readings, lectures, and discussion, participants will gain a functional understanding of the technology in question and the legal debates surrounding them. Participants will then interact with investigators leading these projects as part of a workshop series sponsored by the Centre for Law and Technology. Topics will vary from year to year and may feature, for example, (1) dark patterns and consumer protection, (2) generative artificial intelligence and copyright, and (3) algorithmic decision-making and procedural justice.

Assessment: 20% class presentation, 20% workshop comment, 60% response papers

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### **LLAW3265 Advanced seminars in trust and equity (6 credits)**

The course examines cutting edge problems arising from the modern application of the trust and

equitable doctrines in modern family succession planning, commerce, and finance.

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

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Contract Law

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% research essay

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### **LLAW3214 Advanced topics in constitutional law (6 credits)**

This course will examine the study of constitutionalism at a more advanced level, particularly from both theoretical and comparative perspectives. It builds upon the knowledge that students would have gained after completing a basic course on constitutional law.

We will begin this course with an exploration of constitutional theory. We will examine (i) the nature and rationale for constitutional review, and the various judicial review models available in the common law world e.g. Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and the United Kingdom Human Rights Act, (ii) the various "modalities" of constitution argumentation, (iii) the relevance of foreign law in constitutional interpretation, and (iv) the legitimacy and role of judicial "balancing" in rights-adjudication.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this course, we will also examine the adjudication of specific constitutionally enshrined rights from a comparative perspective. These may include i) due process rights, ii) right to equality, iii) counter-terrorism, and iv) socio-welfare rights. Jurisdictions to be surveyed would include the United States, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, India, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

This course will seek to demonstrate how judicial review can and should promote a form of deliberative democracy, a model which eschews the rule of judges as philosopher kings and also one that holds the promise of transformative change beyond the confines of the ballot box. It celebrates a model of judicial 'penultimacy' whereby courts are engaging in a continuing constitutional colloquy with the political institutions and the society at large, and participating in a dynamic process in which constitutional meanings have evolved conversationally and are not perfected unilaterally.

Assessment: 50% take home examination, 50% mid-term essay

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### **LLAW3007 Alternative dispute resolution (6 credits)**

In traditional legal studies, the judicial process (courtroom litigation) is often assumed to be the best means of resolving disputes. This adversarial approach shapes the views of future lawyers about the

nature and pattern of disputes, as well as the preferred method of dispute resolution. This course considers a non-adversarial approach by analyzing the form and nature of disputes and examining the various methods of dispute resolution (such as judicial adjudication in court). The broad range of “alternative” (or “appropriate” or “additional”) dispute resolution (“ADR”) particularly in the context of Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific region. At the conclusion of this course, students should:

- Be familiar with the analysis of the form and nature of disputes and their incidence in society, the pattern of dispute resolution, the traditional methods of resolving disputes and the potential impact of various social, economic, legal, political and cultural factors on dispute resolution;
- Be familiar with the broad range of alternative methods of dispute resolution encountered in legal practice, and their use and application in Hong Kong and in the Asia Pacific region generally, as well as in a comparative international context;
- Be competent in critically analyzing and evaluating the various alternative methods of dispute resolution (e.g. their advantages and problems) by considering such issues as the legitimate expectations of disputants, quality of and access to justice, public and private costs of ADR and the politics of informal justice;
- Be competent in evaluating the application of ADR methods in various substantive areas and be able to advise future clients about the potential suitability of various dispute resolution processes and prepare them for participation in these varied dispute resolution processes; and
- Have participated in some simulated negotiation and mediation role-play simulations and developed some basic competency in effectively participating in negotiations and mediations. The critical, theoretical and evaluative material will be combined with simulated role-playing exercises for a better understanding of the various dispute resolution methods and processes.

This course is composed of two main parts:

- (a) an introduction to traditional methods of dispute resolution and a critique of their advantages and disadvantages; and
- (b) an examination of alternative dispute resolution methods, which will cover the following:
  - (i) the origin and development of the alternative dispute resolution movement, and
  - (ii) an in-depth study of the following methods: confidential private listening; negotiation, mediation and conciliation; arbitration; good offices/ombudsman; mini-trials/summary jury trials; private courts, dispute resolution centres and online web-based ADR schemes.

These methods of alternative dispute resolution will be examined by considering their present and potential application in Hong Kong and other parts of Asia, in such areas as: administrative complaints, commercial and construction disputes (both domestic and international), labour relations, landlord and tenant disputes and matrimonial disputes. Students will also engage in role playing exercises in simulated negotiation, mediation and arbitration with assessment.

Assessment: 70% research assignment, 30% class participation

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### **LLAW3244 Alternative finance (6 credits)**

Innovative technology creation and development, including financial technology (FinTech) and regulatory technology (RegTech), are increasingly being used by financial institutions and their regulators to enhance regulatory compliance in and supervision of a sophisticated and fast-changing financial sector.

The course will critically evaluate the claim that FinTech portmanteau of finance and technology, including blockchain, artificial intelligence, robo adviser solution, big data and automated suspicious transaction monitoring technology systems, has the ability to revolutionise financial inclusion. Furthermore, it examines whether and how RegTech can be used by regulators for tracking and monitoring financial institutions compliance activities. Specifically, RegTech aims to more effectively regulate new commercial transactions facilitated by FinTech, such as payments made through mobile devices and equity crowdfunding through the internet portals which are cornerstones of the course on alternative finance (i.e. internet financing).

The course sheds light on the legal/regulatory requirements and supervisory and policy measures towards FinTech alternative finance at both local and international levels. These requirements and measures will be further compared with standards set by international regulatory bodies such as the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, the G20, the OECD, the Financial Stability Board and the Bank for International Settlements. Combining supervisory approaches—for instance, the principle-based approach and the cost-benefit approach—with academic approaches, the course promotes and enables technical, theoretical, comparative, and interdisciplinary studies for students who are interested in or preparing to enter a FinTech-related career. The course is also practical and industry focused as it reflects on and closely follows industry reports such as KPMG’s annual banking and anti-money laundering reports, along with Deloitte’s RegTech and FinTech survey reports. Designed to enhance creativity, critical thinking and deep learning, the course will foster an intimate understanding of regulations and policies on FinTech, RegTech and SupTech. Topics and issues covered in this course are diverse and wide-ranging such as financial inclusion and digital financial inclusion, the digital banking model (implemented by virtual banks, which are also known as digital banks), FinTech and RegTech (with subordinated themes such as Sandbox, Open Banking, Application Programming Interface, and Wealth Management Technology), P2P Lending, Equity Crowdfunding, Payments and Payment Technology (including Central Bank Digital Currency and Stablecoins).

The course will begin by expounding the role of FinTech in both the shadow banking and traditional banking systems, followed by an exploration of the types of FinTech-enabled products and payment services such as crowdfunding and P2P lending, and ending with a forward-looking approach in tackling some critical and timely issues related to FinTech, including, but not limited to, financial democratisation, improving access to financial systems, the sharing economy and privacy protection for consumers.

The course is distinctively interdisciplinary and methodically strong, designed for students with different academic backgrounds. It is particularly relevant for those with department major(s) in Law (including BBA (Law) & LLB and BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB), Financial Technology, Computer Science, Entrepreneurship, Design and Innovation, Marketing and Wealth Management, to name a few.

Assessment: 30% oral presentation, 20% research topic and preliminary research proposal, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3140 Animal law (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 70% written research assignment, 30% seminar presentation

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**LLAW3164 Arbitration and conflict of laws in Greater China (6 credits)**

This course will introduce students to the arbitration systems in the Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, covering their major distinctions in the regulations and practices of arbitration. The course will discuss, as such, main statutes governing arbitrations in the respective jurisdiction, relevant arbitration jurisprudences developed by the courts of each place, and arbitral rules and practices by major arbitration institutions (CIETAC, BAC, HKIAC, CAA and MIA) in the region. Cross-border judicial assistance on civil and commercial matters in Greater China will be looked into in the course as well.

Assessment: 50% oral presentation, 50% research paper

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**LLAW3112 Arbitration law (6 credits)**

In the world's globalizing economy there has been a dramatic increase in the size and complexity of international business and commercial transactions. The main focus of this cross-listed course will be on the use of arbitration to resolve disputes arising out of such business and commercial transactions. The course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the arbitration law and practice in Hong Kong and students will consider a range of theoretical issues and substantive topics in this course, including:

- overview of the wide range of dispute resolution methods, including arbitration
- fundamental concepts of arbitration law
- legal framework of arbitration law in Hong Kong
- overview of Hong Kong's Arbitration Ordinance and its objectives and principles
- issues relating to the arbitral process and procedure, such as the:
  - arbitrability of disputes
  - enforceability of arbitration and submission agreements
  - appointment and powers of arbitrators
  - jurisdictional challenges
  - preliminary proceedings
  - form of the arbitration hearing
  - interim and final remedies
  - evidentiary matters (hearings and discovery)
- rendering of arbitral awards (including challenges and appeal)
- recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards
- interests and costs
- role of the courts in the arbitral process

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment or research paper

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**LLAW3207 Arms control and disarmament law (6 credits)**

This course will explore all aspects of arms control and disarmament law, including international law-making, supervision, interpretation, dispute settlement and enforcement efforts. By “arms control law,” it is meant the rules and principles that regulate weapons and weapon-related material, which does not necessarily include the actual reduction or removal of those weapons or materials. By “disarmament,” it is meant the rules and principles for the reduction and eventual removal of weapons and weapon-related material. Particular emphasis will be put on weapons of mass destruction (WMD), which include nuclear, chemical, and biological agents and the means to deliver them, inasmuch as the UN Security Council repeatedly has noted that WMD proliferation is a serious threat to international peace and security. International and regional efforts to respond to these threats will be evaluated from a critical

perspective. This course also will focus on the international law relating to conventional weapons, including arms trade generally, weapons with non-detectable fragments, landmines, incendiary weapons, laser weapons, riot-control agents, cluster munitions, exploding bullets, expanding bullets and other questionable methods and means of warfare, all of which will be evaluated from a critical perspective. The interaction between this branch of public international law and others will be explored, including the interaction with international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international trade law, air and space law, collective security law, the law of international organizations, the law of state responsibility and the law of the sea, among others. All of this and more will be analyzed through various case studies and with a critical eye in assessing whether the current legal regime is adequate in meeting the needs of the international community. Potential reforms to the system will be explored through discussion and debate.

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

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### **LLAW3213 ASEAN law (6 credits)**

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

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### **LLAW3008 Bank security (6 credits)**

Lending and securities: the role of banks in trade and other financing; lending criteria; forms of securities; securities over goods and documents of title to goods including pledges, hypothecation and liens; financing of international trade including letters of credit, documentary bills of exchange, letters of guarantee and performance bonds; effect of Bills of Sale legislation; guarantees and sureties; set-off; fixed and floating charges; enforcement and realization of securities; general discussion of loan documentation.

Duties of banker in taking securities: undue influence; mistake; misrepresentation; duties to inform or disclose to customer and third parties.

Court proceedings affecting banker: garnishee proceedings; Mareva injunctions; disclosure orders; insolvency of customer; banker's liability as constructive trustee; jurisdiction and conflict of laws especially in regard to international banking.

(*Note:* Unless exempted, candidates are required to have taken Banking law before taking this course.)

Assessment: 100% examination

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### **LLAW3009 Banking law (6 credits)**

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the major issues in banking law in Hong Kong. It is primarily concerned with the law governing the banker-customer relationship: the nature of the relationship, the banker-customer contract and termination of the relationship; legal issues relating to joint accounts, trust accounts, and accounts of infants, professionals and business associations; bankers' duties including confidentiality and the duty of care and fiduciary duties in relation to ordinary banking transactions, lending and investment services; including mis-selling claims against banks; bankers' rights including appropriation of payment, lien and set-off; the customer's duties to the bank; bankers' liability as constructive trustee; issues arising from third party intervention such as various types of court orders relevant to the provision of banking services. The money laundering regime will also be discussed from the perspective of legal issues faced by bankers.

The course will include an in-depth study of the law relating to negotiable instruments, predominantly focusing on cheques. Issues relevant to mistaken payments will also be discussed.

In the financing area, there will be an in-depth study of the law applicable to guarantees. The course will also include an introduction to autonomous payment undertakings such as letters of credit and performance bonds, and the key issues relating to bank loans and bankers' security.

Pre-requisites: This course requires fundamental understanding of the laws of contract, tort, equity and trusts, and business associations.

Assessment: 70% examination, 30% written assignment

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### **LLAW3186 Business and human rights (6 credits)**

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

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

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

The following topics will be covered:

1. Types of contract for the carriage of goods by sea.
2. Express and implied terms in contracts of affreightment (concerning seaworthiness, deviation, dangerous cargo, laytime, demurrage etc).
3. Voyage charterparties and time charterparties.
4. Bills of lading and other sea transport documents (e.g. waybills, delivery orders).
5. The Hague and Hague-Visby Rules.
6. Effects of bills lading issued where ship under charter.

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

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### **LLAW3046 Child and the law (6 credits)**

This course covers the law of parent and child with emphasis on the emerging concept of parental responsibility and the rights of the child. It examines the increasing importance of parentage as a status and the effect of Parent and Child Ordinance (1993) on the status of children in Hong Kong. Also examined here is the effect of divorce on children and the enforcement of child support obligation. The course also examines the importance of listening to children in family proceedings and the role of mediation in the settlement of family disputes over children. Also considered is the law of child adoption and protection from abuse and neglect.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3153 China investment law (6 credits)**

The course provides a comprehensive analysis of the legal, policy and business aspects of foreign direct investment in China. We will learn the evolution of Chinese foreign investment law since 1970s, from the opening-up policy to the newly enacted Foreign Investment Law, as well as China's outbound investment policies (such as the Belt and Road Initiative) and investment treaties. Areas covered include: policies and priorities underlying China investment law; market access and the national security review; organization, operation and liquidation of foreign-related business entities in China; relevant regulatory issues investment dispute resolution.

Assessment: 20% course participation, 80% research paper

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### **LLAW3154 China trade law (6 credits)**

The course introduces China's legal regime on 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; Regulation of China's foreign trade: PRC regulatory authorities, PRC Foreign Trade Law, foreign trade operators (FTOs), foreign trade agency; PRC customs, licensing and quotas, inspection/standards systems, and trade remedies (anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures); Trade transactions under the CISG; Trade dispute resolution.

Assessment: 20% course participation, 80% research paper

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### **LLAW3081 Chinese commercial law (in Putonghua) (6 credits)**

In this course, students will be introduced to the fundamental legal concepts and principles of commercial laws in Mainland China. The course provides students further with the knowledge of commercial law reforms in Mainland China against its development of a market economy as well as their implications in Hong Kong.

The aim of the course is to enable students to develop their basic understanding of the fundamental principles and rules of contract law, company law, partnership law, and their dispute resolutions. The primary focus of the course is to examine these laws promulgated by the state legislature and pertaining judicial interpretations by the Supreme People's Court. Ancillary state policies and administrative notices will be introduced in class as well.

As a feature of this course, despite that Mainland China follows civil law tradition and mainly use statutes as legal authorities, cases relating to the topic will be discussed to help understand the legal principles. Another feature of the course is that pertaining regulations and practices in Hong Kong will be outlined and compared to for more impressive learning.

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Introduction to Chinese law or the equivalent and sufficient Chinese proficiency.

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

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### **LLAW3173 Chinese family law in comparative perspective (6 credits)**

This course will study Chinese family law from a comparative and historical perspective. It covers issues such as marriage, divorce, child custody, abuse and neglect, adoption, cross-border marriage and new reproductive technologies.

Assessment: 20% continuous assessment, 80% research paper

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### **LLAW3011 Chinese laws governing foreign investments (6 credits)**

The course will examine the laws and regulations governing foreign investment in China. The focus is not so much on an analytical study of each individual enactment, but on how they all come together to create the present legal and business regime and culture in which foreign investors are to function.

The course will consider the laws governing the activities of foreign investment enterprises (e.g. foreign exchange, labour issues, organizing subsidiaries), foreign investment forms (e.g. equity joint ventures, co-operative joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises), restricted investments (e.g. banking, other financial services, telecommunications, retail and wholesale trade) and corporate organizations (e.g. companies limited by shares, conversion of state-owned enterprises, holding companies and mergers). The many practical difficulties faced by foreign investors, and the limitations of the current legal framework will be examined.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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

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

- considerations prior to commencement of action;
- legal aid;
- jurisdiction of courts;
- parties and joinder;
- commencement of proceedings;
- service and acknowledgment of service;
- pleadings (Statement of Claim, Defences and Counter-Claims; Reply);
- summary disposal of actions (judgment on admissions; default judgment and summary judgment);
- interlocutory application (interlocutory injunctions, Mareva injunctions, Anton Piller Orders, prohibition orders, security for costs, interim payments);
- discovery, further and better particulars, interrogatories;
- compromises and settlements, ADR, sanctioned offer and sanctioned payment;
- case management, sanctions for non-compliance, pre-trial security;
- aspects of the civil trial, preparation for trials and trial procedures, judgment and costs;
- enforcement of judgements; and
- appeals.

Assessment: 100% examination

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### **LLAW3266 Climate and environmental law in practice (6 credits)**

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

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

Assessment: 50% in-class final exam, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3241 Climate change law and policy (6 credits)**

This course will explore legal and policy responses to global climate change, perhaps the most pressing environmental, economic, and social problem facing the world. Special attention will be given to the

evolution of the international climate change regime, including the principles, provisions, and key features of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), and subsequent protocols and agreements adopted thereunder. Although course readings and discussion will focus on existing and proposed responses to climate change, the overarching aim of the course will be to anticipate how the climate change problem will affect our laws and our lives in the long run. Beyond the general significance of climate change to all of us, the course should be of special interest to those who intend to study and practice international law, environmental law, business law, or administrative law.

Assessment: 60% response papers, 20% final project, 20% class participation

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### **LLAW3088 Commercial dispute resolution in China (6 credits)**

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

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

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

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

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Business Associations

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

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### **LLAW3125 Comparative constitutional law (6 credits)**

This course provides an introduction to comparative constitutional law with a focus on systems of rights protection. After introducing the basic features of modern constitutions, with their emphasis on rights and judicial review, we will focus on the consolidation of the proportionality framework as the dominant, best-practice standard for rights adjudication. Proportionality analysis is a highly intrusive mode of judicial supervision: it permits government to limit rights, but only when necessary to achieve a sufficiently important public interest. Since the 1950s, virtually every powerful domestic and international court has adopted proportionality analysis as the central method for protecting rights. The result has been a massive – and truly global – transformation of law and politics. While there is variance in the intensity of proportionality-based dialogues, such interactions are today at the very heart of governance in the modern constitutional state and in regional human rights regimes.

Assessment: 30% response papers, 70% take home examination

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**LLAW3204 Comparative constitutional law theories (6 credits)**

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

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

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**LLAW3257 Comparative corporate law (6 credits)**

The course consists of a comparative study of the major areas of corporate law in the Anglo-American and common law Asian jurisdictions. The course teacher will examine a series of key problems with which any system of corporate law must deal and will analyse the solutions that have been adopted by these systems from a theoretical, doctrinal and empirical perspective. This comparative study aims to equip students to critically evaluate the corporate law system in their own jurisdictions. Students will be exposed to the key debates and cutting-edge literature. A basic understanding of corporate law is presupposed.

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Business associations / Company law

Assessment: 20% class participation, 40% class presentation, 40% take home examination

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**LLAW3144 Comparative environmental law (6 credits)**

This course is concerned with how various jurisdictions use law to address environmental problems such as air pollution, land contamination, and deforestation.

What are the factors that influence law-making, enforcement and compliance with environmental law in each jurisdiction? What problems arise from the “transplanting” of environmental laws from the developed world to developing countries? What can Hong Kong and mainland China learn from the experiences of the United States (US) and the European Union (EU) in environmental law and policy? How does federalism within States and regional economic integration amongst States (such as in the EU) influence the application of environmental law within a nation? These are some of the questions that will be explored in this course.

A practical approach will be adopted in this course to highlight the various policy trade-offs inherent in designing and implementing environmental law and policy. The course will draw upon examples from Hong Kong, mainland China, the US, the EU and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Assessment: 40% continuous assessment, 60% research paper

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**LLAW3231 Comparative law of elections (6 credits)**

This course will focus on how Asian courts have responded to deficiencies in the electoral processes and the concomitant problem of partisan self-dealing. Specifically, partisan self-dealing occurs when

the political actors devise electoral rules that govern voting, political parties, electoral boundaries, apportionment, the administration of elections, and campaign finance that are designed to entrench themselves in power.

