

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW [LLM(T&IPL)]

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

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

LLMTIPL1. Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Laws in Technology and Intellectual Property 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; and have at least two years of law or technology experience and professional qualifications; or
 - (iii) shall have obtained either the Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University provided that in either case the candidate has also obtained a degree with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University, or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).
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LLMTIPL2. Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully 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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LLMTIPL3. Period of Study

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Technology and Intellectual Property 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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LLMTIPL4. Completion of Curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Technology and Intellectual Property Law, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) satisfactorily complete no fewer than 72 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, including a capstone experience, or no fewer than 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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LLMTIPL5. 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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LLMTIPL6. 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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LLMTIPL7. 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 as specified in LLMTIPL4(b).
 - (iv) In each case under (i) or (ii) above, the total number of credits taken for the required curriculum study load shall not be fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 credits for the normative period of study specified in LLMTIPL3(a).
 - (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
 - (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
 - (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits (under one-year full-time study) or 18 or more credits (under two-year part-time study) in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters; or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in LLMTIPL3(b).
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LLMTIPL8. 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.

LLMTIPL9. 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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LLMTIPL10. Absence from 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.

LLMTIPL11. Requirements for Graduation

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Laws in Technology and Intellectual Property 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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LLMTIPL12. 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.

LLMTIPL13. 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 TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 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

Rules governing intellectual property, cyber space and advanced technology like artificial intelligence shall be at the heart of the 4th industrial revolution across the globe. The principal objective of the degree of Master of Laws in Technology and Intellectual Property Law is to offer a range of courses that provide a combination of legal, regulatory, and policy trends in the rapidly developing fields of artificial intelligence, advanced technology and intellectual property law, and the intersection between law and policy. This includes topic such as the legal implications of artificial intelligence and related laws like private law, data science, legaltech, privacy and data protection, cyber security and crimes, regulation of internet platforms and social media, human rights and cloud, cyberspace, robotics, cloud, the internet of things, as well as biotechnologies (including genetic modifications and stem cell research).

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 no fewer than 72 credits nor more than 78 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 Courses (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)
LLAW6304	AI and competition law*
LLAW6334	Artificial intelligence and digital governance*
LLAW6188	Global intellectual property litigation*
LLAW6181	Global intellectual property transactions*
LLAW6120	Intellectual property and information technology*
LLAW6132	International and comparative intellectual property law*
LLAW6326	Topics in technology law*

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 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

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

Courses offered by the Faculty of Law

LLAW6243	Advanced intellectual property law
LLAW6022	Advanced research methodology
LLAW6304	AI and competition law*
LLAW6333	AI and private law
LLAW6334	Artificial intelligence and digital governance*
LLAW6344	China AI governance in comparative perspective
LLAW6343	China data protection law
LLAW6139	China information technology and electronic commerce law
LLAW6212	China intellectual property law
LLAW6124	Communications law
LLAW6154	Competition law I
LLAW6155	Competition law II
LLAW6187	Competition law and intellectual property
LLAW6345	Competition law and labour
LLAW6264	Competition law and policy in China
LLAW6194	Competition law in the digital economy

LLAW6101	Competition, mergers and acquisitions
LLAW6141	Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance
LLAW6223	Copyright and creativity
LLAW6117	Data protection, cyber security and crime
LLAW6325	Digital transformation of legal services
LLAW6300	Digitalisation: health, law and policy
LLAW6090	Economic foundations of competition law
LLAW6126	e-finance: law, compliance and technology challenges
LLAW6249	Entertainment law
LLAW6287	FinTech finance
LLAW6188	Global intellectual property litigation*
LLAW6181	Global intellectual property transactions*
LLAW6005	Hong Kong intellectual property law
LLAW6195	Intellectual property and competition in the digital economy
LLAW6120	Intellectual property and information technology*
LLAW6140	Intellectual property, innovation and development
LLAW6132	International and comparative intellectual property law*
LLAW6170	Internet and social media law and policy
LLAW6280	Introduction to artificial intelligence and law
LLAW6313	Law as data
LLAW6301	Law, innovation, technology and entrepreneurship (LITE) – postgraduate internship
LLAW6285	Legal data science
LLAW6302	LITE lab: emerging technology and business model (postgraduate)
LLAW6219	Patent law
LLAW6046	Privacy and data protection
LLAW6250	Regulation of pharmaceutical products and medical devices
LLAW6338	Regulatory eco-system of artificial intelligence and advanced technology
LLAW6311	Sustainability and competition law
LLAW6326	Topics in technology law*
LLAW6200	Trademark law

