

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN CHINESE LAW [LLM(CHINESELAW)]

These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the LLM(ChineseLaw) curriculum in the academic year 2026-2027 and thereafter.

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

LLMCL1. Admission Requirements

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

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b)
 - (i) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
 - (ii) shall hold a degree in a discipline other than law with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
 - (iii) shall have obtained either the Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University provided that in either case the candidate has also obtained a degree with at least second class honours of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).
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LLMCL2. Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully no more than 5 years before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Law, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 9 credits (one course) for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
 - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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LLMCL3. Period of Study

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Chinese Law shall normally require one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.
 - (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years in the case of full-time candidates and three academic years in the case of part-time candidates, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
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LLMCL4. Completion of Curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Chinese Law, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) satisfactorily complete 72 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, including a capstone experience, or 36 credits in the case of a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study, including a capstone experience.
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LLMCL5. Selection of Courses

- (a) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabus before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.
 - (b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s).
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LLMCL6. Dissertation

- (a) Candidates must successfully complete LLAW6022 Advanced Research Methodology in order to be eligible to submit a dissertation.
 - (b) Candidates, whether full-time or part-time, who elect to submit a dissertation shall propose a title for the dissertation, secure a supervisor, and secure the approval of the Programme Director by November 30 of the academic year in which they intend to submit a dissertation. Candidates shall submit the dissertation no later than May 1 of that academic year.
 - (c) In exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the period within which the dissertation must be submitted. Such application must be made at least one month before the prescribed date of submission. Late applications for extension will not be considered, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (d) The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may require an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.
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LLMCL7. Progression in Curriculum

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirements as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (i) Candidates who are on a one-year full-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester).
 - (ii) Candidates who are on a two-year part-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 9 credits nor more than 18 credits in any one semester (except the summer semester).
 - (iii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits.
 - (iv) In each case under (i) or (ii) above, the total number of credits taken shall not exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits for the normative period of study specified in LLMCL3(a).
 - (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
 - (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
 - (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits (under one-year full-time study) or 18 or more credits (under two-year part-time study) in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in LLMCL3(b).
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LLMCL8. Exemption

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, up to 9 credits (one course) of the requirements prescribed in the regulations and the syllabus governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

LLMCL9. Assessment

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
 - (b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
 - (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.
 - (d) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:
 - (i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
 - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
 - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
 - (e) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ re-submission/ assessment in an alternative course under (d) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA. Such candidates shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.
 - (f) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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LLMCL10. Absence from an Examination

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

LLMCL11. Requirements for Graduation

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Laws in Chinese Law, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b) complete the curriculum requirements prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses within the maximum period of registration and satisfy the examiner in not fewer than 72 credits in accordance with the regulations governing examinations procedures, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone experience as specified in the syllabus; and
 - (c) have achieved a Cumulative GPA of 1.50 or above.
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LLMCL12. Grading System

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

LLMCL13. Classification of Awards

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

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN CHINESE LAW

COURSEWORK

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

OBJECTIVES

The degree of Master of Laws in Chinese Law is offered by the Faculty of Law to address an increasing need in Hong Kong and internationally for a more comprehensive understanding of the laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China. Hong Kong is uniquely placed to provide to students from Hong Kong and elsewhere courses on contemporary Chinese law developments from a comparative perspective which are conducted primarily in English.

DISSERTATION

An 18-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Programme Director.

A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 8,000 to 10,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Programme Director.

The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

STRUCTURE

Candidates are required to complete 72 credits, including a capstone experience in accordance with the regulations for this degree and the syllabus as set out below. Candidates must choose at least six courses from the Course List below, including one capstone course and at least five designated electives. Candidates may choose up to two other electives from courses not listed on the Course List below, but listed as Electives on the Course List for the General LLM programme.