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

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

Assessment: 70% take home paper, 20% two responses papers, 10% class presentation (or 30% mid-term assignment)

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### **LLAW3191 Comparative family law (6 credits)**

The course focuses on family law issues in a comparative and international context and prior knowledge of family law or comparative law is not required. In addition to comparatively studying family law in different jurisdictions, this course will also explore family law from a cultural perspective, covering Christianity, Confucianism, Shintoism, Hinduism, Islam, and so forth. This course will focus more on the theoretical dimensions of family law. Students who are interested in legal doctrines and technical issues are suggested to take Principles of Family Law.

Topics in the course will include: different understandings of family; “family law exceptionalism” in comparative law; the construction of marriage and cohabitation; the grounds for divorce; legal effects of divorce; parenthood and parental responsibility; children’s rights; gender issues in family law.

Assessment: 50% mid-term essay, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3156 Comparative remedies in trust law (6 credits)**

This course seeks to compare the laws between Anglo-common law jurisdictions and mainland China in relation to remedies available for breach of trust. While the trust has been well established in Anglo-common law jurisdictions, it is relatively new to mainland China, which promulgated the Trust Law in 2001.

The Chinese Trust Law puts in place a general framework for establishing trusts, but leaves a considerable part of the remedies for breach of trust to general remedial principles in civil and commercial laws. Accordingly, the objectives of the present course are two-fold: (1) to compare closely remedies for breaches of common law as opposed to Chinese trusts; (2) to evaluate the merits and demerits of both systems. It is hoped that students will acquire a better appreciation of the importance of the remedial framework in the effectiveness of the trust institution, and the difficulties facing any civil law jurisdiction in adopting the trust.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3123 Competition law I (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to basic concepts of competition law (known as antitrust law in the US). 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 US 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

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### **LLAW3124 Competition law II (6 credits)**

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: 50% take home examination, 25% commentary, 20% presentation, 5% participation

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### **LLAW3199 Competition law and intellectual property (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the interface between intellectual property laws and competition law in the United States. 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.

Most of the thorniest issues in the interface between intellectual property laws and competition law arise under patent law. As such, this course will largely focus on the patent competition interface. The course will focus on issues including intellectual property enforcement, tying, unilateral refusal to deal, deceptive conduct in standard-setting organizations, predatory product design, and various kinds of collusive conduct.

Assessment: 30% oral presentation, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3236 Competition law in the digital economy (6 credits)**

With the rise of data-driven markets, competition around privacy has become a main concern for individuals and regulatory organizations. Of similar concern is the ability of dominant actors to favour their own content and to steer and redirect parts of the customer's journey on the internet. Meanwhile, decisions taken by consumers are increasingly made passively through implicit or explicit product matching and personalized recommendations rather than through active choice. New technologies recommend and purchase products based on spoken, written or inferred requests obtained from users of digital platforms or devices such as mobile phones, speakers and smart assistants.

This course focuses on distinct principles and case law (e.g., Facebook, Google, Apple, Amazon) pertaining to competition in data-driven markets. This includes: the elusive problem of how quality, rather than price, competition works; how consumers can navigate data-driven markets when conventional market mechanisms are no longer the main disciplining forces on the behaviour of dominant actors; and the conditions under which different regulatory instruments such as ex ante and/or ex post legal interventions – including market studies and market investigations – can effectively address the predicaments of data-driven markets.

Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of EU competition law relating to digital markets (social media, search, app stores, online marketplaces) and will be able to compare and assess these developments in light of emerging litigation in the US.

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

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### **LLAW3098 Constitutional and administrative law in the PRC (6 credits)**

This course consists of two parts. The first part of the course examines the following topics: (1) China's constitutional development and reform, (2) the state system, (3) The status of the Chinese Communist Party, (4) citizen's rights and obligations, and (5) the social and economic system. Through comparative studies, students are expected to understand the major differences between the concepts under the Chinese Constitution and the features of western liberal constitutionalism and the difficulties, as well as perspectives, for China's constitutional reform.

The second part of the course focuses on China's administrative law system. Topics of this part include (1) historical foundation and development of the administrative system in China, (2) comparative studies of Chinese and western administrative law system, (3) administrative review including administrative reconsideration, punishment, and supervision, (4) judicial review or administrative litigation, and (5) state compensation. In contrast to the first part, this part is mainly conducted through case study format. Students are expected to analyse the issues in the cases by applying relevant laws and regulations.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3196 Constitutionalism in emerging states (6 credits)**

This seminar will examine comparative constitutional law in emerging states. The international debate over human rights and development often takes a top-down perspective (especially in human rights courses), asking what international institutions can do to better address issues of development, government power, human rights and human dignity. This course reverses this perspective, looking at these central issues of our time through a bottom-up constitutional lens. Unlike traditional comparative constitutional law courses that focus on established constitutional systems, this seminar will give greater emphasis to the development context and emerging states. With democratization in Latin America and East Asia, the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the economic and developmental crisis in Africa and South Asia and the Arab Spring, the debate over constitutionalism and its mission has taken on global

dimensions. This debate addresses a range of questions. For example, will the rule of law and democracy better promote economic development? Can constitutional institutions such as judicial review, freedom of expression and democracy be successfully established in all societies? What are the cultural dimensions of this problem? Has liberal democracy failed the poor? Does constitutionalism travel well? What institutional emphases might better serve a post-communist society, a very poor underdeveloped country, a rapidly developing society? Does liberal constitutionalism better respond to crises? Will “illiberal democracy” work better? Addressing these questions has become an interdisciplinary project with law, political science and other disciplines.

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

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### **LLAW3067 Construction law (6 credits)**

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the subject of construction law in Hong Kong including

- the construction industry in context
- roles and relationships of the professions engaged in construction and their regulation
- controls over building
- traditional and new forms of contracting
- procurement strategy and risk management
- tendering and contract formation
- liability in tort and contract
- contractor's and employer's obligations
- responsibility for design, defective buildings and subsequent owners
- time and payment issues
- preparation and defence of contractor's claims
- insurance and bonds
- nominated, named and domestic subcontractors and suppliers
- financial remedies for breach of contract
- suspension and determination of construction contracts

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3223 Construction of commercial contracts (6 credits)**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principles of construction of 42 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 the Law of Contract (LLAW 1001 & 1002).

Assessment: 70% take home assignment, 30% group project

### **LLAW3202 Contract drafting and selected legal issues in commercial practice (6 credits)**

This course examines selected topics of Law, including in Contract Law, which are fundamental to commercial practice and the understanding of some commonly seen commercial contracts. The course begins with a refresher on Contract Law. It then proceeds to introduce the fundamental shape, structure and organisation of commercial contracts by looking at various commonly seen commercial contracts. The course also introduces some basic contract drafting skills and plain English writing skills. It then examines the aspects of Law and some technical drafting issues that are routinely encountered by the practitioner by reviewing various essential Common Law concepts and considering the Common Law's attitudes to the commercial world.

This course will be conducted by way of weekly interactive seminars, with the use of practical and interesting case studies and exercises.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 35% written assignment, 55% take home examination

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### **LLAW3200 Copyright and creativity (6 credits)**

The course investigates the relationship between copyright protection and creativity by targeting at creative sectors such as film, music, publishing, and software sectors. 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 been benefited from or impeded by copyright protection, how "fair use" system 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 initiative are helpful in promoting creativity, and finally, how to capitalise 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 that the copyright laws and creative sectors are examined include but not limited to Hong Kong, the mainland China, the United States and European Union.

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

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### **LLAW3017 Copyright law (6 credits)**

Economic, social and other justifications for copyright protection.  
Requirements for copyright protection under the relevant copyright statutes.  
Rights subsisting under a copyright and its infringement.  
The law relating to industrial designs.  
Reforms of copyright law.  
Comparative study of copyright law in the People's Republic of China and/or Taiwan.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3232 Courts (6 credits)**

Many courts around the world are becoming salient actors, but what exactly are courts? And what are they for? This course takes an interdisciplinary approach on politically relevant questions concerning the design and operation of courts. Potential topics include the basic functions of courts; the nature and basis of judicial power; the dynamics between judicial actors and other socio-political actors; the practical effects of judicial review; whether judicial review is counter-majoritarian; the role of courts

across different regime types; the challenges of defining and achieving judicial independence; and the ways through which courts expand into the domain of politics. We will also apply what we have learnt to explore the role that courts play in political systems of different corners of the globe.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 20% presentation, 70% essay

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### **LLAW3184 Credit and security law (6 credits)**

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, and
- remedies.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% examination

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

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

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

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

Assessment: 20% group presentation, 30% individual weekly self-review/reflection exercise, 50% examination

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**LLAW3018 Criminology (6 credits)**

Criminology involves a study of the phenomenon of crime and will involve a consideration of the following areas: the definition and nature of crime; the justification and theories of punishment; the various schools which provide perspectives on the understanding of the etiology of crime; the treatment of the offender and crime prevention and control.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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**LLAW3211 Critical theory in legal scholarship (6 credits)**

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

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

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**LLAW3182 Cross border corporate finance: issues and techniques (6 credits)**

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

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**LLAW3245 Cross border corporate insolvency: issues and solutions (6 credits)**

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

The course covers:

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

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

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

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

The conflicts considerations and treatment are as necessary before as upon a transnational corporate collapse. Lawyers and investment bankers advising on financing transactions should anticipate and address these issues in the terms of the contracts or in the structuring the financing so that their financier clients are protected in the insolvency of the borrower.

The course should be useful to those who intend to have an international practice, or to work in the corporate, insolvency or financial sectors.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed one of the following categories:

1. Company law by whatever name called including Business associations
2. Private international law (conflict of laws) or courses rooted in conflict of laws
3. Insolvency law by whatever name called
4. LLAW3182 Cross border corporate finance: issues and techniques
5. Significant practical experience in insolvency or conflict of laws

Assessment: 70% research paper, 30% oral presentation and defense of paper

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### **LLAW3195 Current issues in Chinese law (6 credits)**

This course will highlight one or more areas of contemporary Chinese commercial law and practice of importance to foreign trade, investment or finance in the People's Republic of China. The subject matter to be covered in the course is not fixed and will vary from year to year. Students will be apprised in advance of the subject of the course to be offered. A reading knowledge of simplified Chinese characters would be desirable.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3100 Current issues in comparative commercial law (6 credits)**

Consumer protection: product liability; statutory duties; exemption clauses and control thereof.

Personal property security interest: retention of title, hire purchase, finance lease, sale and mortgage hire back, chattel mortgage, etc.

Carriage and storage of goods: general introduction with emphasis on carriers and warehousemen as bailees.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3092 Current issues in insolvency law (6 credits)**

Insolvency cases in Hong Kong are at an all-time high and the entire insolvency legal regime – including the bankruptcy of individuals and the liquidation and rescue of companies – is in transition. This course

will cover both personal and corporate insolvency and will address the ongoing initiatives to reform Hong Kong law.

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

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3019 Current legal controversies (6 credits)**

The main objective of this course is to examine two or more topical legal issues in Hong Kong and place them in their social and political context. This will both encourage a more profound understanding of 'law in action' in specified areas, and serve as an opportunity to bring students up to date in subjects they have studied, but which may have changed in important respects since they studied them. It also allows for a broader analysis of legal problems, their genesis, development and effect than is possible in other courses. This analysis seeks where possible to straddle the borders of discrete law subjects and to consider the general question of the reform of the law.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW 3101 Cybercrime (6 credits)**

'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

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### **LLAW3127 Dealing with legacies of human rights violations (6 credits)**

This course will examine the ways that nations around the world have dealt with, and are dealing with, legacies of gross violations of human rights of the past. It will draw from several disciplines but will be dominated by the legal approach which is firmly rooted in the right to an effective remedy for gross violations of human rights and the duty of States to investigate, prosecute and punish such acts. Issues to be examined will include the policy choices that nations emerging from sustained periods of

repression or armed conflict have to make, and the types of mechanisms that have been employed by countries that have sought to deal with such situations. The course will, inter alia, examine whether there is a chasm between the striking promises made by the ubiquitous use of terminology such as ‘truth’, ‘justice’, ‘healing’ and ‘reconciliation’ and reality. How does public opinion, most significantly, the views of victims and survivors, fit into international diplomacy and local politics? What role can traditional dispute resolution play? The course will also examine the work and effectiveness of international criminal tribunals, ‘internationalised domestic courts’, commissions of inquiry, and other methods of reckoning with past wrongs in societies around the world, as well as consideration of new processes that are evolving.

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

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### **LLAW3237 Designing dispute resolution systems: public and private sector applications in a global perspective (6 credits)**

This course explores the design of mechanisms and processes oriented toward the resolution of conflict in both the public and private sector. The course will cover creative problem solving, organizational dispute resolution, sustainability and principles of conflict management in diverse regions. The approach of the course will be both theoretical and participatory in nature. Students will participate in a group action-research project involving one area of dispute system design.

Assessment: 100% action / research paper

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### **LLAW3179 Digital copyright (6 credits)**

The course will examine issues relating to copyrights in digital media.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3119 Dispute settlement in the WTO: practice and procedure (6 credits)**

This course is a specialised seminar on issues that arise in the context of WTO law and its dispute settlement processes. It will unfold along three themes: the foundations of WTO law; the law and policy of dispute settlement in the WTO; and, practice and procedure before WTO dispute settlement and arbitral Panels and Appellate Body (AB). The first theme will review the sources of WTO law, its relationship with, and status within, the legal systems of WTO members. This includes an analysis of the standards of WTO review applicable to national measures applied by its Members within their own domestic legal systems, and the effects of WTO dispute settlement mechanisms on certain fundamental dimensions of national sovereignty.

The second theme will consider the provisions that establish and govern the processes and institutions for the settlement of disputes in the WTO. The principles that govern WTO dispute settlement will be explored, and the WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) will be examined in some detail. Equally, particular attention will be given to specialised rules that are applicable to the settlement of disputes arising from the operation of a number of WTO Multilateral Agreements on Trade in Goods (MTAs), the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), and the Plurilateral Trade Agreements.

The third theme will address issues concerning the scope of the jurisdiction of the WTO Panels and AB, practice and procedure related to claims and defences, stages of pleadings involved before the Panels and AB, evidentiary requirements, adoption and implementation of the decisions (“reports”) of the

Panels and AB, as well as available remedies for breach of WTO obligations, and in particular, for failure to implement a Panel or AB decision.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3117 Economic, social and cultural rights (6 credits)**

This course will begin with a discussion of the theoretical and historical development of economic, social and cultural rights (“ESC rights”) under the international human rights system. It will then examine the sources of ESC rights, the obligations of states and the implementation of ESC rights at both international and domestic levels. Among the substantive contents of ESC rights, the course will study the right to food, the right to water, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to work, the right to social welfare, and the right to housing. The course will also look at approaches to monitoring and advocacy strategies for the realization of ESC rights.

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

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### **LLAW3063 Emerging markets: finance and investment (6 credits)**

Consideration of the fundamental regulatory and contractual aspects of financing and investment in developing countries and transitioning economies. Specific subject matter will include the role of law in economic reforms, financial sector reforms in emerging economies, basics of infrastructure financing from the countries perspective, debt rescheduling, privatisation, regulation of foreign direct investment and related dispute resolution considerations from the emerging countries perspective.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3218 Energy law (6 credits)**

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: 30% class participation and presentations, 70% examination

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### **LLAW3071 Equality and non-discrimination (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% essay

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### **LLAW3267 Equity financing (6 credits)**

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

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

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Company Law

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% research essay

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### **LLAW3268 Essential lawyering skills in practice (6 credits)**

This course aims at equipping future lawyers with the necessary practical skills in legal practice, focusing particularly on three major facets, namely, a lawyer's interaction and relationship building with clients, a lawyer's interaction and relationship with people in the workplace, and the self-development of a lawyer.

Success in the practice of law pivots on the skills to understand, analyse and resolve people's problems. Those are the practical skills that distinguish a notable lawyer from an ordinary one. This course aims at fostering awareness of the human side of legal practice, as well as the practice of essential relational skills and emotional competencies on interacting with clients, and people in the workplace. Hence, it encompasses the learning and practice of various essential communication skills, principles, and practices of negotiation and persuasion as well as the understanding and management of emotions. This course instills professional ethics and core values in students so that they can understand the rationale and practical significance of avoiding conflicts of interest and the duty to act in the best interest of the client. This course also nurtures self-awareness so that students can recognize their own values, beliefs and attitudes and the effect of these elements on a lawyer's professional life.

This course is intended to be interactive; apart from course readings and written assignments, there will be class exercises, role-plays and student presentations to enhance the practical learning of the skills

and techniques taught in the programme.

Assessment: 15% group project, 20% interaction and communication skills exercise, 25% professional ethics exercise, 40% conflict management essay

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### **LLAW3247 Ethical lawyering for public interest (6 credits)**

This course will introduce students to ethical lawyering for public interest. It seeks to enhance the knowledge, skills *and in particular, legal ethics and professionalism* required of students interested in pro bono and other public interest works in both private and public sectors. The course will *teach through experiential learning* in the form of engaging in dialogues with lawyers and other stakeholders in different public interest law practice areas, as well as court visit.

The seminars are based on the five broad themes: (1) legal ethics and professionalism in lawyering; (2) connection between professional values and lawyers' roles and practice; (3) relationship between lawyering and public interest; (4) professionalism and public interest lawyering; and (5) public interest lawyering skills and strategies.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% legal writing

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### **LLAW3091 Ethnicity, human rights and democracy (6 credits)**

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

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

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### **LLAW3102 Evidence I (6 credits)<sup>†</sup>**

The course covers the major topics typically included in an introductory evidence course: relevance, admissibility, residual discretion, burden and standards of proof, proof without evidence (presumptions, judicial notice and formal admissions), competence and compellability, refreshing memory, attacking credibility, prior statements, character evidence, similar fact evidence, opinion and expert evidence, hearsay, confessions, consciousness of guilt, exclusion of evidence for violations of human rights, and legal professional privilege. The emphasis in this course is on rules of admissibility as opposed to trial procedure. However, a full understanding of these rules and their rationale requires a basic appreciation of trial procedures and practices. Consequently, students are advised to gain some knowledge of trial procedures early on in the course.

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

Assessment: 80% examination, 20% tutorial participation

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

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

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

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

Assessment: 25% continuous assessment, 75% examination

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### **LLAW3258 Financial regulations and compliance (6 credits)**

This course covers financial regulations and compliance relevant to intermediaries (company and individuals) licensed or registered with the Securities and Futures Commission to engage in regulated activities. Embedded in regulations and compliance are ethics, professional standards and applicable laws. Topics include, but are not limited to, ethics, professional standards, code of conducts and best practices, know your clients, sales and suitability, investor protection, anti-money laundering, timely and accurate communications, independence and objectivity, fair dealing, compliance issues and compliance handling, relevant local rules and regulations and international best practices for investment professionals. Selected cases will be used for discussion in class.

The aim of the course is to develop students' understanding of the regulatory framework relevant to regulated activities. Students are expected to acquire knowledge of the relevant regulations and the ability to appreciate and/or challenge the current rules and regulations applicable to the industry. Students should be able to comprehend the importance of ethics, risk and compliance culture in dealing with clients, investors and other stakeholders.

Assessment: 5% class participation, 15% in-class presentation, 25% mid-term assignment, 55% final take home examination

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### **LLAW3220 Gender, sexuality and the law (6 credits)**

This course explores the ways in which law regulates sexual behavior, and considers the roles it plays in constructing sexual identities. It examines issues recurrent in discussions of gender and sexuality, including the oppositions between normalcy and deviancy, the public and the private, and autonomy and community. Comparative perspectives will be considered where appropriate. While the course focuses on case law and doctrine, it also has a strong jurisprudential dimension, and includes extensive readings in legal and cultural theory.