Courses offered by the School of Computing and Data Science

ICOM7125	Digital forensics** (6 credits)
ICOM6027	E-Crimes: digital crime scene and legal sanctions** (6 credits)

*** Candidates who choose ICOM6027 or ICOM7125 offered by School of Computing and Data Science are required to complete 78 credits for satisfying the curriculum requirements.*

Candidates who choose both ICOM6027 and ICOM7125 offered by School of Computing and Data Science are required to complete 75 credits for satisfying the curriculum requirements.

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 TECHNOLOGY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW [LLM(T&IPL)]

Capstone courses

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

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

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

LLAW6120 Intellectual property and information technology

Given the ubiquity of information technology (IT) today, intellectual property (IP) issues related to IT have never been more challenging. With the predominance of frequent headlines about IT-related IP matters, IP and IT is, indisputably, one of the topics that has aroused great interest and attention today.

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

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

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

LLAW6181 Global intellectual property transactions

Topics include:

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

Assessment: 100% in-hall examination

LLAW6188 Global intellectual property litigation

This course aims to add the theoretical aspects to the current IP courses and ask students to re-examine recent major cases in the US and commonwealth countries. The first part of the course would deal with the theories and policy analysis that justify IP protection and the rest deals with legal doctrines and practice with reference to the theories and policy analysis.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% weekly response papers or a research paper

LLAW6304 AI and competition law

Large Language Models, like ChatGPT, are a recent demonstration of the abilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is a rapidly developing field that challenges many areas of the law. Competition law is no exception.

As more and more firms employ AI to set prices, rebates, and manage sales more generally, new challenges emerge. For instance, AI algorithms might be used to automatically adjust prices in response to competitor actions. The more sophisticated AI becomes, the more complex the challenges for competition law. These challenges can arise across all traditional areas of competition law, including anticompetitive collusion, unilateral behaviour, and merger control, as AI increasingly influences market dynamics.

The course will be divided into four parts. The first part will explore the current state of AI and its usage and potential usage in markets. The second part will examine the theory and feasibility of AI-facilitated collusion, as explored by scholars like Ezrachi and Stucke, along with potential antitrust responses. The third part will delve into an emerging area of research: how AI pricing and market actions affect the assessment of unilateral conduct, with a focus on AI-based predatory pricing and other exclusionary behaviour. Finally, the fourth part will explore how these insights and broader structural questions can inform competition policy in the area of mergers.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% an assigned case/paper presentation, 50% research paper

LLAW6326 Topics in technology law

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:

1. Legal protection of personal data;
2. Legal regulation of algorithms; and
3. 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, 80% research essay

LLAW6334 Artificial intelligence and digital governance

Regulating artificial intelligence (AI) and digital platforms creates many new challenges for organizations. AI till date have not been rigorously regulated (with exception of the EU's AI Act), this means users are exposed to risks. This exposes organizations and decision makers to more ambiguity. As such, how AI is being governed by organizations does matter. Likewise digital platforms transform laws are evolving and adapt to changes in providing consumer protection. This course will explore two core technological developments: first is the human-AI nexus of governance and second is the interplay between consumer protection and digital platforms. Whilst much of the laws in these areas are evolving, it is important for organizations to have sufficiently robust responsible governance and risk management framework to minimize exposures to regulatory infringements, reputational damage, and harms upon individuals, organizations, and society at large. To achieve this, the course takes an interdisciplinary approach combining laws and regulations, business perspectives, and ethics.