COURSE LIST

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

Capstone Course (9 credits) (or 18 credits if taking LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation as a capstone)

(Candidates must complete one of the following courses)

- LLAW6054 9-credit dissertation#
- LLAW6014 18-credit dissertation# (18 credits)
- LLAW6025 China company law*
- LLAW6212 China intellectual property law*
- LLAW6185 China investment law*
- LLAW6186 China trade law*
- LLAW6336 Law and corporate finance in China*

Candidates can only enroll in either LLAW6014 or LLAW6054. Enrollment in these two courses requires prior approval by the Programme Director. Candidates must successfully complete LLAW6022 Advanced Research Methodology in order to be eligible to submit a dissertation. Part-time candidates can only enroll in either LLAW6014 or LLAW6054 in their second year of studies.

** Courses marked with an asterisk are designated as both capstone courses and designated electives. If more than one of these courses is selected, one of them will count towards fulfilling the capstone requirement. The remaining course(s) will count as designated electives.*

Designated Electives (45-63 credits)

(Candidates must complete at least five of the following courses)

- LLAW6022 Advanced research methodology
- LLAW6344 China AI governance in comparative perspective
- LLAW6025 China company law*
- LLAW6343 China data protection law
- LLAW6165 China economic law
- LLAW6139 China information technology and electronic commerce law
- LLAW6212 China intellectual property law*
- LLAW6185 China investment law*
- LLAW6047 China property law
- LLAW6048 China security and insolvency law
- LLAW6225 China shipping law (in Putonghua)
- LLAW6201 China taxation law and policy
- LLAW6167 China tort law
- LLAW6186 China trade law*
- LLAW6003 Civil and commercial law in China
- LLAW6156 Comparative constitutional law
- LLAW6248 Comparative contract law
- LLAW6279 Comparative corporate law
- LLAW6209 Comparative family law
- LLAW6150 Comparative law
- LLAW6251 Comparative property and trust law

LLAW6264	Competition law and policy in China
LLAW6335	Constitutional and administrative law in China
LLAW6171	Corruption: China in comparative perspective
LLAW6114	Cross-border legal relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong (in Putonghua)
LLAW6348	Equality rights in China (in Putonghua)
LLAW6307	Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective
LLAW6070	Human rights in China
LLAW6132	International and comparative intellectual property law
LLAW6133	International economic law
LLAW6037	International environmental law
LLAW6182	International organizations
LLAW6008	Introduction to Chinese law and legal system
LLAW6336	Law and corporate finance in China*
LLAW6110	Law and regulation of banking and insurance in China
LLAW6308	Law and society in China
LLAW6342	Law of the sea
LLAW6340	Legal pluralism in Hong Kong
LLAW6109	Public international law
LLAW6358	Selected topics in Chinese law

Other Electives (0-18 credits) (or 0-9 credits if LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation is selected as a capstone course)

Candidates should refer to the Electives listed under the Course List for the syllabus for the general degree of Master of Laws. No more than two courses may be taken from any single Cluster in the Electives.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN CHINESE LAW [LLM(CHINESE LAW)]

Capstone course

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

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

Prerequisite/co-requisite: LLAW6022

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% Research paper

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

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

Prerequisite: LLAW6022

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6025 China company law

This purpose of the course is to introduce to the students basic concepts of China's business entities and to analyze fundamental policy issues raised in China's corporatization process, in which the company has evolved to become the most important business institution since the inception of China's economic reform. Throughout the course, special emphasis is put on helping students to build a set of transferrable corporate legal skills which they can apply to solve legal problems in corporate business transactions.

The course starts with an overarching analytic framework to approach corporate law. The main topics include the formation of various types of companies in China, protection of creditors and minority shareholders, fiduciary duties of controlling shareholders, directors and senior managers, shareholder's derivative suit and corporate governance in Chinese companies etc. In addition, the study of this course will be put in broader contexts of China's economic and political system, its cultural background and its recent rise as a global superpower. In this connection, the course will also explore the role of Chinese state-owned enterprises and the emerging problems when Chinese companies go global.