Assessment: 45% final essay, 25% mid-term essay, 15% class presentation, 15% class participation

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### **LLAW3165 Global business law I (6 credits)**

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: 70% take home examination, 30% class participation

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### **LLAW3166 Global business law II (6 credits)**

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 students 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: 70% take home examination, 30% class participation

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### **LLAW3169 Globalisation and human rights (6 credits)**

The course explores the relationship between rights and globalisation. Globalisation is a complex process whereby ideas, technologies, people, and capital move from one place to another, resulting in the greater integration of the world. The spread of the idea of human rights itself, particularly under the aegis of the United Nations, is itself a consequence of globalisation. At the same time, there are other trends in globalisation which threaten the enjoyment of rights: the rise of corporate power, the weakening of state authority, the dominance of the market as the matrix for social, political and economic power, and the downgrading of social rights. Globalisation enables us to explore the connections between political and economic rights, the limitations of rights as applied only against state

authorities, and the debate on universalism versus relativism as different cultures are juxtaposed with the movements of peoples and cultures.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3080 Governance and law (6 credits)**

This course seeks to understand why the state regulates certain activities and behavior in society, what different forms of regulation exist, when and what kind of legal regulation is deemed necessary, how legal regulation is enforced, and the checks and balances against abuse in enforcement. The main objective of the course is to explore the interface between the study of politics and law in understanding governance. Relevant case studies will be included for illustration and discussion.

Assessment: 50% examination, 25% research paper, 25% group project presentation

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### **LLAW3203 Guided research (6 credits)**

This course is about legal scholarship. Students will acquire the skills of effective legal writing and research (including the selection of research topic; different research methodology/techniques; framing of and responding to critical legal argument; how to avoid plagiarism) through producing a research paper under the supervision of a faculty member and participating in a series of seminar sessions. Learning activities during the seminars will consist of discussing the goals and challenges of legal research and scholarship, presenting one's own research topic/idea, and constructive engagement with others about their research.

Given the unique manner in which this course is conducted as compared to other law courses, students should pay particular attention to the following administrative matters when selecting the course.

First, students are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to supervise the students on their research projects. Different faculty members have different considerations and requirements on the decision to supervise a student, but it is typically expected that the student when approaching the faculty member should have a reasonably viable research topic/proposal that falls into the research/teaching interest of the proposed supervisor. Students are strongly encouraged to secure the consent of their desired supervisor prior to the end of the add/drop period. Failure to do so run the risk of not being able to find a supervisor and/or complete the required paper within the time constraint of a semester – and the consequential failure of the course. On the flip side, students may, if approved by their respective supervisors, begin their supervised research and writing prior to the formal registration of the course (e.g., in the presiding summer vacation prior to registration in Semester 1, or in Semester 1 prior to registration in Semester 2).

Second, as reflected in the 10% classwork mark, the workshop meeting sessions are integral to the educational objectives of this course. Failure to regularly attend and participate in the meeting sessions will result in averse deduction in the 10% classwork mark, including a zero score. Conflicting schedule with other classes/tutorials, overseas exchange, internship etc are not acceptable reasons for absence, so please plan accordingly when making your course selection.

Third, the expected word count of the research paper is between 6000 to 8000 words. To qualify for a Designated Research Course credit, the word count of the paper cannot be less than 5000 words.

Assessment: 90% research paper, 10% classwork

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### **LLAW3217 Guided research II (6 credits)**

This course is about legal scholarship. Students will acquire the skills of effective legal writing and research (including the choosing of research topic; different research methodology/techniques; framing of and responding to critical legal argument; problem of plagiarism) through producing a research paper under the supervision of a faculty member and participating in a series of workshop meeting sessions. Learning activities during the meeting sessions will primarily consist of presenting one's research topic/idea, engaging in others' research topic/idea, and collective discussions about the characteristics of good legal scholarship.

Given the unique manner in which this course is conducted as compared to other law courses, students should pay particular attention to the following administrative matters when selecting the course.

First, students are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to supervise the students on their research projects. Different faculty members have different considerations and requirements on the decision to supervise a student, but it is typically expected that the student when approaching the faculty member should have a reasonably viable research topic/proposal that falls into the research/teaching interest of the proposed supervisor. Students are strongly encouraged to secure the consent of their desired supervisor prior to the end of the add/drop period. Failure to do so run the risk of not being able to find a supervisor and/or complete the required paper within the time constraint of a semester – and the consequential failure of the course. On the flip side, students may, if approved by their respective supervisor, begin their supervised research and writing prior to the formal registration of the course (e.g., in the presiding summer vacation prior to registration in Semester 1, or in Semester 1 prior to registration in Semester 2).

Second, as reflected in the 10% class participation mark, the workshop meeting sessions are integral to the educational objectives of this course. Failure to regularly attend and participate in the meeting sessions will result in averse deduction in the 10% class participation mark, including a zero score. Conflicting schedule with other classes/tutorials, overseas exchange, internship etc are not acceptable reasons for absence, so please plan accordingly when making your course selection.

Third, the expected word count of the research paper is between 6000 to 8000 words, though the supervisor may stipulate otherwise. To qualify for a Designated Research Course credit, the word count of the paper cannot be less than 5000 words.

Pre-requisite / co-requisite: Have taken and passed (or concurrently taking) LLAW3203 Guided research

Assessment: 90% research paper, 10% class participation

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### **LLAW3133 Healthcare law (6 credits)**

Health care structure in Hong Kong: private health care and Hospital Authority; health insurance; complaint and investigation procedures; Hong Kong Medical Council and professional misconduct; other healthcare professionals e.g. psychotherapist and radiologist.

Medical treatment: consent to medical treatment; assessment of competence; role of expert witness; consent by and on behalf of a MIP and MHO; voluntary patients; compulsory detention; mental health review tribunals; medical negligence.

Beginning life: family planning; contraception; sterilization; abortion; child destruction; infanticide, wrongful conception, and wrongful life.

Confidentiality: access to medical records; personal data and privacy; reporting statutes; AIDs; protection of genetic information.

Use of body parts and bodily materials; human experimentation: embryo and fetal research; rules governing clinical trials; liability for injuries; the role of institutional ethics committee.

Complimentary medicine: Chinese medicine; Chinese Medical Council; integrating Chinese medicine

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3047 Hong Kong Basic Law (6 credits)**

The background to the Basic Law (the Joint Declaration and the process of drafting and agreeing on the Basic Law), basic Chinese and Western liberal constitutional concepts relevant to an understanding of the structure and orientation of the Basic Law, the relationship of the Basic Law to the Chinese Constitution, the relationship between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Chinese central government, the institutional structure of the Hong Kong SAR, especially the relationship between the executive and the legislature, the concept and special aspects of ‘one country, two systems’ (e.g. the economic system preserved in the Basic Law), human rights, judicial review and constitutional litigation.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3110 Human rights and cyberspace (6 credits)**

The exponential growth of the Internet and World-wide web provides great opportunities for and poses significant challenges to enjoyment of human rights in many years. This course will examine a number of areas in which the Internet revolution has provided new tools and opportunities for promoting the enjoyment of human rights, as well as for enabling violations of human rights:

- The use of the Internet for building human rights networks for the dissemination of information and the co-ordination of action at national and international levels.
- Issues of access to technology, in particular the opportunities for persons with certain disabilities provided by IT developments, the problems of accessibility and the legal obligations of e-service providers to ensure that their services are accessible to persons with disabilities.
- The use of the Internet for the dissemination of racist material and other forms of offensive material.
- Cyberstalking and harassment through the Internet.
- The global dimensions of the Internet: the difference between rich and poor, the issue of language.
- Gender and the Internet.
- Freedom of expression and the Internet.
- Jurisdictional and substantive law problems in relation to human rights and the Internet.
- Use of the Internet by non-governmental organisations for building international networks and co-ordinating activism of human rights issues.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% participation

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### **LLAW3168 Human rights and governance (6 credits)**

This course will examine the international and regional guarantees of the right to self-determination, its relationship with the democratic process and other democratic rights, sovereignty and self-determination, and the rights of minorities. The course may include particular emphasis on the relationship between human rights and the process of democratisation or transition from authoritarian regimes to democratic governments.

Assessment: 100% take home essay

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### **LLAW3022 Human rights in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

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

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

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

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### **LLAW3083 Human rights: history, theory and politics (6 credits)**

This course will consider the evolution of concepts of human rights from historical, political, theoretical and philosophical perspectives. The Western traditions of human rights and the challenges to them will be examined. The issue of universal standards and cultural relativism and the political economy of human rights will also be examined, including the challenge to the dominant Western paradigms by the proponents of Asian values in interpreting and implementing human rights. Theoretical and practical questions relating to violations of human rights by non-State actors will also be considered, as will the impact of globalisation on the enjoyment of human rights. Feminist challenges to the dominant models and practice of human rights will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3259 Innovation, creativity and ethics for globalized legal practice (6 credits)**

In post-COVID-19 era, lawyers face unprecedented legal, ethical and business challenges arising from the fast changing global environment. However, globalized legal practice also presents new opportunities for innovative and creative lawyers. The Internet and other new media are radically transforming globalized legal practice.

This course uses cutting edge hypothetical scenarios and real cases in Hong Kong, Australia and United States to (a) teach how lawyers adopt innovation and creativity to promote practice and access to justice in the post-COVID-19 era and (b) expose students to the serious legal and ethical consequence that may follow from seemingly trivial decisions in legal practice.

The course will also be the first course in Hong Kong and Asia to teach mindful ethics to help law students cope with pressures brought about by current legal studies and future legal careers in post-COVID-19 era. It will also share insights on how legal mindfulness can help them reduce stress and develop ethical decision-making strategies. In particular, it teaches them how to practice mindful communications, mindful actions and mindful livelihood in their daily lives to develop themselves into innovative, creative and ethical lawyers.

The course will include a research paper to afford students the opportunity to research on innovative, creative and ethical aspects (including mindful ethics) of legal practice. This course will enhance the learning experience of students and the frequency and quality of interactions between students, teachers

and guest speakers. Students will learn from innovative, creative and ethical lawyers, including “NewLaw” practitioners, and local and overseas experts in mindful ethics.

Key topics of this course include:

- Introducing Concepts of Innovation, Creativity and Ethics & Their Importance to the Practice of Law
- Legal Process Innovations and Design Thinking for Asian Legal Practices
- Mindful Ethics for Globalized Legal Practice
- Alternative Forms of Legal Services Delivery in Australia
- Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence and Big Data: Technological Transformation of Globalized Legal Practice
- Alternative Forms of Legal Services in UK
- Innovations and Creativity in Law Firm Marketing
- Ethical Issues in Globalized Legal Practice I: Conflicts of Interests
- Ethical Issues in Globalized Legal Practice II: Confidentiality
- Ethical Issues in Globalized Legal Practice III: Technological Competence

Assessment: 10% class participation, 45% group project, 45% reflective essay

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### **LLAW3023 Insolvency law (6 credits)**

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. Feedback from students in previous years suggests that successful completion of this course has put them in a strong position to acquire trainee contracts, as this course is deemed highly relevant by their employers and has proven invaluable.

Co-requisite: Having taken and passed (or concurrently taking) Business associations

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% oral presentation

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### **LLAW3024 Insurance law (6 credits)**

While insurance law is significant in its own right it also plays a critical role in the development of other branches of the law. Insurance contracts obviously underpin commercial transactions, particularly contracts for goods and services (including consumer contracts) and international trade. Insurance law also pervades the policy issues not always openly avowed in the reasoning of the courts when deciding negligence cases and claims for breach of statutory duty. At its root, insurance is the means by which a party, the insured, shifts the *risk* of suffering a loss (for example, property, life, credit or product liability) to another party, the insurer. As a specialist area of the law of contract, there is a rich body of case law together with a range of statutory interventions. There is a rejuvenated movement pressing for reform and the English and Scottish Law Commissions in an ongoing project which began in 2006 have revisited insurance law after a gap of some 25 years. As a result, two significant UK statutes on insurance contract law were passed in 2012 and 2015. Hong Kong is likely to follow suit.

The course covers the history and operation of the insurance market; regulation of insurance; the definition of insurance contracts; risk spreading; the importance and reform of the concepts of “Insurable Interest” and “Utmost Good Faith”; the role of intermediaries; the specific terms of insurance contracts; how losses and claims under insurance contracts are dealt with; and the rights of insurers.

Pre-requisites: Have taken and passed Law of contract I and II, Commercial law

Assessment: 100% examination

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### **LLAW3238 Intellectual property and conflict of laws (6 credits)**

The internet brings us into everyday contact with multijurisdictional law. Copyright determines what we can lawfully view, download, link, or stream. But which country’s copyright law applies? Contract in terms of agreement to terms of access to a website and its offerings, ‘clickwrap’ and ‘browsewrap’ agreements, all raise questions of which legal system has jurisdiction. A website may consist of trademarks, patents and copyright in data, pictures, video music, computer programs to name but a few. When we pay for access to material on a website and it is not available, or not available under our domestic ‘fair dealing’ exceptions to copyright infringement, can we circumvent any technical protection measure (TPM) which restricts our access? All these, and they are merely a few examples, raise issues of the interaction between intellectual property and conflict of laws.

In addition transshipment of goods via Hong Kong has long meant goods manufactured in the mainland may infringe certain Hong Kong intellectual property laws as they move through the SAR. Sovereign states outside Hong Kong have in the past and may in future assert jurisdiction over the infringements which occur by transshipment through Hong Kong. This is but a further example of conflict of laws and intellectual property.

This course attempts to identify and explore from a comparative perspective, private international law rules or the conflict of laws in relation to intellectual property in Hong Kong.

This course aims at broadening the scope of intellectual property discussion and enriching students’ learning experience.

Assessment: 80% examination, 20% class participation

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**LLAW3084 Intellectual property and information technology (6 credits)**

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 class will look 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.

Prior IP or IT knowledge is not required.

Assessment: 40% in-class assessment, 60% research paper

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**LLAW3104 Intellectual property, innovation and development (6 credits)**

This course examines the interplay between intellectual property law, innovation 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 have 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: 50% oral presentation, 50% take home examination

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**LLAW3155 Intellectual property law and philosophy (6 credits)**

This course aims to engage students in theoretical and policy discussions on Intellectual Property (“IP”). Students shall study doctrines and requirements of the substantive law including the latest legislative and case law developments, and debate and challenge their theoretical underpinnings. Students will be able to assess the IP regime in light of policy considerations such as freedom of speech, knowledge acquisition, creativity proliferation, human development and the overarching notion of justice.

Assessment: 60% take home examination, 30% class presentation, 10% class participation

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**LLAW3085 International and comparative intellectual property law (6 credits)**

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.

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed (or concurrently taking) other IP laws

Assessment: 60% take home examination, 40% mid-term take home assessment

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### **LLAW3086 International and regional protection of human rights (6 credits)**

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

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

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

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### **LLAW3072 International business taxation (6 credits)**

This course aims to provide students considering pursuing a career in corporate or commercial law, accounting or wealth management with the theoretical and practical skills to identify and analyse domestic and cross-border tax issues and to advise effectively both corporate and individual clients. Taxation plays a critical role in commercial transactions and corporate structuring in Hong Kong and throughout the world. This course will focus on a close examination of the Inland Revenue Ordinance and of the extensive case law on point. On a practical level, we will also consider relevant guidance and practice notes of the Inland Revenue Department, with a view to enabling students to understand how Hong Kong and international taxation operate in practice and to develop strategic and commercial awareness. Having acquired a sound theoretical basis in revenue law, students will be expected to apply that knowledge to tax structures and issues commonly encountered by corporations and high net worth individuals in Hong Kong and around the world. We will further cover tax policy issues, including an analysis of Hong Kong's territorial taxing jurisdiction, international taxation, broadly-based indirect taxation and taxation compliance, with a view to providing an understanding of Hong Kong tax in the broader social, political, and international contexts. The course will introduce students to international taxation and tax planning and provide a firm grounding in Double Taxation Treaties.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 40% take home mid-term assessment, 50% take home final assessment

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### **LLAW3111 International commercial arbitration (6 credits)**

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 for 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

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### **LLAW3025 International commercial litigation (6 credits)**

The course will examine in depth a number of important public and private international law issues from the perspective of international commercial litigation.

The areas to be covered may include: introduction to litigation and procedure in Hong Kong, Mareva injunctions and Anton Piller orders, the jurisdiction of Hong Kong courts over persons, firms and corporations, extended jurisdiction under HCR, Order 11, the exercise of discretion on the grounds of *lis alibi pendens* and *forum non conveniens*, choice of jurisdiction clauses, and *res judicata*. Reference will be made to the position in other countries, e.g. Australia, Canada, the US and Mainland PRC, as well as in Europe under the Brussels and Lugano Conventions.

The course will also deal with the issue of state immunity, the taking of evidence in other jurisdictions, and the enforcement of foreign judgements and arbitral awards in Hong Kong under the common law and statutory regimes.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3076 International commercial transactions (6 credits)**

The topic of international commercial transactions touches on a number of legal frameworks that govern international business. The various frameworks consist of a patchwork of national and international, governmental and private-sector laws, agreements and mandatory or voluntary codes of conduct. This course will be presented in four parts, and in each part, relevant laws and decisions of tribunals in various jurisdictions in Asia are comparatively considered to present a range of issues arising in contemporary practice. It will begin with an introduction and examination of commercial and legal implications of terms-of-art frequently used in international sales agreements, shipping contracts, insurance and financing arrangements, and customs documentation. International efforts to unify or harmonise definitions and their legal implications, as well as rules that govern the interpretation of contractual terms, such as the 2000 Inco-terms, ICC Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits, 1980 Vienna Convention on the International Sale of Goods, and UNIDROIT principles, will be discussed. Agency, distribution, technology and intellectual property transfers, and e-commerce, as

widespread and emerging modes of conducting international business, the legal issues inherent in each form, and associated regulation will be considered. Issues related to international sales agreements, shipping contracts, insurance and financing arrangements, and customs documentation. Issues related to international investment agreements involving governments will be examined. Special problems related to corruption and money-laundering will be discussed. Significant attention will be paid to the settlement of international commercial and investment disputes, which will include an examination of special problems associated with the recognition and enforcement of awards and judgments.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3078 International economic law (6 credits)**

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

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### **LLAW3134 International environmental law (6 credits)**

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 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 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. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3026 International human rights (6 credits)**

The course will include a common element and an optional component. The common element is divided into two parts: (a) conceptual issues and (b) modalities for prescribing, invoking, appraising and implementing human rights. The first part will include an introduction to the concept of human rights and development of international human rights law. The second part will examine the techniques and procedures in protecting human rights, including reporting procedure, fact-finding commission, role and functions of various official institutions and non-governmental organizations, domestic absorption of international standards, sanctions and humanitarian intervention.

The optional component will vary from year to year, depending on teachers' expertise and students' interest. It will cover one or more of the following areas: (a) an in-depth study of one of the human rights conventions, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, the Convention Against Torture or the Inter-American Convention of Human Rights, their modus operandi, cases and practices, and a critical appraisal of the system; (b) a study on contemporary international human rights issues, such as protection of minorities, non-discrimination, nationality and refugees; (c) a comparative study of constitutional protection of human rights in selected countries.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3175 International humanitarian law (6 credits)**

International Humanitarian Law (IHL), also known as the Law of Armed Conflict, is the body of rules and principles that govern how forces are to act once hostilities have broken out. The IHL regime is designed to make armed conflict less barbaric by protecting certain groups, such as civilians, wounded, sick, shipwrecked, prisoners of war, and religious personnel, and by prohibiting certain methods and means of warfare. This course critically explores these rules and principles, as well as their application in various situations, with the aim to better promoting the objectives of this regime. Emphasis also is placed on developing creative ways to improve this legal regime.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3158 International law in a world of crises (6 credits)**

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

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

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

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**LLAW3058 International mooting competition (6 credits)**

Students who have been selected as members of the team to represent the University of Hong Kong in one of the designated competitions in the International Mooting Programme of the Faculty of Law are eligible to enroll in this course

These competitions may involve the preparation as members of a team of substantial written memorials, as well as participation in oral rounds.

Assessment for the course may include components for written work, oral advocacy, and a brief individual research paper.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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**LLAW3135 International protection of refugees and displaced persons (6 credits)**

Every single minute of 2018 as calculated and reported by UNHCR 25 new people fled their homes to escape persecution, human rights violations, war, or other violence.[1] Every minute of every day, for the entire year. This course will situate that statistic in its full context: viewing it from historical, legal, and practical perspectives. The course begins with an introduction to forced displacement in the 20th century, and presents refugee law as it relates more broadly to international human rights law and humanitarian law. This course examines in detail the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, the role of UNHCR, and who is included in and excluded from the international definition of “refugee”. It also scrutinizes key legal distinctions, compares and contrasts regional protection instruments, and explores the principle of non-refoulement. It reviews case studies to see how protection principles are applied in a variety of jurisdictions, and it looks at where, how, and why the system breaks down. This course will also delve into the current protection challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, refugee advocates, NGOs, host countries, and policy-makers. This course goes beyond the numbers and headlines to look at the ongoing global refugee crisis from the perspective of those who experience displacement and those who are striving to find solutions.