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

Designated electives

LLAW6005 Hong Kong intellectual property law

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

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

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

LLAW6046 Privacy and data protection

This course will explore privacy and data protection in an increasingly interconnected data economy. The Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance and the data protection principles in particular will be studied in depth, making reference to relevant court judgments and Administrative Appeal Board cases. Privacy protection under other ordinances and

common law principles (such as breach of confidence, misuse of private information, nuisance, trespass, copyright infringement and defamation) will also be covered. Emphasis will be made to the balance between privacy on the one hand and other rights as well as public and social interests on the other. The challenges posed by technological innovations and applications such as the internet, social media, mobile applications, cloud computing and Big Data will be highlighted. Specific topics to be addressed will include: (a) the concept of privacy and the genesis and development of its political, philosophical and economic underpinnings; (b) global developments and international cooperation; (c) privacy and media intrusion; (d) regulation of direct marketing; (e) Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data: powers, functions and enforcement. The course will focus on the Hong Kong situation but reference will be made to relevant international human rights instruments and the global and regional trends and developments.

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

LLAW6090 Economic foundations of competition law

Modern competition law is substantially an economic law; it governs economic behavior with a significant purpose of improving economic market outcomes. Economic thinking is a central part of the law: This module aims to provide the foundational knowledge that will help competition lawyers and other practitioners in their work and research.

The first four lectures will focus on the core microeconomic concepts used in modern competition economics. These lectures will cover: (1) the economics of markets, including supply and demand; (2) and (3) the theory of the firm, including perfect competition and monopoly; and (4) basic game theory. The next seven lectures will cover the following topics in applied competition economics: (5) oligopoly and tacit coordination; (6) the economics of cartels and principles of damages assessment; (7) market definition and market power; (8) mergers analysis, including simple empirical measures; (9) the economics of vertical restraints, including exclusive dealing and resale price maintenance; (10) the economics of price-based abuses of dominance; and (11) the intersection of competition and intellectual property. Each applied topic will present both theoretical concepts and applied case examples. The final lecture (12) will consist of discussion of a current topic in competition economics, and opportunity for final pre-examination review.

The module assumes no prior knowledge of economics. Some knowledge of simple algebra may assist but is not required. The module focuses on building economic intuition and application to assist competition lawyers in their legal work and research, rather than on technical economic skills.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% short quizzes, 50% final examination

LLAW6101 Competition, mergers and acquisitions

This course covers the merger review aspect of competition law from a global perspective.

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

Assessment: 100% two take home examinations

LLAW6117 Data protection, cyber security and crime

‘Data protection’, ‘cyber security’ and ‘cybercrimes’ impacts on individuals, communities, organizations, and countries. Data protection is about safeguarding data and restoring information if the data is corrupted, compromised or lost due to cyberattacks, shutdowns, intentional harm or human error. To achieve data protection, it begins complying with privacy and data protection laws. A key failure is when data is leaked or compromised by cyber-attacks. This is where cyber security is essential. Cyber security is about protecting the networks of governments, corporations and individual users by making it difficult for hackers to locate and exploit vulnerabilities. At times, cyber threats to critical infrastructure could even threaten national security. Whereas cybercrime tends to focus on protecting individuals and (private and public) organizations as they navigate through cyberspace. Cybercrimes are usually 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. Sitting between cyber security and cybercrimes is privacy and data protection and it is the first line of defense for both cyber security and cybercriminal threats. This course will also explore and discuss the links between data protection, cyber security, and cybercrimes in an interconnected data world. In addition, the course will explore the implications artificial intelligence and advanced technologies have upon data protection, cyber security, and cybercrimes. This is an interdisciplinary course combining law, criminology, risk management, and regulatory studies.