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

LLAW6185 China investment law

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6186 China trade law

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: the legal framework of PRC Foreign Trade Law; PRC customs, licensing and quotas, inspection/standards systems, and trade remedies (anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures); Trade transactions under the PRC Civil Code and CISG; Trade dispute resolution.

Assessment: 20% course participation, 80% research paper

LLAW6212 China intellectual property law

This course provides a thorough introduction to Chinese intellectual property law. It will cover copyright law, patent law, and trademark law. China's modern intellectual property system began to take shape in the 1980s as one of the aspects of reform and opening up and market economy

reform. This system has been constantly refined over the last forty years. In the last decade, the Chinese government has expanded the focus of its legislation from providing intellectual property rights to protect intellectual assets to other aspects, including the creation of intellectual assets, the implementation of intellectual assets and intellectual property rights, the management of these assets and rights, and the services associated with them. This course will introduce students to the rules and policies of China's intellectual property system for the protection of copyrights, trademarks, and patents, as well as the rules and policies governing other aspects. The course may also include discussions of the operation of intellectual property rights in some industries, such as pharmaceuticals, cyberculture, animation, fashion, and automobiles.

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

LLAW6336 Law and corporate finance in China

In this course, students will study the laws governing corporate financial transactions, including the contribution of capital, distribution of dividends and the capital maintenance rule, stock redemption and repurchase, stock dividends and stock splits, stock option plans, mergers and acquisitions, corporate divisions, asset securitization, and the valuation of corporate stocks. While students will mainly learn about Chinese corporate law and regulatory rules on these transactions, this course will also take a comparative perspective and introduce similar rules in the United States, Europe, and Japan. Students will also explore how law affects the ownership structure of corporations, including dispersed ownership, concentrated ownership, corporate conglomerates, institutional ownership, and state ownership. Students will be introduced to the basic logics of finance, and study the valuation of financial assets, the capital structure irrelevance theory, the agency cost theory, and the transaction cost theory.

Assessment: 30% presentation, 70% take home assignment

Designated electives

LLAW6003 Civil and commercial law in China

This course will study the Chinese Civil and Commercial Law, mainly the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, from theoretical and comparative perspectives. This is not a doctrine-centric course. The lectures and class materials will cover both studies *on* the Chinese Civil Code and research *related to* it.

The course will accommodate the diverse backgrounds of students who may have different levels of knowledge regarding Chinese laws. Each topic of the course will be roughly divided into two parts: the first part will consist of lectures on the general legal institutions, providing foundational knowledge for those new to Chinese civil law, while also helping those with a Chinese law background understand the laws in an English context. The second part will focus on theoretical and comparative studies, where the teacher will select legal theories, comparative exercises, and cases for discussion.

Assessment: 100% take home examination

LLAW6008 Introduction to Chinese law and legal system

The objective of this course is to introduce students to China's developing legal system and selected areas of substantive law. The notion of law as contemporary lawyers understand it has been an important part of China's efforts at "modernization" since the second half of 19th century, even though for a pre-urban and preindustrial society imperial China had a relatively sophisticated legal culture. Since 1978, in order to promote economic reform (among other reasons), the Chinese party-state has refurbished its legal system and created an impressively broad corpus of legal rules. However, from a comparative perspective, the extent to which China has become a "rule of law" society remains unclear and this is one of the main concerns of the course. After examining briefly the system of governance before China embarked on its modernization programme, and bearing in mind the continuing influence of some of the enduring values of Chinese legal culture, this course goes on to explore the wide-ranging processes of legal modernization, the constitutional foundations of the current party-state, key contemporary Chinese legal institutions, access to civil, criminal and administrative justice, administrative and civil law, family and population law (because the family remains central to Chinese society), and social protection law (because this throws light on the relevance of law for social justice). Assessment is primarily by means of a take-home examination, though students should also be prepared to participate in the class fully and, time constraints permitting, to make class presentations.