Assessment: 15% class participation, 35% writing exercise/presentation, 50% take home examination

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**LLAW3136 International securities law (6 credits)**

International securities law is a topical course taught from both an academic and practitioner’s perspectives, dealing with the law, practice and regulation of organised markets including stock exchanges, and the law and practice of financial derivatives and structured financial instruments.

The course aims to develop a usable understanding of law, practice and regulation of exchanges and financial derivatives transactions. This will include consideration of the parties involved and their motives, contract formation, the documentation involved in structuring transactions, allocating and mitigating risks, the functioning and legal foundations of organised exchanges, and the impact of established and post-crisis conflicts of law and re-regulation on transaction design and execution.

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Business associations

Assessment: 100% three take home examinations spread evenly over the semester

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### **LLAW3028 International trade law I (6 credits)**

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

Pre-requisites: Have taken and passed Law of contract I and II and Law of tort I and II

Assessment: 100% take home assignment

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### **LLAW3160 Interpretation of statutes, contracts and treaties (6 credits)**

This course aims to give undergraduate students advanced training in the interpretation of legal instruments. The bulk of the course is on statutory interpretation, aiming to address the criticism that this area is not only fundamental but often inadequately understood by common law graduates. The subject aims, as supplementary measure, to ensure students appreciate the difference in approach to the interpretation of contracts and treaties and how best to tackle these tasks.

Assessment: 50% continuous assessment, 50% examination

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### **LLAW3170 Introduction to Chinese law and legal system (6 credits)**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the study of Chinese law as a developing legal system in our world. Law as contemporary lawyers understand it didn't emerge spontaneously in traditional Chinese society. It has developed in China as part of the modernization project since the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since 1978, in order to initiate and carry out economic reforms, within a short period of time the Chinese Party-State has generated an extraordinary outpouring of laws. However, China has not been widely recognised as a "rule of law" society until now, due to the lack of some key institutional values that are "essential" to such a society. In this seminar, we shall examine the traditional Chinese ways of governing before China encountered modernity, the structure and roles of contemporary Chinese legal institutions, constitutional law, administrative law, criminal justice and civil procedure from historical and comparative perspectives.

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

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**LLAW3248 Introduction to class action litigation in the USA (6 credits)**

This course will be an overview of class action litigation in the United States. It will focus on cases with worldwide press coverage, such as the Volkswagen Clean Diesel case, the British Petroleum (Deepwater Horizon) oil spill case, and the National Football League (concussion) case. Class actions are becoming more prominent worldwide, including in Hong Kong, and there is a global interest in the subject. The USA has been the model for other countries considering class actions. The basic elements of class actions will be covered, along with the theoretical and strategic concepts. The student will come away with significant knowledge regarding the class action device, and will thus be capable of comparing and contrasting the model in the USA with class actions in other countries.

Assessment: 80% in-class examination, 20% class participation

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**LLAW3263 Introduction to consumer law (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the field of consumer law, which is broadly defined to include laws, regulations and policies that relate to the protection of consumers. The focus will be on understanding basic legal concepts that underpin the major areas of consumer law, such as the regulation of unfair trade practices, the regulation of standard form contracts and unfair contract term, the regulation of product quality, the regulation of product safety, and the regulation of consumer finance, in their economic, social, and global context. This course will focus on consumer law issues that are likely to be of interest and relevance to students as future practitioners and policy-makers in Hong Kong.

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

Assessment: 40% coursework, 60% final examination

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**LLAW3209 Introduction to Hong Kong securities law (6 credits)**

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to the regulation of securities in Hong Kong. Coverage should include: who the regulators of the securities market of Hong Kong are; what are the sources of law and regulation of the securities market in Hong Kong; the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and the listing process for companies; the continuing requirements imposed on listed companies; the licensing process of financial intermediaries and their continuing regulatory obligations; the regulation of different types of financial product in Hong Kong; market misconduct, including insider dealing and other forms of market abuse; and dispute resolution processes in securities regulation, particularly the new process introduced via the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre.

The course should provide students with a basic understanding of how securities regulation can be separated into a number of different segments e.g. regulation of listed companies, regulation of licensed intermediaries, regulation of financial products, market misconduct and the resolution of disputes. Students should then be able to identify, research and keep themselves abreast of the continuing developments in each of these different segments.

Particular emphasis will be placed on understanding how financial crises serve to drive financial regulation and regulatory initiatives forward and in particular, how the Financial Crisis has and continues to inform regulatory change locally in Hong Kong.

Attention will also be given to anticipated and future developments in securities regulation in Hong Kong, including the transfer of the prospectus regime in its entirety from the Companies Ordinance to the Securities and Futures Ordinance, the move to a scripless market, and the future of the regulation of

price sensitive information following the introduction of the new Part XIVA to the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Two areas that will be considered in some detail will be the enforcement of rights and regulations in a contentious matters context i.e. in court or other similar forums such as the Market Misconduct Tribunal and the Securities and Futures Appeals Tribunal and the resolution of disputes in the securities markets of Hong Kong, particularly in the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre context.

Knowledge of companies law, particularly the anticipated transition from the old Companies Ordinance to the new, will be required for this course.

Assessment: 50% take home examination, 50% group reports

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### **LLAW3150 Introduction to information technology law (6 credits)**

This is a basic course in the LLM IP/IT stream introducing students to the information technology and the legal issues arising from the technology. The course will begin by examining the essential features of information technology and the characteristics of the Internet, followed by investigations into the legal issues created by the technology. Discussions will primarily be based on the laws of Hong Kong, with references made to the laws of other leading jurisdictions. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Introduction to information technology and the Internet
- Intellectual property issues
- Illegal contents on the Internet (e.g. defamatory or obscene materials)
- Online trading
- Data privacy
- E-crimes
- Jurisdictional issues

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3120 Introduction to international human rights law (6 credits)**

This course will introduce 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduates to basic principles of human rights. It will be jointly taught by several members of staff, each teaching different aspects of human rights. The subjects covered can range from the basic philosophical foundations of human rights to the United Nations and Human Rights, to regional mechanisms for human rights protection, to international humanitarian law to fair trial and due process rights to the state of human rights in specific countries or regions.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3159 Introduction to negotiation theory and practice (6 credits)**

The course is designed to give students a thorough introduction to those capabilities, approaches and skills necessary for effective cross cultural negotiation. The course will cover the theory behind effective negotiation, review important works in the field of cross-cultural negotiation and introduce important skills necessary for effective negotiation. The interactive sessions are conducted in stages where content as well as technique is explained.

Assessment: 50% participation in negotiation simulations and completion of a negotiation skills journal, 50% research paper

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**LLAW3032 Issues in family law (6 credits)**

This course examines current controversial issues pertaining to family law. Topics examined include rights and obligations of husband and wife during marriage, on divorce and protection for children and the weaker spouse.

(*Note:* Students enrolling for Issues in family law should preferably have taken Principles of family law.)

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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**LLAW3033 Issues in intellectual property law (6 credits)**

This course aims at equipping students for intellectual property (“IP”) practice. IP is a collective term for different areas of law that protect creations of the mind such as copyright, trade marks, patents and trade secrets. Students shall study in detail the legislation and cases on copyright and trade marks (both registered and unregistered), the two major areas of IP practice, and be able to identify and advise on IP issues in everyday life.

Assessment: 30% research paper, 70% examination

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**LLAW3059 Jessup international law moot court competition (6 credits)**

The Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition is an international mooting competition in the field of public international law. Teams of up to five members prepare written memorials on a problem involving contemporary issues of international law, and participate in the Hong Kong regional mooting competition; the winner of the regional round is entitled to participate in the international rounds held in the United States. The deadline for the submission of the written briefs is normally early January; the oral rounds normally take place in February (Hong Kong) and late March/early April (international rounds).

Eligibility for enrolment in the course is limited to those students who have been selected as members of the team to represent the University of Hong Kong. Assessment for the course may include components for written work, oral advocacy, and a brief individual research paper.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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**LLAW3034 Labour law (6 credits)**

This course is intended to provide an introduction to the major issues in labour and employment law in Hong Kong. It is concerned with the law governing the workplace: the common law of the contract of employment, the statutory provisions regulating the contract of employment and governing the rights and obligations of employees and employers, employees’ entitlements under legislation, workplace safety, the right to compensation for work-related injury, protection against discrimination, and collective rights such as the right to form trade unions, to bargain and to strike. International law, in the form of the International Labour Organisation conventions as well as the major UN conventions on human rights, and their interface with domestic law, will be considered.

Assessment: 60% research essay, 10% presentation on research in progress, 10% reflective media diary, 10% class participation, 10% Labour Tribunal visit and report

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### **LLAW3190 Language and the law (6 credits)**

Language plays an essential role both in creating law (e.g. in how specific laws are drafted) as well as in the implementation of law (e.g. in how language is deployed – but also contested - in court). This course examines how language plays these important social roles, and addresses topics, including: different linguistic registers and genres which shape our concept of what legal language is; communicative strategies adopted in the courtroom by speakers occupying different roles (judge, barrister, defendant, witness, etc.); how language is used and understood in legal drafting and interpretation; submission of language data as evidence in some court cases; and linguistic and legal issues that arise in bilingual and multilingual jurisdictions (i.e. in systems that formulate and apply their law in two or more different languages). Together, such aspects of language use form the subject matter of an increasingly researched and studied interdisciplinary field, known as ‘language and law’ or ‘forensic linguistics’, to which this course provides an accessible introduction.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% in-class test, 60% problem-based tasks

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### **LLAW3249 Language rights and linguistic justice (6 credits)**

This course aims to provide students with a solid foundation to the study of language rights. The first part of the course offers a broad picture of linguistic diversity and cultural preservation, traces the evolution of language rights and explores the historical connections of such evolution with nation states, warfare, and globalization. The second part of the course surveys international and national legal regimes in the protection of language rights, covering both minority language rights and official language rights, and their manifestations as negative and positive rights. We will examine how some of these rights are realized in the domains of education, legal processes and public services across jurisdictions, as well as the limitations of their reach. The third part of the course focuses on the philosophical and moral basis of language rights, addresses sources of contention, and queries the concept of ‘linguistic justice’. Such discussions provide a lens through which tensions between liberalism and diversity may be probed.

Assessment: 60% research essay, 20% oral presentation, 20% in-class debate

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### **LLAW3285 Law and colonialism (6 credits)**

The course critically examines the relationships between law and colonialism, drawing on disciplinary knowledge and methods in law, anthropology, history, cultural studies, and political and social theory. The focus is on modern European colonisation, particularly the British Empire in the nineteenth century and its continuations into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics will include how law has been used as an instrument of colonial and anti-colonial processes; how law has been the product of colonisation, as well as productive of colonial forms of authority and subjectivity; how law has been a site of colonial struggles, transformations and movements; how law has been part of a social imaginary implicated in ‘Orientalisms’ old and new; and how law has been treated as a gift of colonisation as well as a measure of its ‘achievements’.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 20% mid-term essay, 10% research paper proposal, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3130 Law and development in the PRC (6 credits)**

China's three-decade economic growth accompanied by a weak legal system poses a challenge to the conventional wisdom that puts the rule of law as a precondition of economic development. This is the so-called "China problem" in the law and development field. What is the role of law in economic development? How to evaluate the Chinese economic development? Is it sustainable? This course addresses these questions.

The first part of this course will introduce the debate on the "China problem," and review critically the assumptions and premises of both sides. Part II of this course will introduce general theories on law and development, in particular the roles of ideology, property rights and the state in economic development. Part III will examine law and development in China, with a focus on the evolution of contract and property laws in Chinese economic development. Part IV will look at law and development from a comparative perspective.

Reading materials will be selected not only from legal literature, but also economics, political science, sociology, and others.

Assessment: 30% final paper, 30% response papers, 40% class participation

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### **LLAW3065 Law and ethics of artificial intelligence (6 credits)**

This course examines the legal and policy issues brought forth by technological advances in modern information technology - that is, artificial intelligence and machine learning. We will study both (a) how emerging applications of AI/ML in finance, health, and government raise novel legal problems and (b) how certain emerging technologies may transform the practice of law. In particular, we will first study bias and discrimination in algorithmic decision making, from an economics, legal and political perspective. Next, we will look at transparency and the so-called black box problem in machine learning. Then we will study privacy, differential privacy, and k-anonymity. In roughly the second half of the term, we will study patent, copyright and authenticity; deepfakes and misinformation; and the geopolitics of technology.

Assessment: 20% participation and case studies, 30% presentation, 50% final paper

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### **LLAW3141 Law and film (6 credits)**

Legal actors, institutions and problems have fascinated filmmakers since the early days of cinema. This course examines the ways in which the law and the legal system have been represented in a variety of films, and also considers the ways in which films engage with legal debates and controversies. This course is cross-listed between the Department of Law and the Department of Comparative Literature; it aims to encourage reflection on the cultural lives of the law and also on a central theme in film studies. No prior background in film studies or the law will be assumed.

Assessment: 15% class participation, 15% written questions, 10% paper proposal, 60% term paper

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### **LLAW3174 Law and policy (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% research assignment

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### **LLAW3142 Law and politics of constitutions (6 credits)**

Almost every modern state has a written constitution. A constitution is not only a legal document; it is also political instrument. For what purpose was the constitution framed; for what functions it serves; and how it is interpreted by judges would routinely depend on the interaction between law and politics.

This course adopts an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to analyze the interaction between law and politics in Asia. We will examine communist regimes (China); dominant party democracies (HKSAR, Singapore), and liberal democracies (Taiwan, South Korea), and explore how the regime-type of the political system affects judicial behaviour and the jurisdiction's commitment to human rights.

Assessment: 75% research paper, 25% class presentation

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### **LLAW3208 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration (6 credits)**

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

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### **LLAW3118 Law and religion (6 credits)**

Law and religion are two of the oldest social institutions. In various forms, law and religion exist in every human society. Law and religion also have very close relationship to each other. Looking from human history, religion could be so intertwined with law that there could be complete overlap. However, the modern trend is to separate the two so that a wall is built between law and religion.

This course will examine the various models on how law and religion interact with each other. Historical as well as analytical approaches will be adopted. Critical questions will be raised on examining the proper relationship between law and religion under different worldviews and various religious traditions including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity. The role of religion in public debate will also be considered.

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

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### **LLAW3239 Law and social justice at the intersections: gender, race, religion and sexuality (6 credits)**

One of the continuing challenges undermining the law's effectiveness is its inability to capture within its frame the most marginalized and vulnerable communities. This exclusion or marginalization of

particular stakeholders from the legal process has received considerably less attention. Although the theme of access to justice conceptualizes this accessibility gap in some respects, it fails to capture stakeholders who never engage with the legal framework at any stage despite violations or gaps in the realization or implementation of their rights.

This course examines the limits of the law and its reach and assesses the structural and substantive 'justice gap' and its implications for particular groups. The course challenges law's framing and structuring of social, legal and political relationships given its mono-dimensional framing of legal issues which fails to capture the complex realities and diversities of life, communities and experiences governed by law. It deconstructs the single factor / frame / category of analysis such as gender, disability, race or sexual orientation to examine how the interpretive framework of the law fails to respond to multiple sites of oppression experienced by a particular individual / group and systemically disadvantages particular categories of persons. The legal system's failure to capture within its frame the lived realities of complex lives and relationships today results in the law's complicity in systemic and structural oppression. This paradigmatic non-recognition or the forceful fragmentation of particular identities is closely bounded up with identity politics and the historical exclusion of the voices of particular groups from legal and political frameworks. Given law's power to give meaning to actions, to determine legal truth and given its promise of equality and justice for all, the course places a magnifying lens on law's processes and substance to identify those at the margins of law and to reorient attention to marginalized voices to consider new ways of conceptualizing their authentic realities to achieve inclusive justice in a diverse and complex world.

For the clinical component of the course, depending on the posture of ongoing legal cases or issues, students will have an opportunity to work closely with the course lecturer and NGOs involved in serving clients from these communities to develop a rich grassroots-level understanding of the issues. Students will contribute to the development of a resource or toolkit on multiple, intersectional or additive discrimination and the potential strategies to mobilizing change in discourse, legal practice and social justice paradigms.

Assessment: 65% research paper, 15% symposium presentation, 20% class participation

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### **LLAW3292 Law and society in China (6 credits)**

This course aims to explore the theoretical and practical issues relating to law and society in China, the extent to which law as a tool for politics and development has affected social change and how social forces have influenced the functioning of law and the interaction among legal institutions in China. This course will discuss the operation of China's political-legal system, lawmaking, courts, legal professions, various forms of dispute resolution, legal consciousness and mobilization, criminal and civil justice, and how the Chinese case pushes the boundaries of socio-legal theories. It will also address the impact of law on people's behaviour, how law mediates the interaction between state and society, and the relationship between social change and legal change. The interface between law and economic, political, cultural, and social phenomena will be studied through critical debates, empirical research and from comparative perspectives.

Assessment: 30% reading responses, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3253 Law and society in South East Asia (6 credits)**

Law and society courses deal with law in context, but are not concerned with discovering rules as such or with what the rules ought to be. This module aims to increase students' breadth of contextual understanding of law, and thereby their theoretical understanding of the subject from societal perspectives. These perspectives include historical, sociological, political, and economic/ development perspectives. SE Asia is defined as the ASEAN countries, but comparison with Hong Kong will be

drawn where helpful. There will be an emphasis on ethnic and religious diversity, and therefore on legal pluralism as a perennial issue in this region. The course will explore issues that have bearing on diversity/ pluralism, especially on how ethnic and religious diversity are handled and how justice is conceived. Examples will be chosen from different areas of law, ranging from family law to jurisdictional issues to constitutional rights. These issues will cover pre-colonial, colonial, post-colonial and contemporary law.

Assessment: 50% term paper, 50% response essay

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### **LLAW3035 Law in East Asia (6 credits)**

This course will be the first opportunity for students in this Faculty to learn about the legal systems of the East Asian countries. The course will be taught thematically and comparatively from among the following topics:

- An introduction to the historical foundations of the modern legal systems of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan;
- Legal institutions: structure of state, courts, legal professions;
- Codification of law, especially the institutions of private law;
- Civil and commercial law;
- Civil process and mediation;
- Rights of the accused person;
- Human rights and the legal status of women;
- Framework for foreign trade and investment.

These topics will be examined from a comparative perspective with reference to the law in Hong Kong. The law will be analysed in the context of its history as well as its economic, political and cultural foundations.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3037 Law of agency (6 credits)**

The nature and creation of agency relationship; the relationship and rights and duties of principal and agent *inter se* and *vis-à-vis* third parties; comparison of the ability of the 'agent' to affect the 'principal's' legal position in contract, tort and property.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3056 Law of international finance I - debt (6 credits)**

This foundation course will examine, primarily from a legal perspective but with interdisciplinary dimensions, the structure and operation of international bank and capital markets. The course, while sensitive to key issues of domestic, regional and international regulation of international securities offerings and international banking, will concentrate primarily on private law aspects of international financial transactions such as basic trade financing, Eurodollar syndicated loans, Loan sales and participation, Eurobond offerings, and basic interest rate and currency swaps, legal opinions and private international law considerations.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3048 Law of restitution I (6 credits)**

There is no universal definition as to what restitution (either as a body of law, or as a legal concept) encapsulates. It is often understood as the area of law which provides a remedy to a plaintiff against a defendant who is alleged to have obtained some gain (e.g. money or property) unlawfully. The notion of gain-based remedy is contrasted with that of loss-based remedy, which deals with compensation for loss suffered by a plaintiff as a result of a defendant's action or omission.

Traditionally, the study of restitution has simply referred to unjust enrichment. Unjust enrichment occurs when a plaintiff complains that a defendant obtains a benefit at his expense. But theoretical debates may no longer accept restitution as merely congruent with unjust enrichment. Some academics (eg Graham Virgo at University of Cambridge) argue that restitution covers 3 areas of law: (i) unjust enrichment; (ii) restitution for wrongs; and (iii) vindication of property rights. This categorisation will be further discussed in subsequent seminar(s).