Assessment: 50% take home examination, 30% research essay, 20% participation

LLAW6124 Communications law

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

Topics may include:

TV and radio licensing
Foreign ownership control

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

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

LLAW6126 e-Finance: law, compliance and technology challenges

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

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

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

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

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

LLAW6139 China information technology and electronic commerce law

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

Topics may include:

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

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

LLAW6140 Intellectual property, innovation and development

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

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

LLAW6141 Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance

This course examines the legal backdrop of digital platforms and the way they are viewed by authorities and courts as distinct new regulatory objects that need to be addressed. The emergence of this new regulatory object is part of a global tendency that reflects a vital reassessment of tech power and state sovereignty. There are, however, considerable differences in the ways digital platforms are dealt with in different jurisdictions. The course compares the evolving legal regimes of the new digital age and covers principles

that govern private and public relationships concerning digital platforms, deploying concrete examples – policy documents, technological developments, legal amendments – to make it obvious that this aspect of the economy is an important issue that lawyers need to be able to wrestle with.

The specific topics covered include: the distinctive legal features of digital platforms and their ecosystems; the layers of governance relationships structuring interactions between different parties, such as advertisers, consumers and users in today's platform economy; the goals and enforcement of competition law and its intersection with related areas of consumer, data protection and intellectual property laws; the limits of competition and the rise of new types of regulatory instruments in national and international contexts such as the EU Digital Markets Act/Digital Services Act/Data Act/Data Governance Act/AI Act; the complementarities between economic and political power; and new issues regarding the development of Web3 and artificial intelligence.

The course will enable students to engage critically with key debates in contemporary platform governance and provide relevant background for those interested in cross-border legal work.

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

LLAW6154 Competition law I

This course introduces students to basic concepts of competition law (known as antitrust law in the U.S.). Despite being relatively new to the region, competition law has become highly pertinent in East Asia in recent years. In Hong Kong, the Legislative Council finally adopted a cross-sector competition law for the city in June 2012. In China, the Anti-Monopoly Law came into effect on August 1, 2008 and has attracted much attention around the world ever since. With its aggressive enforcement stance, South Korea has become a favorite jurisdiction for multinational corporations to lodge complaints against competitors. With increasing cross-border enforcement across the globe, competition law will surely take on yet greater importance in the future.

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

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

LLAW6155 Competition law II

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

has been in full operation since December 2015.

This course takes a comparative look at the connections and differences between Hong Kong and European Union (EU) competition law. Given the Conduct Rules of the Competition Ordinance in Hong Kong are substantially modelled after Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the EU law (including “soft” law such as guidelines) on Articles 101 and 102 TFEU will provide useful guidance to the interpretation and application of the Hong Kong Conduct Rules. This course will examine in detail the First Conduct Rule and Article 101 TFEU; and the Second Conduct Rule and Article 102 TFEU. We may 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, 50% coursework/continuous assessment

LLAW6170 Internet and social media law and policy

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

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

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

Assessment: 10% participation, 30% research essay, 60% take home examination

LLAW6181 Global intellectual property transactions

Topics include:

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

Assessment: 100% in-hall examination

LLAW6187 Competition law and intellectual property

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

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

Assessment: 30% class presentation, 70% research paper

LLAW6194 Competition law in the digital economy

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

LLAW6195 Intellectual property and competition in the digital economy

Technological advances in the online world pose important challenges for legislators, authorities and courts to accomplish the promotion of innovation, efficiency and growth. This course provides an introduction to the most important legal regimes fostering innovation and their relationship to competition. Students will acquire basic knowledge of the evolving EU copyright law rules as well as selected aspects of design and trademark law in view of new technologies (streaming services, AI and metaverse technologies, digital platforms) and will connect these issues to a range of basic controversies relating to the manner in which markets operate and the implications of these regimes for different notions of innovation.