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

LLAW6022 Advanced research methodology

The meetings in this introductory course explore the strategies and techniques available for research and writing in doctrinal and empirical legal studies, and the ways in which various research methodologies relate to the different theoretical approaches that inform research. Attention is also given to the manner in which differing research methods are often combined in practice, and to the skills involved in analyzing data and presenting findings. Students are encouraged to see their findings as potentially making contributions to both empirical knowledge and theoretical understanding.

The course teachers consider what research questions can be asked and which research methods might best help to provide answers to such questions. Because law students are generally more familiar with doctrinal research, so the course gives greater attention to empirical research. Course teachers look at the skills of questionnaire design, interviewing, participant observation, case studies, documentary research, surveys, sampling, ethical correctness and so on.

At the end of this course, students should have developed a strong understanding of how to identify and address research problems, a good awareness of the empirical and doctrinal research methodologies that they might use in their investigation and analysis, and an enhanced ability to design and implement a research project in the field of legal studies.

Assessment: 100% research proposal

LLAW6037 International environmental law

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

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6047 China property law

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: 70% written assessment, 30% class participation

LLAW6048 China security and insolvency law

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 - guarantees, 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: 30% mid-term assignment, 70% research paper

LLAW6070 Human rights in China

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6109 Public international law

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

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

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

LLAW6110 Law and regulation of banking and insurance in China

This course involves an examination of the legal framework governing banking and insurance. The course begins with a discussion of the central bank, the People's Bank of

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

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

Assessment: 100% examination

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

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

- The status of PRC constitution and the Basic Law and the issue of congressional supremacy,
- Mutual recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards and civil judgments,
- Procedures of cross-border services and evidence taking,
- Cross-border insolvency and family law matters, and
- Opportunities and challenges for legal community and legal education.

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law

This course introduces the international framework within which intellectual property law operates, including copyright, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, unfair competition, trade secrets, geographic indications, and other forms of intellectual property (IP). The course examines how multilateral conventions and agreements such as Berne Convention, Paris Convention and TRIPS Agreement shape national IP laws, the role of international bodies such as WIPO and WTO, the effect of bilateral agreements, and other international influences on the development of IP law. The course also introduces the enforcement

provisions and WTO dispute settlement mechanism concerning international IP disputes. While devoting special attention to IPRs protection for cutting edge technologies such as biotechnology and information technology, the course also discusses the protection for traditional knowledge and folklore, and the overall implications of international IP protection for global competition between developed and developing countries in an integrated world market.

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

LLAW6133 International economic law

The recent dramatic transformation of the international economic legal order is generally attributed to “globalization”, on the one hand, and liberalization, harmonization and unification of national policies and laws that affect trade, investment, and financial and commercial transactions across national borders, on the other hand. Concerns arise as to the coherence and compatibility of these processes and efforts with respect to national and global economic development, and overall welfare. This is the domain of international economic law; the law and policy of relations between national governments concerning the regulation of economic transactions that have cross-border effects. The course will broadly introduce those areas of international law and institutions that have shaped, or are the resultant of, the recent transformation of the international economic legal order, under three general themes: international trade, investment and competition law; international financial and monetary law; international commercial transactions. It will cover the relevant activities of international organizations such as the WTO, ASEAN, APEC, NAFTA, EU and ICSID. In addition to trade, investment and competition, the subject matter will include topics dealing with banking, insurance and securities. The role of institutions such as central banks through the BIS and the Basle Committee in the development of regulatory frameworks will be examined. The activities of two Bretton Woods international institutions, the World Bank and IMF, as well as the IOSCO will be studied. Efforts to unify or harmonise laws that affect international commercial transactions by international institutions such as the ICC, UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, Hague Conference in Private International Law and OECD will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% take home examination

LLAW6139 China information technology and electronic commerce law

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

Topics may include:

- Principles of IT and Internet Regulatory System
- Administration and Licensing of Websites
- Electronic Signature
- Online Advertising, Publishing and Media
- Online Intellectual Property Issues
- Big Data and Cloud Computing Issues
- Online Finance, Virtual Monies and Credit Profiling Regulatory Issues
- Domain Name System and Cybersquatting in Mainland China
- Privacy Protection, Real-Name Registration, Encryption and Internet Censorship
- National Security and Anti-Terrorism Measures relating to Online Businesses
- Anti-Monopoly and Anti-Unfair Competition Issues relating to Online Businesses
- Liabilities of Network Service Providers
- Cross-Border Transfer of Electronic Data and Use of Electronic Evidence
- Jurisdiction and Conflict of Law in the Cyberspace
- Online Dispute Resolution

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

LLAW6150 Comparative law

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

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

LLAW6156 Comparative constitutional law

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

Law school courses in comparative constitutional law have traditionally focused on constitutional adjudication to the exclusion of constitutional drafting. However, questions of constitutional drafting and constitutional design are of considerable and growing importance. Accordingly, this course will address not only how constitutions are interpreted and enforced, but also how they are created in the first place. The course will begin by considering foundational questions, such as: What is a constitution? What purpose(s) do constitutions serve? What practical effect, if any, do constitutions have? What topics should be addressed by a constitution?

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

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% written assignment

LLAW6165 China economic law

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; (b) the process of institutionalizing legal governance for Chinese commerce as well as paving a level playing field for market participants; (c) 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 show students how China's economic legal regime has evolved in the face of changing reform dynamics shaped by both domestic and global conditions.

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

LLAW6167 China tort law

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 will aim 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

LLAW6171 Corruption: China in comparative perspective

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

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6182 International organizations

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

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

LLAW6201 China taxation law and policy

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

Assessment: 20% participation, 80% research paper

LLAW6209 Comparative family law

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

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

All topics are covered from a comparative perspective.

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

Assessment: 25% class participation, 75% research paper

LLAW6225 China shipping law (in Putonghua)

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

LLAW6248 Comparative contract law

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

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

Assessment: 90% research paper, 10% class participation

LLAW6251 Comparative property and trust law

In 1766, Blackstone wrote that “there is nothing which so generally strikes the imagination, and engages the affections of mankind, as the right of property.” In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote that property in land should be abolished in the most advanced countries. Property rights have been at the very heart of human development in the past centuries. On one hand, property has been viewed as the basis for liberty and economic development. On the other hand, as Proudhon said, property is just another word for theft. In China, land-related social conflicts occur every day and everywhere. From ordinary farmers to university scholars, each person has his own idea of property rights. However, in the fierce debates around property rights, there is lack of consensus on such basic questions: What is property? What things should we keep for ourselves? And what should we share with others? Why should a piece of land belong to you rather than me? How is property rights structured and defined? What is the relationship between property and development? On the other hand, property rights are behind many challenges facing human beings: can a market of pollution permits save us from air pollution? How to govern the common resources in the oceans? Have intellectual property rights deterred or encouraged technological innovation? Are property rights the key to economic prosperity in the U.S.? How about China? Why have land reform programs sponsored by the World Bank failed in many developing countries? Are indigenous residents in the New Territories of Hong Kong entitled to the development value of their land? This seminar will provide students with the theoretical and comparative perspectives to investigate such questions.

This seminar will begin with an inquiry into how members of a society allocate, and should allocate, formal and informal entitlements to scarce resources such as wild animals, labor, water, ideas, and land. It will explore various forms of private property and also alternative regimes such as communal and state property. It will give students an overview of the contemporary debates on property rights, in particular the debate between

law and economics and critical legal studies regarding efficiency and fairness of property regimes. It will draw cases from different jurisdictions of the world, in particular the U.S., China, African and South American countries, and different fields of law, including environmental law.

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

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

LLAW6264 Competition law and policy in China

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

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

This course encourages active class participation. When appropriate, experienced practitioners and enforcers will be invited to share with students their experience and insights with Chinese antitrust practice. The course aims to develop skills that will be of benefit to those students who seek to enter professional practice after their degree, and

those who would prefer a career in business. A range of practical skills will be developed including the ability to think broadly beyond just solving legal problems to considering how global businesses can adapt to the new regulatory environment in China.