Restitution (broadly defined) is an important component of civil law. Indeed, restitution can be understood as one of the 3 ways of creating legal obligations between (say) two parties, the other ways being contract and tort. In recent years, restitutionary principles have been applied in commercial contexts, testing their boundaries and their adaptability to modern day business.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3121 Law of restitution II (6 credits)**

This course covers the following topics: restitution of unlawful tax payments; restitutionary claims from 'third parties' (knowing receipt, common law & equitable tracing); restitutionary remedy for torts, breaches of contracts, and equitable wrongs; in personam and in rem rights in restitution; concurrence of claims in restitution and contract; and restitutionary claims in insolvency proceedings.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3049 Law of the sea (6 credits)**

The law of the sea is a cornerstone of public international law that is fraught with complexity from detailed treaties and elaborate custom that has been interpreted by numerous international courts and tribunals over a relatively long period of time. This course explores the key rules and principles of this legal regime primarily through a critical assessment of past efforts at dispute settlement, with the aim of developing sufficient problem-solving skills in this realm to successfully tackle future disputes as they arise. Topics to be addressed include: nationality of vessels and jurisdiction of the flag state; baselines and maritime boundaries; territorial seas, contiguous zones, straits, archipelagic waters, continental shelves and exclusive economic zones; the deep seabed; marine pollution; and living resources of the high seas.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3145 Law, economics, regulation and development (6 credits)**

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

and legal methods as a result.

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

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

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

Assessment: 15% class participation, 10% symposium participation, 75% 3 short research papers

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### **LLAW3250 Law, governance and development in Asia (6 credits)**

In the wake of Asia's striking economic progress issues of law and governance are now seen as critical for the developing, developed and post-conflict states of Asia. Legal reforms are embracing constitutional, representative government, good governance and accountability, and human rights, based on the rule of law. How and on what principles should Asian states build these new legal orders? Is there such a thing as an 'Asian approach' to development? Can Asia sustain economic progress and satisfy the demands for the control of corruption and abuse of powers, and the creation of new forms of accountability? This course examines on a broad comparative canvas the nature, fate and prospects for law and governance in developing democracies in Asia. Coverage of the issues will be both theoretical, as we ask questions about the evolving nature of 'law and development'; and practical, as we ask questions about the implementation of law and development projects across Asia. The emphasis is on governance reform and the legal system as a tool for development.

Assessment: 50% response essay, 50% term paper

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### **LLAW3254 Law, innovation, technology, entrepreneurship: tech startup law (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the legal environment impacting entrepreneurs, startups and new innovative businesses and ideas. It addresses the core aspects of setting up a new business, including legal structures, hiring staff, protecting intellectual property, raising finance, licensing considerations, data protection and usage, and cross-border operations. It is designed for upper year students in any discipline who are considering a new venture or already involved in a startup or innovative project.

Students will be provided with a substantive overview of the areas of transactional and legal structures, documentation and issues most frequently encountered by startups, including entity choice, formation documents, shareholder and founder agreements, intellectual property protection, financing, operating contracts such as employment contracts and leases, website terms of service, and data protection/privacy issues. Cross-border aspects will be considered too.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% two assignments

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### **LLAW3273 Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) lab - social impact**

### **entrepreneurship (6 credits)**

The Law, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE) programme is an interdisciplinary and experiential programme for students of all backgrounds. In LITE Lab – Social Impact Entrepreneurship, undergraduate students will work on projects relating to the legal and operational issues faced by social enterprises, NGOs, and civil society organizations in Hong Kong.

Paired with an Hong Kong-based organization, students will brainstorm ways to respond to and to raise awareness of and potentially address significant community, social, environmental, or humanitarian issues. Students will interview service providers and founders, conduct research, and gather relevant data in order to understand the context in which the social enterprise or NGO is operating, and to understand its current methods, target population/beneficiaries/positive social change desired, as well as the challenges it faces. In this context, each student will scope, design, and complete an appropriate term paper, explainer, project, video, or other deliverable in the substantive area identified. Students are encouraged to utilize entrepreneurial methods and creative approaches to their projects, as long as novel ideas demonstrate an understanding of the existing landscape and needs of stakeholders.

Student-organization pairings will be made based on each student's previous work experience, academic focus, areas of particular interest, and relevant skillsets. Expected time commitment will be 12-15 hours per week devoted to the project, comprised of time spent on-site with the host organization, conducting research or other project-related tasks remotely, class discussions, and communicating with the LITE instructor about progress.

For this project-based experiential course, students will regularly interact with their host organizations at LITE Lab@HKU on campus, at HKU-Cyberport Fintech Nucleus, at the host organization's premises and/or electronically under the supervision of instructors.

Final projects will be showcased for the HKU community and the general public as part of LITE's online tools and resources, with a view toward enhancing wider availability of information relevant to social enterprises, local charities, and those who want to know more about the issues facing Hong Kong society.

Other LITE courses recommended but not required.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 10% class contribution, 45% project service/project delivery, 45% research/case study

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### **LLAW3036 Law, justice and ideology (6 credits)**

Social theory and the sociology of law: Pound, Erlich, Durkheim, Weber; law and social change.

Law as ideology: law and power, Marxist theories of law and state, critical legal studies.

Theories of justice: utilitarianism, the economic analysis of law, Rawls, Nozick, Hayek.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3161 Law, meaning and interpretation (6 credits)**

This course offers a multidisciplinary introduction to key debates on language and interpretation within legal theory, and to the interface between the study of language and the discipline of law. This course begins with an introduction to interpretation as reflecting a set of pervasive intellectual problems in the study of literature, religion, language and culture. It then moves on to the study of legal interpretation,

focusing on word meaning in law. The course stresses the sociopolitical dimension to interpretative questions confronted by judges. The presentation of theories of language and law is complemented by exercises drawn from decided cases or which reflect real-life legal dilemmas. Law is seen in the context of issues such as authority and power; doubt and certainty; meaning and indeterminacy. No technical knowledge of law, linguistics, or literary theory is assumed.

Assessment: 30% mid-term essay, 70% final essay

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### **LLAW3061 Law, the individual and the community: a cross-cultural dialogue (6 credits)**

This course is a "global classroom" course centred on dialogue amongst parallel classes at universities in a number of countries (including Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Finland and the US) by means primarily of Internet-based communications technology. The course deals with competing ideas about the appropriate relationship between individual and community and the role of law in regulating that relationship. A special concern is to explore the extent to which human rights are an indispensable and universally desirable aspect of such legal regulation. Are there reasons to believe that either the idea of human rights or the content attributed to some human rights cannot be justified as appropriate for all societies in all contexts? In order to provide a context for the dialogue amongst the students in the different universities, selected cases and scenarios from international human rights law (as well as some comparative constitutional case law) provide the concrete focus for exploring the broader theme. The issues to be examined are likely to include (though will not necessarily be restricted to) the death penalty, preventive detention, sexuality, corporal punishment, parent and child relationship, and freedom of expression.

The course will involve regular meetings of the class in Hong Kong, together with participation by students in discussions with their counterparts in other countries for 8 weeks during the semester. This discussion will be based around the common themes and reading being considered simultaneously by each of the classes during that period. The main form of communication technology used to link the students is an Internet website discussion group (a series of "conferences"), hosted by the Bora Laskin Law Library at the University of Toronto, with a back-up site at the National University of Singapore. Students will be required to contribute to the conferences on a weekly basis as part of the course. The co-instructors at the different institutions will moderate general conferences involving all students from all the participating universities.

[Note: This course was originally conceptualised and implemented by Professor Craig Scott of the University of Toronto and Professor Kevin Tan, of the National of University of Singapore. The course description above is based largely on their course description and appears with their permission.]

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3090 Legal aspects of white collar crime (6 credits)**

The course applies international and comparative perspectives to the problem of white collar crime in the HKSAR. The topics covered include defining 'white collar crime', money laundering, terrorist financing, forfeiture/confiscation of crime tainted property, corporate criminal liability, punishing the corporation, investigating and prosecuting white collar crime, and possibly others.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3234 Legal and legislative drafting (6 credits)**

In this course students will master the skills required to draft complex legal documents, and will improve their skills at analyzing legislative and contractual provisions. The course teaches students how to compose coherent and unambiguous legal text, and how to structure legal documents to ensure maximum comprehensibility.

The course includes an examination of the principles of statutory interpretation that influence the judicial interpretation of legal documents, and shows how to use those principles to ensure that legal documents will be given their intended meaning if challenged before the courts.

Legislative and contractual provisions are analyzed in class, as a way of identifying and correcting typical drafting errors. Students are required to draft or redraft legal provisions and short legal documents as a way to master different aspects of drafting.

Assessment: 100% assignments

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### **LLAW3226 Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits)**

In 1776, the idea of self-evidence grounded the philosophical assertion that “all men are created equal.” And yet, political, economic and social equality in the democratic republic of the United States has often proven less of a guarantee and more of a promise. Beginning with Thomas Jefferson’s writing of the “Declaration of Independence,” the recognition of a person as fully human in the United States has depended on assumptions regarding race, class and gender. The course examines the changing definition of United States citizenship by putting legal texts (the U.S. Constitution, federal and state laws, Executive Orders, Supreme Court decisions) in dialogue with literary writings and film. In this course we will read stories by people whom federal and or state law barred from full citizenship. Through autobiographies, fiction, poetry and speeches, we will examine the cultural legacy of legal terms such as “domestic dependent nation,” “illegal alien” and “unlawful enemy combatant.” The course themes may include: property and democracy, slavery, westward expansion and Indian Removal, immigration (with particular focus on China and Asia), the right of women to vote, and the wartime powers of the Executive Office. Our goal will be to pay careful attention to the language and genres of the American legislative and judicial system, and conversely to contextualize literature in relation to the legal history through which the U.S. Constitution has been reinterpreted and amended to broaden its terms of equality. We will read writers who used words to protest against and revise the historical circumstances in which they had to fight for legal standing. We will also consider how different kinds of writing -- legal, scientific, autobiographical and fictional -- employ different rhetorical strategies to reach audiences, affect readers and influence the world.

Assessment: 15% presentation, 25% posting to Moodle group discussion, 30% mid-term essay, 30% final essay

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### **LLAW3269 Legal foundations for global health and development (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the legal foundations of global health and development. It examines the legal architecture of global health governance, the interplay between global health and international human rights law, international economic law, and international environmental law, and the analysis of several core global health legal instruments such as Constitution of the World Health Organization, the International Health Regulations (2005), the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the context of global mental health. Real-life examples, including those that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, are used to illuminate the many dilemmas that confront the law as it regulates global health and development, like the perceived tensions between international health and individual liberties, human and planetary interests, and physical and mental for health.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

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### **LLAW3275 Legal language in Hong Kong: issues and directions (6 credits)**

This course aims to introduce law students to language issues arising out of the legal context in Hong Kong, as a unique jurisdiction which practises the common law and uses both Chinese and English as official languages. The course looks at how law affects the use and development of legal language in Hong Kong, and vice versa. The seminars will discuss various themes, and will introduce students to the legal and linguistic theories pertinent to a thorough analysis of the underlying issues. Typical topics include bilingual legislation and legal drafting, legal translation, court advocacy, and court interpretation in Hong Kong. Guest lecturers are invited to provide practical perspectives. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to apply newly acquired knowledge and multidisciplinary perspectives, in order to critically analyse and propose the way forward on the use of language in the Hong Kong legal context.

Students taking the course will be assumed to be reasonably proficient in traditional Chinese (written) and Cantonese (oral).

Assessment: 15% class participation, 35% group presentation, 50% final assessment

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### **LLAW3270 Legal pluralism in Hong Kong (6 credits)**

The object of the course is to study the foundations of Chinese Law and Custom as received into the jurisdiction of the HKSAR, to explore its nature, features and scope, to examine its inter-action with the common law system within the jurisdiction and to consider its place in modern society. An outline of the course:

#### *Classical Chinese Thought and Institutions: Continuity and Change*

Evolution of early Chinese law; jurisprudential debates surrounding these developments; features of Chinese legal system and culture during the Qing dynasty (1644-1911); developments during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; efforts at reform; recognition of Chinese law and custom in common law jurisdictions of east and southeast Asia, especially Hong Kong.

#### *Law, Society and Customary Norms*

Custom and customary law in rural communities of the New Territories; village culture: clans, Confucianism and land; the family: marriage, concubinage, adoption, trusts for minors, wills, inheritance and succession; ancestral estates: t'so and family t'ong; gender equality; access to justice; religious, educational and charitable endowments; community institutions; commercial bodies; customary landholding, sale, mortgage and succession; small houses and the customary right to build.

#### *Customary Law within a Common Law System*

Reception of customary law into Hong Kong: pre-cessional law, New Territories Ordinance, Marriage Reform Ordinance, and the Basic Law; tensions between the two systems: limits upon customary law; living customary law; traditional rights and interests of indigenous inhabitants under BL Art 40.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 10% research essay proposal, 80% research essay

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### **LLAW3162 Legal translation (6 credits)**

This course is designed to give practical training in legal translation. It aims to produce qualified legal translators for both the legal and translation professions. It will be taught in Chinese (Cantonese).

Except for students who have already completed Use of Chinese in Law I, applicants for enrolment in this course are required to complete a pre-class aptitude test and a preparatory course.

There will be two modules, one on legal translation from English into Chinese and the other, from Chinese into English. The two modules will each cover three streams of legal translation, namely, contracts, court judgments and legislation. Professional legal translators from these individual streams will be teachers in the respective streams of the course. Samples of legal translation will be analysed in lectures or workshops. At one-to-one or small group tutorials, the tutors will help the students to identify their own strengths and weaknesses as revealed in their marked translation exercises, and to enhance their legal translation skills accordingly. There will be no examination for this course. Students' performance will be assessed continuously by written assignments.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3255 LITE lab: emerging technology and business models (undergraduate) (6 credits)**

Law, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE) Lab@HKU is an interdisciplinary and experiential programme designed to be an immersive experience for students from any and all backgrounds.

Students will gain practical and transactional experience in technology entrepreneurship by learning about and providing research and assistance relating to the real-world issues and problems of Hong Kong technology entrepreneurs and innovators, small business owners, social entrepreneurs, NGOs and HKU students and faculty.

Students will have the opportunity to meet and interview entrepreneurs and innovators, and will be expected to spend much of their time at LITE Lab@HKU offices in the HKU Fintech Nucleus at the Cyberport Smart-space Fintech. Students may also have the opportunity to spend time at the premises within such companies (akin to an internship).

Projects will include consultations with and research to benefit emerging technologies and business models (such as the digital asset and circular economies), disruptive initiatives by established players, as well as contributing to LITE Lab@HKU's online resources and tools to enable access to justice, democratization of information and financial inclusion to empower entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency for citizens and social entrepreneurs.

Students will also have hands-on learning with the ABCD of technology (namely AI, blockchain, cloud and data) and engage in computational law to create legaltech and regtech products such as document automation and chatbots. Programming experience is welcome but not required.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 10% class contribution, 45% project service/product delivery, 45% research/case study

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### **LLAW3272 LITE lab: legal technology and the future of the profession sandbox (6 credits)**

Technology is changing the way legal and regulatory services are being provided to corporate law departments, small businesses, ordinary citizens and access to justice. COVID-19 has provided a trigger for mindset, policy and industry changes, with significant future impact on the practice of law, dispute resolution and the delivery of legal services. Where lawtech and regtech were initially seen as "good to have", they are increasingly seen as "must haves".

To better prepare the next generation of legal service professionals, LITE Lab: Lawtech & Regtech

Sandbox students will initially be introduced to the historical evolution of lawtech and regtech, together with design and computational thinking and data analytics. Within a “sandbox” environment, students will engage in interdisciplinary and team project-based experiential learning and product development and management to develop prototype lawtech and regtech tools and solutions that address real-world needs in conjunction with project partners from the corporate, law firm, government and social sector which may be featured on the LITE Lab@HKU website.

Programming experience is welcome but not required. Students will learn and develop prototypes using a variety of no- and low-code solutions, and depending on the background and interests of students, may also use more sophisticated and open source tools.

Other LITE courses recommended but not required.

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 10% learning reflections, 40% project service/product delivery, 40% final project deliverable

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### **LLAW3215 Luxury brands and trademark law (6 credits)**

The luxury industry plays an important role in many contemporary western and eastern societies. Economically, it is estimated that the top 100 luxury goods companies generated sales US\$212 billion in 2015. Culturally, as status symbols, luxury goods function to define class, social distinction, and personal beliefs and values. This seminar explores the rise of luxury brands and the role of trademark law in creating, sustaining, and regulating this industry. It examines landmark cases concerning trademark protection of luxury brands. Moreover, the seminar discusses the social, cultural, and political dimensions of luxury brands. It critically considers the public interest and social concerns arising from this rapidly developing area of economy and law.

Assessment: 80% two essays, 20% class participation

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### **LLAW3073 Media law (6 credits)**

In this course, we study the law, principles and legal debate on media regulation, with a particular focus on freedom of expression. A familiarity with principal areas, such as defamation, privacy, and regulation of obscenity in both the printed media and online world will be examined. Thus, a central theme to explore is - how the balance between media freedom and accountability should be struck. Throughout the course, we will question and critically examine the meaning of freedom of the press/media, the responsibility of the media as a watchdog, and the balance between the two. Cases from Hong Kong, Canada, the UK, the US and the European Court of Human Rights will be included in your reading materials. The syllabus outline is as follows:

1. Introduction: the role of the press in democratic society, its relation and differences with freedom of expression, the history of, and the justification of the development.
2. Freedom of the press: freedom from what, and freedom to do what?
3. Defamation: the Law of Defamation and its defences; the challenge of the Internet and Internet service providers' liability
4. Privacy: reporting privacy and the right to be forgotten
5. Publication of Obscene and Indecent articles
6. Protection of News Source
7. Freedom of Information
8. State Secrets and National Security: Article 23 Debate; Wikileaks; Snowden saga
9. Broadcasting regulation and the differences between broadcasting and printed media

## 10. Regulated Media and Beyond: the Internet

Assessment: 60% research paper, 10% submission of outline/abstract, 10% expressing the view to media, 10% class participation, 10% presentation

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### **LLAW3192 Mediation (6 credits)**

This course covers the principles, process, practice and legal issues of mediation. It examines the underlying values, models and stages of mediation. It will analyse the legal and regulatory aspects of mediation, areas of application and developments of medication practice with a focus on Hong Kong from a comparative perspectives. It will also include skill building through drafting and role playing exercises.

Assessment: 50% research paper, 20% drafting exercises, 20% video-taped simulated mediation, 10% participation

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### **LLAW3040 Medico-legal issues (6 credits)**

In 1971, life expectancy at birth in Hong Kong was 68 years for men and 76 for women. Half a century on, Hong Kong life expectancy is now 82.7 for men, and over 88.1 for women, making Hong Kong residents among the longest lived people on earth (2020, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health). But the medical technology powering this dramatic increase in life expectancy now also raise new ethical, legal and social quandaries which humankind have never had to grapple with before.

In this course, we survey a series of related themes that advances in medical technologies now forces us to confront.

**Life, Death, and Decisions at the End of Life:** It may be argued that few people are likely to die a sudden ‘natural’ death on their own beds at home, than at the end of an prolonged battle for life in a hospital ward. The prevalence of this new phenomenon of a “medicalised death” now forces us to redefine what were confidently assumed to be eternal human certainties such as the definition of death, given that it is now entirely possible to maintain in a ‘living’ state a brain-dead person for many weeks, or in some cases, even months. If ‘life’ is sustained only through the most aggressive of medical interventions in a hospital, at what point (or if at all) should such medical interventions be withdrawn in favour of allowing ‘nature to take its course’?

In defining life, we also define death. And vice versa. None of us have any choice about being born, but should people have some say over how they should die? Or when they may refuse the indignity and distress of further medical interventions in favour of a ‘natural’ end? What is ‘natural’? Should euthanasia be allowed? Can and should medical treatment be forced on people who do not want it? At the end of life, many patients are no longer in a state that they can make decisions for themselves. The burden of deciding for these patients then fall on the families and loved ones of these patients: on what principles should such decisions be taken? What about people who have the misfortune to never ever having the capacity to decide for themselves in the first place – babies who are born severely handicapped?