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

LLAW6279 Comparative corporate law

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

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

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

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

LLAW6307 Hong Kong National Security Law in comparative perspective

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

Assessment: 10% participation in discussion, 90% research essay

LLAW6308 Law and society in China

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

LLAW6335 Constitutional and administrative law in the PRC

This course offers an in-depth introduction to the constitutional and administrative law in the PRC, with a primary focus on constitutional law and politics. Furthermore, the course covers administrative laws related to constitutional practice, governance, and human rights. The central theme is to dissect China's unique socialist constitutional system by concentrating on the interface of law and politics. The course spans a broad range of theoretical, legal, and political topics, including socialist constitutional theories, the constitutional-making process, state and party institutions, citizens' rights and obligations, judicial review, and central-local relations. Specifically, the course scrutinizes the interaction and conflicts between the socialist Chinese public law and Hong Kong common law systems under the One Country Two System framework.

The course adopts a comparative approach to study PRC constitutional and administrative law, referencing public law theories and practices from various jurisdictions with different political systems, including liberal democracies, authoritarian regimes, and socialist countries. Through comparative studies, students are expected to understand the major differences between concepts in the Chinese public law and the features of western liberal constitutionalism, as well as the challenges and prospects for China's public law reform.

Additionally, this course incorporates pertinent content from the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination to more effectively prepare students interested in practicing law in both Hong Kong and Mainland China in the future.

Assessment: 15% participation in class discussion, 85% course essay

LLAW6340 Legal pluralism in Hong Kong

The object of the course is to study the foundations of Chinese Law and Custom as received and developed in the jurisdiction of the HKSAR in the context of legal pluralism. This course explores its nature, features, scope and to examine its interaction with the common law system, and to consider its position 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 19th and early 20th centuries; efforts at reform; recognition of Chinese law and custom in common law jurisdictions of east and southeast Asia, especially Hong Kong.

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 Chinese customary law and custom in a common law system: limits upon customary law; living customary law; traditional rights and interests of indigenous inhabitants under BL Art 40.

Law, Society and Customary Norms

Legal Pluralism in colonial context, rural community in the New Territories the family: marriage, concubinage, adoption, protection of minors, wills, inheritance and succession; communal lands; ancestral estates: t'so and family t'ong; gender equality; access to justice; religious, educational and charitable endowments; community institutions; commercial bodies; customary landholding; small houses and the customary right to build.

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

LLAW6342 Law of the sea

The Law of the Sea is a foundational and fast-evolving branch of public international law that governs how states use, protect, and manage the world's oceans. Covering roughly 70% of the Earth's surface, the oceans serve as vital conduits for communication and transportation, as well as critical sources of food, energy, and mineral resources. With these vast advantages, regulating the use of the seas has become a central legal concern for the global community.

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the public law of the sea—distinct from maritime law, which governs commercial and private matters at sea. Instead, our focus will be on the rules and principles that apply to states and intergovernmental actors.

Beginning with key historical milestones—such as the 1930 Hague Codification Conference and the landmark Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea—the course traces the evolution of legal efforts to regulate ocean use. These developments culminated in the adoption of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), often regarded as the “Constitution for the Oceans.”

Using UNCLOS as a central reference point, students will explore the legal framework that defines maritime zones (territorial seas, exclusive economic zones, continental shelves, and the high seas) and regulates state activities within those zones. Topics will include navigation and shipping, fisheries management, marine scientific research, islands and maritime jurisdiction, and the governance of deep seabed mining beyond national jurisdictions.

Special attention will be given to maritime boundary delimitation and dispute settlement mechanisms available under UNCLOS and customary international law. Students will engage with landmark decisions from international tribunals such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and arbitral bodies established under Annex VII of UNCLOS.

Finally, this course will critically examine how major powers—particularly China—engage with and sometimes challenge the existing law of the sea regime. The lectures limit its focus to the law of the sea applicable during peacetime. It does not cover naval warfare or the law of armed conflict at sea.

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

LLAW6343 China data protection law

This course offers a comprehensive examination of China's rapidly evolving data protection legal framework, a critical area for businesses, legal professionals, and policymakers operating in or with connections to the Chinese market. China has established one of the world's most stringent data privacy regimes, characterized by its unique blend of national security, public interest, and individual rights considerations.

The course will delve into the foundational pillars of Chinese data protection law: the Personal Information Protection Law (PIPL), the Data Security Law (DSL), and the Cybersecurity Law (CSL). Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the scope, key principles, and practical implications of these interconnected laws, including their extraterritorial reach.

Assessment: 100% coursework

LLAW6344 China AI governance in a comparative perspective

This course offers an in-depth examination of artificial intelligence governance through a focused study of China's emerging AI governance framework, situated within a broader comparative and global context. As artificial intelligence increasingly shapes economic activity, public administration, and social governance, legal systems and regulatory institutions face complex challenges involving risk, accountability, institutional design, and welfare. The course addresses these challenges by combining theoretical, legal, and institutional analysis with close attention to China's distinctive approach to AI

governance.

The course begins by examining the global evolution of AI technologies and the core governance issues arising from their development and deployment. It then introduces key theoretical frameworks for understanding the governance of technology, drawing on legal philosophy, political theory, and ethics. Building on this foundation, the course analyzes the development of AI in China and the foundational principles, objectives, and policy rationales underpinning its governance framework, with comparative reference to other major jurisdictions, including the European Union.

Subsequent sessions explore the institutional architecture and legislative system through which AI is governed, the interaction between AI governance and data regulation, and the use of AI in social and public governance, including administrative decision-making and enforcement. The course further examines sector-specific governance challenges, focusing on both traditional industries and the digital economy, and considers the role of standards, soft law, and regulatory experimentation as key features of contemporary AI governance. Finally, the course situates China's AI governance within the context of global technological and regulatory rivalry and reflects on future trajectories of AI governance and their implications for institutional development and social welfare.

The course is designed for students seeking a rigorous understanding of AI governance from a legal and institutional perspective and is particularly relevant for those interested in technology law, public regulation, and comparative governance.

Assessment: 40% class participation, 60% take home examination

LLAW6348 Equality rights in China (in Putonghua)

Since the 1990s, Mainland China has progressively enacted a range of laws aimed at protecting the equal rights of particular groups, while anti-discrimination cases and related public debate have become increasingly visible. Public interest legal action has contributed to the development of equality rights law, but has also faced significant challenges. Using the principles of equality and non-discrimination in international human rights law as its analytical framework, this course offers a systematic examination of the development, application, and practical operation of equality rights law in Mainland China.

The course begins by introducing the basic concepts of equality and anti-discrimination, the relevant international norms, and the existing legal framework in Mainland China, while assessing the structural features and limitations of the current system. It then focuses on the protection of different groups, including women, sexual minorities, children, persons with disabilities, persons affected by health conditions, ethnic minorities, and persons disadvantaged by household registration or regional origin. Through close reading of legal texts, judicial decisions, and representative cases, the course analyses the progress and shortcomings of legal remedies for equality rights claims in Mainland China.

Building on this foundation, the course will further examine equality in a number of

specific settings, including the workplace, digital spaces, and equality before the law. It will analyse the differential impact that the same legal framework may have on different groups, and explore the necessity and feasibility of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, as well as the broader framework of state responsibility. Finally, the course situates legal norms within the historical trajectory of civil society efforts to advance equality rights in China. It introduces different legal advocacy strategies and analyses the institutional constraints and social conditions under which such advocacy operates, thereby evaluating the potential and limits of law as an instrument of social change. The course will be taught in Putonghua, with readings in both Chinese and English.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 20% response paper, 30% group project, 40% final research paper

LLAW6358 Selected topics in Chinese law

This course deals with the current issues in Chinese law. The exact topics to be covered vary year by year and will depend on the instructor of the course in a given year.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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

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

¹ 297 mm x 210 mm-

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