**Reproductive Choices:** Many of the same concepts that govern our responses to the end of life have implications for our perspectives on the beginning of human life as well. Is the growing foetus within a pregnant woman a ‘full human life’? What might be meant by this term? How should we define the beginning of human life in the context of pregnancy? What kind of rights may a woman assert over the foetus growing within her? Does she (and should she) have the unconditional right to decide by herself if the pregnancy should be terminated (i.e. to have the pregnancy aborted) at any stage of the pregnancy, or should there be restrictions on this right? If so, what kind of restrictions, and what might be the basis of such restrictions? If she is unable to have children, should she and her partner be allowed to

commission a surrogate pregnancy? In what circumstances would it be ethical to deprive through enforced sterilization women of their basic human right to having a child?

**Property in the Human Body, Human Organ Transplantation:** Modern medical technology and knowledge now makes it possible for people who might otherwise be condemned to a lingering and certain death through organ failure (most frequently kidney failure, or liver failure) to be given a new lease of life through the transplantation of an organ from a deceased donor. Yet that raises a disturbing conundrum: the organ that is transplanted must be alive in a very real biological sense if the transplant operation is to make sense at all. So the ‘deceased’ donor must be ‘alive’ in at least some sense when the organ was harvested, if only in the organ that was transplanted.

**Risks, Harm & Consent, and the Obligation of Confidence:** What the legal nature of the relationship between a physician and a patient? Between the researcher and a research subject? What kind of risks must be made known to the patient or the subject? To what extent does the law in England and Hong Kong give effect to the much-banded about ‘doctrine of informed consent’? What exactly does that doctrine involve? It is all very well and good to say piously that a patient or researcher must always give informed consent. But there are entire classes of people who are not competent in the law to give consent for themselves: children as a class comes to mind, as well as the mentally handicapped or incapacitated, and also other vulnerable populations. How does the doctrine of consent work for these classes and populations?

We are used to the idea that physicians must respect the confidence that patients repose in them. So physicians have a duty not to go about gossiping about their patients and their problems, because patients are entitled to privacy, and the law strongly protects that entitlement to privacy and the preservation of confidentiality. Yet there are some circumstances, where this principle may come unstuck: what if an erring husband who knows that he is infected with HIV insists on having unprotected sexual relationships with his unsuspecting wife – without telling her? In this context, we will also deal with issues in genetic privacy created by advances in genetic science.

**Human Biomedical Research:** In the last part of the course, we will deal with a trio of seminars centering on the inevitable tension between the rights of individuals and the public interest. Clearly, it is in the wider public interest to foster and encourage human biomedical medical research. Such research may encompass human experimentation, research involving human subjects, human tissue banking, the use of medical information and biobanking. But from the viewpoint of individuals, such activities may not be entirely congruent with their interests. Some kinds of research poses a real risk of physical harm, or in the dissemination of information and data that individuals may consider to be personal and private. How is such research to be governed? What kind of ethical governance framework should be in place before research is allowed? In this context, we examine the particular example of clinical trials (i.e. drug trials) which must be carried out before a new drug is approved for the market.

**Pandemics, Law and Ethics:** We end the course with a final seminar on particularly topical theme: how should ethics and the body of the law respond in a pandemic or other national or international medical emergency? In what circumstances is the overriding of the right to privacy justified? Can and should governments mandate vaccination over the objections of individuals, or indirectly pressure citizens to be vaccinated through measures that restrict the freedom or options for the unvaccinated?

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

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### **LLAW3178 Online dispute resolution (6 credits)**

This course will introduce to the students how to use information technology to facilitate 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 those out-of-court alternative dispute resolutions, it by no means ignores the potential that all these technologies may be applied directly 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: 50% in-class moot court practice, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3042 Planning and environmental law (6 credits)**

#### *Planning and land use*

The government lease and land use control; Town Planning; Protecting the non-urban environment: country parks, marine parks, wetlands and the harbour; Environmental impact assessment;

#### *Pollution control*

Air, noise, water pollution and waste; legislation and common law;

#### *The wider context*

International environmental law as it applies to Hong Kong; Trade and the environment.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3107 PRC civil law (in Putonghua) (6 credits)**

This course will introduce the fundamental legal concepts relating to civil relations and transactions in the PRC as well as the principles underlying the areas of law, including property, torts, and contracts. Both a descriptive account of the law and interdisciplinary methods of studying some areas of the law such as tort law and contract law of the PRC will be provided. Through the study of the above specific areas of law, students will be provided with the necessary analytical skills and judgmental power which are essential to their future work.

Assessment: 100% examination

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### **LLAW3108 PRC criminal law and procedure (6 credits)**

This course will examine the structure of criminal liabilities under Chinese criminal law and the stages of criminal process on the mainland of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It will consider: (1) the organisations of criminal law in China and their relationship; (2) the changing rules of criminal liabilities and criminal process and their political and social contexts; and (3) the operations of the criminal law and the culture of criminal justice system in China. Major topics of the course include: definition of crime in the PRC, structure and principles of PRC criminal law, commercial crimes in the market economy, powers in criminal investigation, the judiciary and criminal trial, rules of evidence, and rights of the accused.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3109 PRC economic law (6 credits)**

This course examines the general framework of major economic legal institutions in China, broadly

defined as the legal and regulatory structures governing business activity in both of the public and private sectors where the role of state oversight is prominent. Three issues will be discussed: (1) the making and implementation of laws and regulations on several critical aspects of doing business in China; (2) the process of institutionalizing legal governance for Chinese commerce as well as paving a level playing field for market participants; (3) the impact of globalization, particularly since China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), on the development of the country's economic legal institutions.

Four areas of law are covered:

- Enterprise law: how to start and operate a business?
- Financial law: how to finance a business?
- Competition law: how to curb anti-competitive business activity?
- Consumer protection law: how to prevent businesses from harming consumers and to hold businesses accountable for product liability?

The primary objective of this course is to help students develop a general understanding of the legal and regulatory framework of major economic institutions in China, particularly those involving a significant role of the Chinese state in the economy. To achieve this objective, the course will examine key laws and regulations on important aspects of the Chinese economy and their reform during China's transition from a command economy to a market economy. Domestic debates over policy orientation and reform strategy will also be reviewed to explain how China's economic legal regime has evolved in the face of changing reform dynamics shaped by both domestic and global conditions.

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

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### **LLAW3087 PRC intellectual property law (6 credits)**

Intellectual property (IP) protection in China has drawn world-wide attention since China opened its door for economic and social reforms. The rampant piracy and counterfeiting activities have made IP protection a primary concern for many multinational companies in doing business in China. On the other hand, IP is largely seen as crucial to economic, social and cultural development in the knowledge age. Against this backdrop, many IP experts and policymakers have been debating about the ways in which IP can be used as a tool for transforming China into a knowledge-intensive economy.

This course deals primarily with the legal protection of copyrights, patents and trademarks in China. We will focus on the basic legal principles and rules concerning the protection of these three core forms of IP rights. Each area of study will be followed by an examination of the cutting-edge issues at the frontier of IP and technological development. For example, we will study the topics of copyright protection and digital technology, which primarily include the right of making available to the public, digital compilations of data, legal protection of the technological measures used by copyright holders. Moreover, we will closely examine a series of major cases to understand the latest developments in the judicial application of IP laws. Most of these cases involve multinational companies such as Ferrari, Google, Louis Vuitton, Pfizer and Starbucks.

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

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### **LLAW3152 PRC property law (6 credits)**

It is generally believed that secure property rights are the key to economic growth. Yet it is said that China has been the world's fastest growing major economy for the past 40 years without a well-functioning property law. This seeming contradiction has compelled leading scholars of different disciplines to reflect on the role of property rights in economic, social and political development.

Is the general belief valid? Is China really a counterexample? This course intends to answer both questions by investigating the evolution of the Chinese property system, including evolution of property rights in Chinese constitution; evolution of the Chinese land administration laws; evolution of property rights in Chinese civil laws (i.e., from the 1986 Principles of Civil Law to the new Civil Code), and the relationship between property rights in action and property law on the books.

This course endeavors to deepen students' understanding of the PRC property system, with a focus on how real world developments influence the property law, and vice versa. It will draw on cases and examples from the real world to help students understand the PRC property system.

This course will not only enable students to understand the complex system of the PRC property system, but also the factors that have driven its development.

Assessment: 50% final paper, 30% response paper, 20% class participation

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### **LLAW3181 PRC security and insolvency law (6 credits)**

This course will focus on both security and insolvency issues in the People's Republic of China, with reference to both PRC foreign investment enterprises and state-owned enterprises and companies. The options available to creditors for protecting their interests under Chinese law will be a central feature of both parts of this course.

Aspects of security law to be covered include the five forms of security – guarantee, mortgages, pledges, liens and deposits, with an emphasis on mortgages and guarantees. Topics to be studied include : the concept of security, Chinese attitudes towards security, the selection of security providers and of security vehicles, real and personal security, types of business finance, creating security (investigation, negotiation and documentation), the approval process, the recording system, and remedies.

The insolvency portion of the course will focus on the insolvency of foreign investment enterprises and state-owned enterprises and companies. The PRC Bankruptcy Law and related legislation at both the national and local levels will be considered. Topics to be studied include insolvency principles, the economic and political ramifications resulting from the insolvency of state-owned enterprises and companies, an overview of the insolvency process, commencement of insolvency cases, property available for distribution to creditors, representatives of the estate, and liquidation procedures generally. Cross-border insolvency issues, especially in relation to co-operation with the Hong Kong SAR, will also be considered. A reading knowledge of simplified Chinese characters would be desirable.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 30% assignment

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### **LLAW3129 PRC tort law (6 credits)**

This course introduces the history of PRC tort law, the PRC Tort Law (2010), relevant principles of PRC General Principles of Civil Law on which tort law is based, other tort-related laws and regulations, and judicial interpretations. The course analyzes the tort cases which have been adjudicated by Chinese courts to see how cases are decided under the existing tort laws. The discussion of the laws and cases aims to solve the substantive issues including liabilities based on fault such as personal and property injury, tort injury to personality rights and family/business relations; liabilities without fault such as product liability, environmental pollution, ultrahazardous activities, and injuries caused by domestic animal; fault-presumed liabilities such as medical malpractice, motor-vehicle traffic accident and work-related accidents. These issues and various concepts such as intentional torts, negligence, vicarious liabilities, and joint and several liabilities will be discussed in comparison with the Common Law counterparts.

Assessment: 100% examination

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### **LLAW3043 Principles of family law (6 credits)**

Family law is about people in a domestic and private setting; how domestic relationships are created, dissolved (which involves status alteration), reconstituted (remarriage, adoption), how relationships are regulated and disputes resolved. Hong Kong Family law is both common law and statute-based.

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

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

Assessment: 50% mid-term assessment, 50% take home examination

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### **LLAW3075 Privacy and data protection (6 credits)**

This course will explore privacy and data protection in today's surveillance-driven and increasingly interconnected global society. We will consider a variety of topics including: the concept of 'privacy', its origins, its development of political, philosophical and economic underpinnings and its conflict with free speech; constitutional, common law and statutory means of privacy protection; privacy electronic surveillance and the interception of communications, including the Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance (ICSO); data protection under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinances, including the six data protection principles, (DPPs) access and correction rights, trans-border data flow, the role and powers of the Privacy Commissioner, enforcement and exemptions from DPPs; privacy and social media; and the regional and international dimension, including data protection under APEC, Council of Europe, OECD, and EU instruments.

Assessment: 50% in-hall examination, 35% research assignment, 15% class participation

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### **LLAW3194 Property protection in China: law, politics and culture (6 credits)**

Due to China's unique economic structure and political culture, property protection has loomed large for many multinational companies to operate business in China. The vast growth of their investment in the Chinese property market makes it increasingly important for them to understand and use the complex legal system to protect their property interests. Moreover, a host of problems caused by the rapidly developing economic reform in China have made property protection a core issue at the forefront of human rights debate. Since the passage of the Property Law in 2007, there has been a more heated debate over the ways in which property system should be further reformed to address the problems such as social inequality and political change in China.

Situated in the watershed moment of institutional transition in China, this course aims to examine the legal protection of property rights under the Chinese law and its related economic, cultural and political issues. All the topics of this course will be discussed through case studies. With a focus on the newly adopted Property Law, the first part of the course deals in detail with the basic principles and rules that

protect property rights. For example, we will discuss the civil law principles of property protection, acquisition of property, exclusive rights conferred on property owners, and the limitations on exclusive rights. The second part of the course considers the economic, social and political issues of protecting property rights in China. To do so, we will discuss issues such as the development of the real estate market, the protection of cultural property, and takings of property and land reforms.

Assessment: 70% two short essays or a research paper, 30% participation

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### **LLAW3044 Public international law (6 credits)**

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

This *undergraduate* course aims to introduce the basics of the core aspects of public international law, including the law of obligations, law of peace, law of war and human rights against contemporary contested scenarios at the time of the course. With a view to give the students a practical perspective there will also be a short introduction to the use of public international law in the domestic law context.

Assessment: 50% mid-term examination, 50% research paper

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### **LLAW3163 Public international law in domestic courts (6 credits)**

This course aims to give undergraduate students advanced training in the use of public international law by domestic courts, especially in Hong Kong. It builds upon the introduction to the topic in the general public international law elective. The principles in this area are complex, especially in Hong Kong. Further, within public international law, they are among the most likely to be encountered by students in their legal careers. A specialist elective, with due regard to the Hong Kong position, is worthwhile.

Assessment: 50% continuous assessment, 50% examination

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### **LLAW3180 Regulation of cyberspace: theories of internet and normativity (6 credits)**

The course takes a closer look at the legal and political challenges brought about by the Internet and related technologies. The goal is to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the conflicts involved in the governance of the information environment and equip them with the tools to analyze and assess these conflicts from a normative perspective. This involves two analytical steps: (a) understanding the challenges and limitations of conventional legal institutions on the Internet, especially those administered by the State, and (b) reinterpreting and reinventing these institutions in the context of the Internet.

In order to achieve this goal, the course combines foundational readings with contextual analyses of legal institutions on the Internet. This approach enables participants to make connections between some timeless questions of law and politics implicated in regulation and revisit them in the broader context of networked information technologies. To complement this framework, class discussions will pick up contemporary cases and events to which the concepts and theories will be applied.

The course is not necessarily targeted at students with prior knowledge of the interplay between law and technology, in general, and law and the Internet, in particular. While not focused on any particular jurisdiction, it takes major common law systems as its starting point.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% 4 notes and queries

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### **LLAW3069 Regulation of financial markets (6 credits)**

This foundation course addresses the nature and operation of financial markets and the role of regulation. Coverage, based on comparative analysis and international standards, will include major financial sectors (banking, securities, insurance), supporting legal and institutional structures, and current issues and trends. Core themes are: the nexus between finance, technology and regulation (FinTech and RegTech), competition between globalisation and fragmentation, and the role of finance in crises and sustainable development.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 40% group presentation, 50% take home examination

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### **LLAW3229 Regulatory compliance in international finance and OTC derivatives documentation (6 credits)**

Regulatory compliance in international 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 banking, particularly in respect of over-the-counter derivatives ("OTC derivatives"), which is one of the most interesting and essential financial products. In this course, a lot of emphasis will be placed on the compliance framework and the standard contractual documentation for OTC derivatives.

The course also seeks to raise awareness towards the increasingly interconnected global regulatory framework (with focus on Asia-Pacific), and place emphasis on the necessity for a "compliant" finance industry.

By way of background, a derivative is a contract that derives its value from the performance of an underlying asset, index or interest rate. Examples include forwards, futures, options, swaps, collateralized debt obligations and credit default swaps.

Derivatives play a significant role in the financial system. Primarily, they serve as tools for financial market participants to hedge their risk exposures. Furthermore, derivatives may be used for speculation and may become a source of systemic risk in the financial market.

OTC derivatives are derivatives that are traded bilaterally between two counterparties and not traded through an exchange. As compared with exchange traded derivatives, OTC derivatives are more critical from a systemic risk management perspective. Because of the bilateral nature of the OTC derivative trades, it is more difficult for regulatory authorities to capture the nature and magnitude of these transactions for effective systemic risk management. While the insufficient regulatory management of OTC derivatives was regarded as one of the main causes for the 2008 financial crisis, various regulatory authorities around the world stepped up their efforts in regulating the trading of OTC derivatives after the crisis.

Assessment: 30% exam, 25% coursework, 25% test, 20% in-class participation

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### **LLAW3045 Remedies (6 credits)**

Damages: purpose, assessment and entitlement to damages at common law; remoteness of damages in contract and tort; damages for personal injury; damages in equity.

Specific performance: nature of the remedy; specific performance as an alternative to damages; supervision of the performance; discretionary consideration.

Injunctions: equitable origins of the injunction; power to grant injunctions; the different types of injunction; penalties for failure to comply with an injunction.

Other equitable remedies: declarations; restitution; rescission; rectification; account; delivery-up and cancellation of documents; receivers.

Defences to equitable remedies: the maxims of equity; the overriding discretion of the court.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3224 Resolution of transnational commercial disputes: processes and principles (6 credits)**

This course alludes to the available processes and the applicable principles relating to the resolution of commercial disputes that are transnational in nature. The primary focus is on the various forms of commercial dispute resolution processes available to contracting parties and the essential principles and issues pertinent to these different processes. The overriding aims of this course are to acquaint the students with the characteristics of each of these processes, to highlight the governing principles and to discuss both the perennial and emerging issues relating to this aspect of the law.

It is envisaged that lawyers advising clients on transnational commercial contracts will be required to prepare and draft dispute resolution clauses and/or to provide legal advice and representation when a dispute has arisen. Such lawyers are expected to explain to their clients the plethora of options available to them so as to advance their clients' best interests. Thus it is imperative that students have a commanding understanding and appreciation of the processes and principles concerning the resolution of transnational commercial disputes. This in turn will better prepare the students to be competent transnational lawyers.

The areas that will be examined in this course include (i) the fundamentals of the traditional and alternative commercial dispute resolution processes; (ii) the importance and effect of jurisdictional clauses or agreements; (iii) the principles governing the enforcement of foreign judgments; and (iv) the principles and approaches adopted by the courts in certain selected jurisdictions concerning the enforcement of arbitration clauses and awards. The role that National Courts play in arbitral proceedings will also be scrutinized in this course.

The topics to be discussed in this course include:

1. The traditional versus the alternative dispute resolution processes for international commercial disputes.
2. The arbitration versus litigation debate.
3. The role of national courts in arbitral proceedings.
4. Jurisdictional issues in international commercial disputes.
5. Enforcement and challenges to choice of court agreements.
6. Enforcement and challenges to arbitration clauses.
7. Principles governing the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments.
8. Principles governing the enforcement and challenges to foreign arbitral awards.

Assessment: 70% seminar presentation and a paper on a given topic/issue, 30% class participation

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### **LLAW3068 Rights of the child in international and domestic law (6 credits)**

Children as a group have long been in a precarious position given their particular vulnerabilities due to their age and development. Although the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) remains one of the most widely ratified international human rights instruments, state parties have taken diverse approaches to the protection and implementation of children's rights in the domestic context. A number of factors impact the uptake and implementation of the principles of the UNCRC into domestic law. In many parts of the world children continue to face circumstances where they are at risk of violence and exploitation. The sale of children for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and labour or their subjection to practices such as infanticide, female genital cutting, forced or child marriage remain pervasive although numerous treaties and conventions prohibit these practices. Intersectionality theory demonstrates how multiple vectors of disadvantage coalesce to create distinctly vulnerable population groups who face heightened risks. In particular, those living in poverty, individuals belonging to minority groups, women and girls, children, persons with disabilities or an unstable immigration status, are all groups subjected to intersectional disadvantage and discrimination. However, such individuals and groups routinely fall through gaps in legal systems at both the domestic and international levels.

State efforts to combat the systemic causes which enable or exacerbate such exploitation, violence and threats to children's physical and psychological safety and bodily integrity, continue to fall short. This course examines the origins of children's rights and adopts a critical approach to examining the UNCRC framework and its implementation in diverse contexts. It adopts a comparative approach to examine best practices and to better understand the reasons for the gaps which persist in different jurisdictions in the implementation of the UNCRC as part of domestic law. The course does so by drawing on select issues and case studies in Hong Kong and more broadly, in Asia. It also draws parallels with comparable jurisdictions to examine prospects for reform and the applicability of comparative jurisprudence and approaches here in Hong Kong. It examines violence against children, especially against girls but increasingly, against young boys, bullying and other forms of abuse and neglect, peace and conflict in societies, forced marriage, juvenile justice, children's freedom of expression, religion and identity rights and discrimination against children belonging to minority groups. Drawing on the core pillars of the UNCRC such as protection, the best interests of the child and the participatory rights of the child, the course examines and critically evaluates strategies, policies, international legal measures and resources required to render effective child protection for all.

Assessment: 70% research paper, 15% in-class presentation, 15% class participation

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### **LLAW3227 Securities law and regulation in Hong Kong I (6 credits)**

Securities law and regulation are at the heart of the functioning of Hong Kong's securities and futures market, providing a robust underpinning necessary for an open, healthy, transparent and fair market, with clear rules that are consistently applied for the protection of market integrity and investors' interest. To succeed as an international financial centre, Hong Kong needs nothing less.

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of the philosophy and policy behind regulation, how policy imperatives are evaluated and implemented, and how the law and rules are administered. It will take students into the core of Hong Kong's securities market regulation. In the aftermath of the Asian Financial Crisis, it became clear that a modern, purposeful legislation was needed to plug the gaps in the then existing regulatory fabric and equip the Hong Kong market for challenges and opportunities in the new millennium and with it, the new technological era. Hong Kong undertook securities law reform to replace the labyrinth of some 10 pieces of related legislation with the Securities and Futures Ordinance (SFO). Students will be taken through the process behind the enactment of the SFO, the policy choices confronting Hong Kong and the imperatives behind the exercise. Equipped with a better understanding of the policy and regulatory philosophy behind the SFO, students will then be invited to examine in depth, through a series of case studies (based on actual cases brought before the Hong Kong courts and the Market Misconduct Tribunal) some of the key components of market

regulation - the regulation of market structures such as Hong Kong's stock exchange and other automated trading systems, the regime for the offer of investments, the dual regime for combating market misconduct market, and the tools that the regulator is given under the SFO to regulate the market, and how the regulator uses these tools. Through these case studies, students will understand how the law and rules are administered, the objectives behind various regulatory actions taken and the rationale for different protective actions sought. Students will be challenged to critically assess the effectiveness and implications of some of these actions, and explore other possible avenues of redress/rectification/protection.

Given Hong Kong's role as the bridge between the Mainland of China and the rest of the world, the course will also examine, albeit briefly, how Hong Kong has within the framework of its existing legal and regulatory system successfully connected with the Mainland Chinese market, and also connected the Mainland Chinese market with the international markets and international investors.

Assessment: 30% written work, 30% oral presentation, 40% take home written paper

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### **LLAW3228 Securities law and regulation in Hong Kong II (6 credits)**

Securities law and regulation are at the heart of the functioning of Hong Kong's securities and futures market, providing a robust underpinning necessary for an open, healthy, transparent and fair market, with clear rules that are consistently applied for the protection of market integrity and investors' interest.

To succeed as an international financial centre, Hong Kong needs nothing less.

This course provides an overview of Hong Kong's securities regulatory regime, with special focus on how the regulation has been developed to both enable and supervise market players (i.e., regulated intermediaries such as brokers, fund managers, etc. who are licensed by or registered with the SFC to conduct regulated activities) and new and developing market innovations. Students will learn: the sources of law and regulation of the securities and futures market in Hong Kong and the philosophy behind regulation, the general fabric of regulation including a closer look at how the regime seeks to protect investors while at the same time permitting market innovation. Students will examine in detail the regime for the regulation of regulated intermediaries, the tools for supervising them, the administrative sanctions regime and the appeal mechanism. As well, students will be invited to consider how various market innovations in recent years, have challenged the limits of the existing legal and regulatory framework and how the regime has dealt with these issues. In this context students will examine legal and regulatory issues surrounding the offering of investments and products (including crowd funding and virtual currencies) and market structures and behaviours such as dark pools and high frequency trading. As securities markets are global and Hong Kong is a part of the global markets, the course will also examine how Hong Kong has responded to the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the global reforms unleashed under the aegis of the G-20 and the Financial Stability Board. Specifically, students will examine some of the key pillars of these reforms, such as the regulation of credit rating agencies and over-the-counter derivatives, and the resolution of Too-Big-to-Fail financial institutions. Closer to home, students will examine the high profile failure of the Lehman Brothers Minibonds in Hong Kong and how the matter was resolved.

Students will be challenged to critically assess the effectiveness of Hong Kong's regulatory responses to these issues, and the longer-term implications to the development of Hong Kong's securities and futures market.

While students who have taken Securities Law and Regulation in Hong Kong I may find this course to be an interesting and useful continuation of their pursuit in the study of securities market regulation, that course is not a pre-requisite for this course. Each of these courses will in their own way and through the use of different subject matter introduce students to the diverse complexity and intellectual challenge of understanding securities markets and the legal and regulatory issues involved, and enable students to gain a good understanding of the subject from different perspectives.

Assessment: 30% written work, 30% oral presentation, 40% take home written paper

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### **LLAW3077 Selected issues: WTO and China (6 credits)**

This course is an advanced seminar on the interactions between WTO law and national measures in selected areas such as customs administration; public health and safety, consumer protection, industrial and competition policies; agricultural, textiles and clothing markets, financial services markets, telecommunications, and intellectual property rights. Each topic will include a discussion of the interactions between WTO law and national measures with respect to China. This will include examination of issues related to State trading, economies in transition and differential treatment to accommodate the special needs of developing economies. The course will begin with a review of the general principles of the WTO agreements, and a discussion of the sources of WTO law concerning China's commitments and obligations. Topics of study will include valuation for customs purposes, pre-shipment inspection, rules of origin and import licensing procedures. The WTO agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade will also be considered, as will the treatment of anti-dumping measures, subsidies and countervailing duties, and government procurement. Policies related to trade in agricultural products, textiles and clothing will be addressed in the light of relevant WTO agreements. The GATS and its annexes on Financial Services with respect to banking, insurance and securities, and Telecommunications will be examined. Finally, the course will conclude with a detailed analysis of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs Agreement) and a review of the requirements necessary for a national regime to implement the TRIPs agreement.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3116 Selected legal issues in commercial practice (6 credits)**

This course seeks to discuss selected topics of Law that are fundamental and practical to Commercial Practice. Its objects are two-fold: (1) to provide a fresh and perhaps practical perspective on certain topics in Contracts, Torts, and Commercial transactions generally; (2) to introduce new topics that help students plug gaps of knowledge in important Commercial areas.

The topics intended to be covered are:-

1. Mistake
2. Illegality
3. Liability for misrepresentations
4. Liability for non-disclosure
5. Estoppel
6. Assignment of choses in action
7. Set-off
8. Subrogation
9. Resulting trusts
10. Constructive trusts

The course will be conducted through seminars. It will not cover the whole of the 10 topics listed, but specific themes within those areas. The approach will be practical, as well as theoretical.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### **LLAW3051 Selected problems in international law (6 credits)**

A detailed examination of selected issues of international law in areas such as international environmental law, international criminal law, law of treaties, international economic law, law of the sea, law of war and humanitarian law, air and space law, international organizations and settlement of international disputes.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3290 Seminar on human rights and constitutionalism in Asia (6 credits)**

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

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

Assessment: 25% class presentation, 75% research paper

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### **LLAW3277 Seminars in private law (6 credits)**

The course examines cutting edge and fundamental issues in private law (including Contracts, Torts, Unjust Enrichment, Property, Trusts, and Companies) and aims to deepen student knowledge in these areas and plug gaps of knowledge. Through doing so, this course hopes to provide a foundation for postgraduate studies and legal practice. It also hopes to equip students with useful skills for application to postgraduate programmes.

While the course develops the knowledge students have acquired in core courses such as Contracts and Torts, it is intended to be free-standing. The course begins with a discussion of the basic values and principles of the main branches of private law, followed by paper presentations by the course teachers and outsiders speakers (scholars and/or practitioners who are experts in the relevant issues). Students will be well prepared for each presentation by a guided study of the topic concerned in advance, to ensure that they benefit from the presentations.

Pre-requisite: Contract law

Assessment: 20% class participation, 40% presentation, 40% response essay

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### **LLAW3274 Shakespeare and the law (6 credits)**

Shakespeare made extensive use of legal terms, ideas, and procedures in his drama. In this course, we will examine the connections between Shakespeare and the law in two broad ways. First, we will look at how law, and legal reasoning, contributed to Shakespeare's construction of drama, including his famed creation of vivid, life-like characters. We will explore how legal notions of intention, suspicion, and inference informed the "inwardness" or "interiority" of Shakespeare's characters. Students will be asked to bring early modern legal cases (such as *Hales v Petit*) and land law (Domesday Book) to bear on their analysis of Hamlet's much discussed "delay". We will consider both how early modern legal training – including forensic rhetoric and evidentiary reasoning – informed Shakespeare's dramatic technique, and how literary, narratological, and affective strategies informed the development of

English law.

Second, the course will explore the interrelationships between language, law, and power. The relationship between the crown and the law (*rex v lex*) was much debated in early modern England and was a central focus of Shakespeare's history plays. We will examine the intersection of law and power politics in *2 Henry VI*, a play famous for the rebel cry: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers". The line speaks to deep social grievances concerning the role and nature of law, the place of the commons, and the nature of authority. Students will examine important texts in the early modern understanding of kingship and authority, including case law (*Calvin's Case*, *Case of the Duchy of Lancaster*, *Willion v Berkley*), legal theory (Edward Coke's foundational writings on the common law and Ernst Kantorowicz's *The King's Two Bodies*), and Elizabethan political theology (*Homily on Obedience*, *Homily Against Disobedience*). *2 Henry VI* also offers an opportunity to examine Shakespeare's treatment of the legal trial, the criteria for interpretation and judgement, and the connection between trial jury and theatre audience.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 15% oral presentation, 25% mid-term essay, 50% final essay

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### **LLAW3053 Sociology of law (6 credits)**

The main objective of the course is to provide a general introduction to the sociological study of law. It attempts to develop an understanding of law in its social context by examining social theories of law and empirical research relating to law in contemporary industrialised societies, including Hong Kong.

In seeking to explore the operation of law in action, the course first explores the theories and typologies of Durkheim and Weber with particular emphasis on problems of legitimacy, ideology, and social solidarity. Specific sociologically significant features of the law are then considered. These include: the legal profession; the functions of courts; the enforcement of law by the police; the Rule of Law.

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3225 Sovereignty in law, theory and culture (6 credits)**

Sovereignty is a centrally important concept for both law and politics, to which recent debates in Hong Kong testify. In this course we will assess the meaning and significance of sovereignty by drawing on resources from across the arts, humanities and social sciences. We will read and discuss materials from law, political theory, philosophy, urban studies, literature and the visual arts in order to answer the following questions:

What is sovereignty and how is this concept related to the history of the modern state?

Who are some of the key theorists of sovereignty and how do they offer contrasting accounts of the concept?

How is our understanding of sovereignty changing in the context of contemporary challenges like globalization, climate change and international terrorism?

What would law and politics look like without or beyond modern conceptualizations of sovereignty?

The course takes a broad historical sweep, from early-modern approaches to sovereignty to contemporary commentators. We will look at key theorists of sovereignty like (the authoritarian) Thomas Hobbes, (the Nazi-sympathizing) Carl Schmitt and (the anarchist philosopher) Giorgio Agamben as well as explore thinkers who are trying to imagine law and politics 'without' or 'beyond' modern, orthodox understandings of sovereignty. Throughout the course, we supplement theoretical and

legal debates with insights from literature and the visual arts. The plays of William Shakespeare; artworks depicting the confrontations associated with the assertion of colonial sovereignty; 17<sup>th</sup> century emblems and images; and a twenty-first century novel can all help us understand the meaning of sovereignty and explore possibilities for its critique.

The course will be of particular interest to students who have enjoyed classes in legal, literary, political or critical theory; law and literature; law and film; or constitutional law. But the course is open to all who are excited to explore the possibilities of interdisciplinary scholarship and want to find out more about the elusive but crucially important notion of sovereignty. This course hopes to broaden the scholarly horizons of students by bringing students together from different disciplinary backgrounds and will provide participants with valuable cross-disciplinary reading, rhetorical and evaluative skills.

Assessment: 20% oral presentation and class participation, 30% mid-term essay, 50% final essay

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### **LLAW3147 Space law and policy (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the study of space law. It will enable them to understand the socio-economic environment of Space law from the legal standpoint and will provide them with a detailed overview of the substantive rules of law relating to peaceful use of outer space, liability, registration, space commercialization, launching activities, remote sensing and environmental issues. It will teach them how to develop an understanding of the theoretical nature and practical aspects of the function of telecommunications services in mainland China and Hong Kong. Students will critically analyze the relevance and substance of Space law and related problems, such as space launching activities, remote sensing and space debris, and gain an understanding of the process of telecommunications liberalization within the World Trade Organizations (WTO).

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3054 Succession (6 credits)**

The law relating to the validity, construction, revocation and operation of wills and the rules governing intestate succession; family provision, the nature and purpose of the office of executor and administrator.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW2011 Summer Internship (6 credits)**

This programme is offered only to law students. Students will undertake an internship with a non-governmental organisation or public authority in Hong Kong, Mainland China or other regional Community Partner Organisation (CPO). The internship will last for ONE MONTH and will take place in two separate internship sessions in June and July. Students may choose EITHER the June internship period organisation or the July internship period, but may not participate in both.

Application for this course is competitive and students will be SELECTED by CPOs based on their profile, specific skill-set, background knowledge, and interest or experience in particular areas of law. The CPOs taking part in the SJSI course work on a wide range of human rights and social justice issues, including migrant domestic workers, human trafficking, animal rights, labour rights, rights of ethnic minorities, women, the elderly, and children, among others. When applying, students may indicate which CPOs they are interested in working with.

The course will be assessed on the basis of a 5-point scale ranging from Poor to Excellent. These points

will not be counted towards the calculation of the CGPA/WGPA or honours classification. However, these will be recorded on an official transcript. In addition, students who are selected to participate in the program and who successfully complete all requirements will be presented with a certificate officially recognising their contribution to and successful completion of the Programme.

Assessment: 100% completion of one-month internship with the CPO (clocking a minimum of 120 hours to qualify as satisfactory completion of the internship component); maintenance of work report documenting daily objectives, work output and achievement of goals; submission of reflective journal and a research paper

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### **LLAW3251 The beginnings of English law and literature (6 credits)**

In England's medieval period, it has been said, 'law and literature grew up together'. In this course, we will examine the early history of English law: from the blunt legal codes of the earliest medieval English kings, through the rise of the common law after 1066, to the rapid growth of a complex and professionalised legal system in the early renaissance. Our survey of the foundational laws of England will be informed and enriched by a close examination of major literary works – such as the Old English epic Beowulf, the legends of King Arthur, Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, and early renaissance drama. The focus will be how English law and literature before the year 1600 influenced each other, and how both discourses tackled questions of authority, sovereignty and the rule of law – questions that both law and literature still grapple with today.

In addition to offering a window into a number of medieval worlds – early royal courts, the first universities, the scriptorium, the early Inns of Court, the guildhalls of London – this course traces the history of the English book itself. The legal and literary texts we study survive in medieval documents, rolls, manuscripts and early printed books; as we learn how these artefacts were composed and produced, we will discover the profound influence that legal writing had on the way that books were created, organised, reproduced and read in the medieval period and for centuries to come.

Students completing the course will have a strong sense of the history and development of English statute and common law, familiarity with many of the canonical literary texts and authors of the medieval and renaissance periods, and a critical understanding of the interactions of pre-modern law and literature, as well as the ability to undertake legal and literary research using primary texts and documentary artefacts from manuscript libraries and archives.

Assessment: 50% final essay, 30% mid-term essay, 20% oral presentation

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### **LLAW3264 The law of signs: interpretative controversies in legal semiotics (6 credits)**

This course investigates the way that law treats verbal and visual signs. The study of signs is termed *semiotics*. By *sign* is meant here the visual and verbal bearer of contentious meanings and/or of disputed cultural significance. Through the study of decided cases, the courses analyzes how verbal and visual signs encounter law's definitions, registration regimes, prohibition, censorship, or protection. Among the legal domains involved are: trademark and copyright law; employment and discrimination law; censorship, free speech and obscenity law; blasphemy; public order law; human rights law. The course will be divided into sections by topic (not all of which will be taught for each iteration): (i) names and marks (legal limits on the right to choose, registration regimes in relation to personal and corporate names, marks, titles, licence plates, domain names); (ii) art (art works and customs regulations, legal definitions of *art*; art works and forgery, e.g. artistic images of currency; art works and parody; art and taboo; song lyrics and taboo meanings); (iii) flags, insignia and symbols (laws against flag desecration; banned political symbols; triad society symbols; gang insignia); (iv) speech versus conduct (gestures; public order offences involving swearing, insulting language or behaviour; contempt of court; the definition of speech under the First Amendment); (v) clothing and hair-styles (e.g. employment law;

sumptuary laws; contempt of court); (vi) cultural appropriation and identity (the commercial use of indigenous linguistic materials and cultural symbols); (vii) language in public spaces (regulations on signage; noise and nuisance; the definition of *public*). The course focuses on the underlying legal, socio-political, and semiotic doctrines that are at play, but also the implicit or explicit theory of the sign, the understanding of how signs communicate, how the ownership of signs and images is understood, and how law assigns authorial and interpretative responsibility for meanings.

Assessment: 20% case report, 30% short essay, 50% essay/project

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## **LLAW3212 The law on financial derivatives and structured products (6 credits)**

This course is a pioneering derivatives course, taught by leading practitioners in the field. The course aims to give undergraduate students a working knowledge of derivatives and structured products as used in the financial markets in Hong Kong and of the key legal and regulatory concepts and documentation involved, which will be useful to them in their future professional life as commercial or finance lawyers. While looking at the evolving legal and regulatory issues arising from the derivatives market, the course will primarily focus on the private law aspects of cross-border derivative transactions.

The course will be liberally illustrated with real life case studies of the uses (and abuses) of derivatives, drawn primarily from the practice experience of the presenters.

Topics to be covered include:

### Infrastructure

- what are derivatives; introduction to key concepts; introduction to common structures (swaps, options and forwards); introduction to common derivative product terminology
- introduction to the derivatives market: key market players; regulators; important products; milestones; current issues
- main uses of derivatives e.g. hedging, investment, speculation, financing, market access
- lifecycle of a derivative transaction
- Stock Connect, Bond Connect, offshore RMB (CNH) and derivatives

### Key legal concepts

- capacity of counterparties to enter into derivative transactions
- close-out of derivative transactions, close-out netting, the distinction between netting and set-off
- collateral: distinction between taking collateral by way of title transfer and security interest; purposes of taking collateral; key Hong Kong legal issues in relation to security interests
- lessons learned from the insolvency of Lehman Brothers
- market standard documentation for derivatives

### Regulatory framework

- an overview of the licensing regime for derivatives
- an overview of what marketing and product approval restrictions apply to the distribution of derivative products
- suitability, mis-selling and product governance, including an examination of the minibonds crisis, 10 years on
- reform of the Hong Kong derivatives market in the wake of the financial crisis: mandatory clearing and reporting of OTC derivatives and mandatory margining
- ethical considerations in the use of derivatives

### Products and key features

- FX and interest rate derivatives (including the novel features of CNH)
- equity derivatives
- credit derivatives
- retail structured products (Minibonds, equity-linked notes, accumulators)

- stock repurchase arrangements (repos) and stock loans
- clearing of OTC derivatives including client clearing

Pre-requisite: Have taken and passed Commercial Law

Co-requisite: Having taken and passed (or concurrently taking) Business associations

Assessment: 60% take home examination at the end of the semester; 30% written assignment; 10% class participation - preparation and participation in class discussions

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### **LLAW3260 The Mainland China legal internship programme (6 credits)**

The course comprises a one-month internship in PRC and pre-tour and post-tour fringe activities.

For the one-month internship in PRC, enrolled students will be assigned to either one of major domestic law firms, arbitration institutions, legal / compliance departments of central state-owned enterprises, or financial institutions or banks in Beijing or Shanghai under the framework of “Mainland China Legal Internship Programme for Hong Kong Youths” administered by International Youth Legal Exchange Federation (“IYLEF”). Partners or senior managers of partnership institutions will be assigned to students as their mentors who will supervise the students’ work and performance on a daily basis.

During the internship, students will be offered opportunities to participate in the daily legal businesses and operations assigned by their mentors and they will be expected to acquire hands-on experience and knowledge on Chinese law, in particular commercial law, contract law, shipping law, intellectual property law and private International law. Intensive training will be offered to students at the first week of internship to familiar themselves with practice of Chinese Law.

Students will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

Assessment: 50% internship performance, 50% essay

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### **LLAW3261 The regulation of technological platforms: theory and practice (6 credits)**

Technological Platforms are at the heart of contemporary concerns with the future of law and governance. They have transformed the structures of individual and collective action in contemporary societies in profound and challenging ways. The forms of power technological platforms instantiate fundamentally affect the social perception, if not the construction, of reality itself. Algorithms on which their design decisions are based catalyze biases and inequality. And yet, these same algorithms increasingly become medium and message—the very fabric—of our political processes.

But how to regulate technological platforms? Or can we? Modalities of limitation of public power that emerged in modern times are not naturally extensible to private actors. Competition law, in turn, has a more restricted scope than the plethora of challenges offered by platforms in different realms. More fundamentally, there is the challenge posed by the problem of expertise in a world of increasing complexification and asymmetry of knowledge. In other words, state regulators will increasingly depend on the technologies and expertise owned by the very actors they seek to regulate, a problem which is coupled by the embeddedness of design decisions in artificially intelligent systems that do not lend themselves to easy explainability.

How to move forward? This is the question that, in different realms related to the regulation of technological platforms, we will be exploring in this course. The course will be divided into two parts, the first more theoretical, the second more applied. From an inquiry into the nature and political foundations of legal normativity and its reciprocal relationship with technology, the course will go on to introduce how these ideas bear specifically on the regulation of technological platforms,

understanding the different types of platforms and forms of technology on which they are based, with particular reference to the challenges brought by Artificial Intelligence.

In the second part, the course will explore more specifically how platforms are regulated in the fields of hate speech and obscenity, defamation, privacy and data protection, copyright, and political communication. The course will close with a reflection on the limits of competition law in the regulation of platforms, and a discussion on possible ways forward to conceive of their roles and responsibilities. Basic ideas in each field will be introduced. The approach will be comparative, though particular reference will be made to the law of Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, and the European Union.

Assessment: 15% notes and queries, 85% research paper

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### **LLAW3276 The rule of law education project (6 credits)**

This interdisciplinary and experiential learning course lies at the intersection of law, education and communications. It aims to consolidate students' understanding of legal concepts related to the rule of law on the one hand, and to train them to be confident and competent speakers to disseminate legal knowledge to the Hong Kong community on the other. This course has three components:

- 1. Course lectures and seminars:** Students will attend a series of lectures to develop a strong foundation in key legal concepts related to the rule of law. The course will present to the students the complexity of the concept of the rule of law and will not adopt a single definition. Instead it will draw on various understandings of the concept, both thin and thick. Examples of lecture topics include:
  - Major legal systems in the world and an introduction to law
  - The common law system and its ideology
  - The rule of law in comparative context
  - Evolution of Hong Kong's legal system
  - The legislative process in Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong's court system and the origins of legal traditions in Hong Kong
  - The legal profession in Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong's judiciary
  - Access to justice in Hong Kong
  - Hong Kong's jury system
  - Protection of Rights in Hong Kong.
- 2. Training workshops:** Students will join training workshops after each lecture to consolidate what they have learnt in class and acquire the skills needed to translate complex legal concepts into laymen-friendly teaching materials. Students will also learn from education and communications experts and hone their teaching and communication in conveying and formulating materials for a younger, more general audience.
- 3. Presentations and school seminars:** Using the classroom instruction as a foundation, students will select a topic from the lecture portion of the course upon which to focus for generating content for secondary school students. They will produce a lesson plan that includes a range of components: from in-person oral delivery, to video content, to PowerPoint explanatory slides, to charts and other materials that secondary school teachers may also use when crafting their own lesson plans. Students will also deliver law seminars at secondary schools across Hong Kong to share their knowledge with younger students. The teaching materials prepared by the students will be uploaded to the ROLE project website and made accessible to the wider general public.

LLAW1008 The legal system of HKSAR and LLAW2001 Constitutional law would be helpful but are not pre-requisites.

The course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Assessment: 15% participation, 35% oral presentation, 50% final project

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### **LLAW3240 The theory and history of the PRC constitution (6 credits)**

This course takes a historico-theoretical approach to explain the nature and purpose of the PRC Constitution and introduces the complex constitutional context in which the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR is grounded. The origin of the present-day Constitution of the People's Republic of China is neither 'Western', nor "Far Eastern" or "East Asian". It is entirely based on the "Eastern" or essentially Russian 1936 Constitution of the Soviet Union. This course will illuminate these conceptions and clarify common misconceptions by discussing the history and theories since the 19th century which forms the often neglected bedrock of the present day Chinese Constitution.

**Rationale:** Legal minds in the English-speaking Common Law world routinely attempt to understand the Chinese Constitution by employing a Western Anglo-American intellectual framework. This is uncritical. In the West, it is far too convenient to attempt an understanding of the Chinese Constitution by simple application of British and American constitutional concepts. Their comparatively minor difference in approach is not useful to fully comprehend the Chinese Constitution because its textual structure is based on a traditional Russian/Continental European model. It is also common for students of constitutional law to casually apply the textbook Western concept of "separation of powers" in such analyses. Hence, common law students taking this course will acquire a fresh approach to the law and constitution of China.

Assessment: 50% research essay, 40% two short essays, 10% class presentation

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### **LLAW3262 Theory and practice of constitutional interpretation (6 credits)**

This course introduces students to the theories and practices of constitutional interpretation from a comparative law perspective, while focusing on the case law of Taiwan's Constitutional Court. The practice of constitutional adjudication in Taiwan provides fertile soil for comparative constitutional law: Taiwan's Constitutional Court (established in the Republic of China in September 1948) is the oldest constitutional court in East Asia; it has rendered over 770 decisions, officially known as constitutional "interpretations"; and its jurisprudence has been primarily influenced by German and American jurisprudence.

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

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### **LLAW3143 Topics in law and literature: Flaubert and Eliot (6 credits)**

This elective course is designed to introduce students to the major debates in 'law and literature' studies through the works of two writers who helped to define literary realism, Gustave Flaubert and George Eliot. We will pay special attention to the law's reaction to the publication of literary works, and to the writers' response to changes in the law. Texts include Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, and Eliot's *Adam Bede* and *Felix Holt*.

Assessment: 40% continuous assessment, 60% research paper

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### **LLAW3171 Topics in English and European legal history (6 credits)**

This course is open to LLB students in the second semester of 2009-2010. It proposes to introduce students to the development of Western private law institutions through an exploration of discrete topics of English and European Legal History between 1150 and 1850.

Topics are selected to enable students to acquire basic knowledge about the legal systems practised in England (the common law system) and continental Europe (the civil law system). The course aims to help students gain a better understanding of modern private law through the study of themes in the historical development of different legal systems. Students will be encouraged to draw comparative insights between common and civil law traditions. There are no pre-requisites to this course.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3113 Topics in technology law (6 credits)**

This course examines the cutting-edge technology law issues in the age of social media and artificial intelligence. It focuses on following three areas of technology law:

Legal protection of personal data;  
Legal regulation of algorithms; and  
Intellectual property and artificial intelligence systems

Each area of study will deal with the relevant legal and policy considerations. For example, we will discuss the extent to which personal data and intellectual property rights could impact the development of artificial intelligence systems, and will also explore whether and why intellectual property law should protect the creations generated by artificial intelligence systems.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 40% first research essay, 40% second research essay

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### **LLAW3176 Trademarks and unfair competition (6 credits)**

Trademark law and the law of unfair competition play a crucial role in the commercialization of all varieties of good, ranging from high-end fashion products to daily routine products. The course aims to explore the cutting-edge issues and fundamental theories and policies in the rapidly developing trademark law and the law of unfair competition. With a focus on the law in Hong Kong and Mainland China, the course also broadly examines the relevant doctrinal developments in the United States and European Union, and discusses the impacts of digital technology on international and domestic trademark protection. The course will cover the following topics.

1. Subject matter of trademark protection
2. Distinctiveness
3. Registration
4. Genericity
5. Exclusive rights
6. Limitations on exclusive rights/trademark fair use
7. Infringement
8. Trademark dilution

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

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### **LLAW3221 Trusts in practice (6 credits)**

Using precedents and transactional documents adopted by leading London law firms in structuring trusts

for clients and generously supplied by them, the course will examine in much greater depth various representative uses of trusts in the modern world, both to make family provision and in commerce. These include, for example, onshore and offshore family trusts, and the use of trusts in international finance such as bond issues, securitizations and debt subordinations. The course will examine how these trusts are handled by practising lawyers working within, and developing, legal doctrine. Finally it will explore the broad theoretical implications of this work.

As well as offering the opportunity to learn much more about how trusts are used in real life, the course provides clear links to legal practice in commerce, finance and wealth management, both in Hong Kong and abroad. Just as importantly, the course will provide some useful theoretical overviews of trusts. It also has generic value as a good introduction to how lawyers in practice use, adapt and modify the legal institutions they inherit and so create new structures for future use. This is a vitally important process that occurs in many areas, not just the law of trusts.

Assessment: 100% take home assignment

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### **LLAW3055 Use of Chinese in law I (6 credits)**

The course aims to introduce students to some of the areas of legal practice in which written and spoken Chinese is used, and also to prepare students for the more specialised and advanced Use of Chinese in Law II. The course, to be conducted in traditional Chinese (written) and Cantonese (oral), starts with an overview of the history of the use of Chinese in the Hong Kong legal system and legal field, and then moves on to an introduction (or revision – this course admits students who achieved Grade 4 or above in the HKDSE exam) of the essential Chinese skills as applied in the legal context. A series of guest lectures will be delivered in which participants of the local legal field – including a judge, a former senior law draftsman, a senior Government prosecutor, a practising solicitor and a court interpreter – share their experience in using Chinese in specific aspects of legal practice such as drafting legal documents, rendering advice to clients, presenting submissions in the court, writing judgments, and court interpreting. At the same time, small-group tutorials are conducted with a view to introducing skills and points of note in using Chinese, including Chinese legal terms and basic skills in drafting and translating documents.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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### **LLAW3004 Use of Chinese in law II (6 credits)**

This subject aims at developing the Chinese verbal and written communication skills required for legal practice. It will be taught in Chinese (Cantonese). Except for students who have already completed Use of Chinese in Law I, applicants for enrolment in this subject are required to complete a pre-class aptitude test in August of the preceding year.

As a sequel to Use of Chinese in Law I, this subject provides further training in the drafting and translation of Chinese legal documents. It also teaches client-interviewing and client-management techniques in a Chinese conveyancing and probate context so as to develop the Chinese verbal communication skills for lawyers. A comparative study of Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese legal documents is included in this subject.

Assessment: 100% continuously by class drills and exercises, written assignments and participation

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### **LLAW3070 World Trade Organization: law and policy (6 credits)**

“Public” or governmental regulation of international trade is separate from but complementary to

“private” international business transactions. At the international level, the World Trade Organization (WTO) is the primary multilateral legal and institutional framework that governs trade relations and trade-related issues between States. This course will examine the rules, norms and policies that constitute the WTO and its substantive agreements, with a special perspective and focus on issues that are related to China’s membership. The course will begin with a review of policies that affect international trade, and economic theories associated with such policies. The Agreement Establishing the WTO (WTO Agreement), the increasingly complex management of the activities of the WTO, and its decision-making processes, will be examined. Next, the substantive agreements and associated legal instruments included in the Annexes to the WTO Agreement will be analyzed. Significant attention will be focused on the core principles of the WTO Agreements: market access; non-discrimination; transparency and administration of justice; and, binding dispute settlement. In particular, the application of these principles under the GATT and GATS will be explored. The course will further examine some WTO rules that allow derogations from these general principles and specific obligations. These derogations include rules pertaining to regional trading agreements, safeguards, general exceptions, anti-dumping measures, subsidies and countervailing duties. Finally, the course will conclude with an examination of WTO rules on trade-related investment measures (TRIMs), and environmental measures which affect international trade.

Assessment: 30% continuous assessment, 70% research paper

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### *Advanced disciplinary electives (listed in alphabetical order)*

#### **LLAW3289 Armed conflict, humanitarian law and human rights (6 credits)**

This course gives an introduction to the regulation of armed conflicts under international law. It begins with an overview of the historical evolution of the law regulating the waging of war (*jus ad bellum*) and conduct of war (*jus in bello*), and the classification of armed conflicts and other situations of violence. The bulk of the course focuses on the legal rules governing the conduct of armed conflicts and explores the relationship among the law regulating the use of force, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international criminal law as well as the interplay between war, food security and environmental crises, before moving on to explore the significance of transitional justice in healing societies and building resilience to prevent future violence. The course also explores the roles (and limitations) of key international institutions including the UN Security Council and its sanctions regime, the International Criminal Court, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the UNHCR. The course invites participants to reflect critically on the morality and legal and social implications of using force/violence to resolve conflicts and to place the development of IHL and IHRL along the path of human progress.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% research paper

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

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

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

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3030 Introduction to private international law (conflict of laws) (6 credits)**

The field of private international law, also known as ‘the conflict of laws’, is a body of principles applied by a court to cases that involve foreign elements. It generally considers three major questions. First, the question of jurisdiction: when can parties seise a court in connection with matters involving a foreign element, or conversely, what are the conditions under which a court will accept jurisdiction to deal with such matters? Second, the question of applicable law: what system or systems of law will be applied to resolve such matters? Third, the question of recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments: what are the requirements and circumstances in which they will be recognised and enforced? These questions are particularly important for Hong Kong as an international financial centre and a leading legal and dispute resolution services hub, in which a significant proportion of disputes have a connection outside of Hong Kong, either with Mainland China, or with other jurisdictions.

This course equips students with a solid working knowledge of private international law. It also examines the connections between private international law and other areas of law, such as family law, international arbitration, and cross-border insolvency. Moreover, this course offers comparative perspectives with other jurisdictions when appropriate, including Mainland China, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, and the United States. It also considers the question of harmonisation of private international law from interregional and international perspectives, and the work of various international organisations in this respect.

Assessment: 35% mid-term case note, 65% research essay

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### **LLAW3286 Law and wealth management (6 credits)**

Wealth for families is often managed using trusts, and the fiduciary management of those trusts creates interesting—and evolving—legal issues.

This course begins with an introduction to trust law and then examines issues related to wealth management and gratuitous transfer of wealth. The students will read law review articles and other contemporary articles and be asked to explore and reflect on recent developments in a number of areas, including the use of sustainable investing strategies by fiduciaries, the creation and management of charitable foundations, the use of family offices and international trust services, the use of a trust to hold and run a business, strategies to protect family assets from creditors and from disgruntled family members, the use of a trust to limit taxes imposed on family wealth, and the use of trusts as part of incapacity and succession planning. The course provides an overview of such uses with examples from Hong Kong, England, and the United States.

Pre-requisite: Contract law

Assessment: 40% class participation and written comments, 60% response essays

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### **LLAW3287 Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions (6 credits)**

The purpose of this course is to examine significant legal concepts and private law issues encountered in commercial finance and investment banking. A sound knowledge of these areas of law in the transactional context provides a firm foundation for legal practice in international law firms and at the Bar including skills in tackling the latest challenges thrown up by globalization and the digital economy.

This course builds on the knowledge students have acquired in the core courses of Contracts and Torts in the application in the financial markets and will provide a deeper understanding of the part that private law plays in such markets.

The course will begin with an introduction to transactional structures in the financial markets including loans, guarantees, bonds, derivatives and structured finance. The aim is to consider various concepts in contract, property and trusts which are used to allocate, manage and transfer risk in transactions. While the focus will be on English law and Hong Kong law, the course will consider civil law jurisdictions for criticism and comparison (and the practical impact on transactions). For example, taking security for bonds and loans and the enforcement of security would have different impact under different laws. The course will also consider developments in the financial markets including tokenisation of financial instruments.

Pre-requisite: Contract law

Assessment: 40% class participation and written comments, 60% essay

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### **LLAW3291 Mental disability and the law (6 credits)**

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

This course deals with the relationship between mental disability and the law, examining various aspects of how the law deals with those with mental disability (which includes individuals with various kinds of mental impairment and mental disorders) in both the civil and criminal context. The course addresses the key ethical principles underlying mental health law, as well as the international human rights instruments (such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) that have had or should have an impact on the development of mental health law. The course will also have a significant focus on the user perspective, which will include interactive sessions with service users in Hong Kong.

The syllabus covers a range of topics in mental health law and ethics. Students will begin by learning about mental disability and legislative frameworks that govern mental health. The course will then cover various topics in criminal mental health law, including police powers and defences. This will then be followed by topics in civil mental health law, including compulsory detention and treatment in hospital and conditional discharge, and mental capacity law, including the assessment of capacity and how best interest determinations on behalf of individuals without capacity are and should be made.

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

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

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### **LLAW3183 Mergers and acquisitions (6 credits)**

The course will consider the specific circumstances of takeovers, mergers, acquisitions and disposals. Both private and public/listed M&A situations will be considered.

The commercial underpinnings of M&A will be considered as well as the factors that are critical to the art and science of a successful M&A transaction.

The process of transaction acquirement and execution will be examined as well as the typical documents and other steps involved, for example, due diligence and data rooms, and how this interacts with the contractual documentation and negotiation process. Matters normally of importance to contractual documentation, such as purchase price payment mechanisms, warranties, indemnities and undertakings etc, will be reviewed. The joint venture situation will be considered.

The course will analyze the listed company context and how regulations affect the manner in which an M&A transaction can be undertaken. A focus of the course will therefore 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, such as irrevocable undertakings, the use of voting trusts, and offer structures, 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: 15% class participation, 35% coursework, 50% take home examination

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

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### **LLAW3201 PRC shipping law (in Putonghua) (6 credits)**

The course aims at promoting students' understanding of the legal framework governing shipping and maritime trade in mainland China.

Topics include: ships and crew; contracts of sea carriage; bills of lading and charterparties; multimodal transport; sea towage contracts; collision of ships; salvage at sea; general average; marine insurance; limitation of time and liability for maritime claims; maritime dispute resolution. The PRC Maritime Code and relevant legislation will be covered.

The course will be taught in Putonghua and examined in Chinese. The examination answers can be written in either English or Chinese as selected by the student. Problem-solving approach with case studies will be adopted.

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

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### **LLAW3115 Rights and remedies in the criminal process (6 credits)**

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

Assessment: 100% take home examination or 100% research paper

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### **LLAW3293 Securities regulation I (6 credits)**

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 Provisions) 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: 10% class participation, 25% in-class coursework, 65% take home examination

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

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### **LLAW3288 Transnational criminal law (6 credits)**

Transnational criminal law is a broad subject encompassing (i) the international and domestic laws used to suppress transnational crimes, and (ii) the cross-border criminal procedures applied in domestic cases. Transnational crimes are offences that occur in or affect more than one jurisdiction and include drug trafficking, money laundering, organized crime, human trafficking, people smuggling, terrorism, cybercrimes, bribery, trafficking in endangered species or cultural property, and violation of sanctions. Cross-border criminal procedures may be needed in domestic cases, whether the crime is transnational or local, if an essential aspect of the case (e.g. the defendant, a witness, or material evidence) lies outside the territory of the place handling the case. Such procedures include extradition, mutual legal assistance (e.g. in evidence gathering), asset freezing and recovery, and transfer of sentenced prisoners.

Students in this course will study these various aspects of transnational criminal law from reading both primary and secondary sources. The course approaches these topics from both theoretical and practical perspectives and with reference to the international and domestic laws/practices relevant to Hong Kong. Some issues that may be discussed in the course include the tension between sovereignty interests and the domestic exercise of extraterritorial jurisdiction, the elements of transnational criminal offences, the implementation of treaty crimes into domestic law, reconciling cross-border criminal procedures with protections for human rights and the rule of law, practical difficulties in criminal cooperation between states and within the People's Republic of China, latest developments in cross-border digital data/evidence requests, and the role of international organizations such as the United Nations, INTERPOL, Financial Action Task Force, etc in addressing transnational criminal activity.

Assessment: 30% group presentation, 70% research paper

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