Some course readings and discussions will compare the way in which different markets (consumer goods markets, art markets, etc.) function and will explore topics such as the ongoing shift from the tangible towards an increasingly intangible economy. The problems discussed will be exemplified by cases from European legal practice. Some comparative analysis of the covered materials with US case law offers an opportunity to explore key dimensions of intellectual property law, its relationship to competition and its potential for re-adjustment of pertinent legal rules and their enforcement in a digitalized economy.

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

LLAW6200 Trademark law

This course provides a comprehensive study of the legal principles governing trademark law as a vital form of intellectual property. Students will explore the nature and scope of trademark rights, delving into how they are acquired, maintained, and enforced. The course will cover the various forms of trademark infringement, such as likelihood of confusion, dilution, and counterfeiting, as well as key defenses, including fair use, nominative fair use, and functionality. Remedies available to trademark owners, such as injunctive relief, monetary damages, and the seizure and destruction of infringing goods, will be examined, along with important procedural issues that arise in trademark litigation. While the course will briefly touch upon the process of prosecuting trademark applications and the benefits of registration, the primary focus will be on substantive trademark law. By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundation in trademark law principles and be well-equipped to analyze and apply them to real-world situations.

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

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

LLAW6219 Patent law

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

Commercial dealings: ownership, licensing, assignments, employees' inventions
Protection of discoveries

The process of getting a patent
Patent infringement: Literal infringement and a comparison of UK and US treatment of non-literal patent infringement
Protection of information technology products and the controversy surrounding software patents
Design patents
The value of patents

Prior technical knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Assessment: 20% class performance, 20% quiz, 60% take home examination

LLAW6223 Copyright and creativity

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

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

LLAW6243 Advanced intellectual property law

This course is a comprehensive examination of the advanced topics and strategies surrounding intellectual property law in diverse industries. Building on foundational knowledge, the course dives into the intricacies of intellectual property (IP) laws, focusing on their creation, protection and advanced application in real-world scenarios. This encompasses, but is not limited to, industries such as information technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and music.

The course will scrutinize the technicalities of technology transfer and licensing, delving deeper into the legal constructs that regulate the exchange of technology and knowledge among different parties. It pays specific attention to the role of collaboration in not only the development but also the enhancement of IP utilization. Moreover, the course investigates how organizations can consolidate market dominance via proficient IP

enforcement, discussing not only management but also advanced commercialization of IP. The course adopts an interactive approach through the case study method, encouraging students to analyze intricate situations, contemplate varying strategic alternatives, and comprehend the ramifications of assorted decisions.

Upon conclusion of the course, students will have a deepened understanding of the intricate aspects of intellectual property laws. They will be adept at applying their advanced knowledge to a variety of industrial contexts and prepared to influence effectively the strategic decisions of organizations with regards to IP. This course is designed to elevate students' intellectual property understanding to a level that will enhance their competitive standing in the marketplace.

Assessment: 20% class participation. 80% case study essay

LLAW6249 Entertainment law

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

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

Assessment: 50% research paper, 50% group project

LLAW6250 Regulation of pharmaceutical products and medical devices

The course is aimed at students seeking an understanding the legal and regulatory requirements that must be met before new drugs, vaccines, biologics or medical devices (generally referred to as therapeutic goods) may become accessible to the public. The global therapeutic goods market, heavily dominated by the pharmaceutical industry, is experiencing significant growth, with total global pharmaceutical revenue estimated at approximately USD 1.7 trillion to USD 1.99 trillion in 2024–2025 (not

counting medical devices with artificial intelligence (AI) capability). The market is highly concentrated, with the United States (US) holding a commanding share of over 50% of the global pharmaceutical market, followed by China and Germany. For this reason, the course will focus on the regulatory requirements of key regulators like the US Food & Drug Administration, the National Medical Products Administration of the People's Republic of China, and the European Medicines Agency. Additionally, the course will consider the important role that Hong Kong (specifically the Department of Health of the Government of Hong Kong SAR) has to play as a technological intermediary among these major markets.

Topics that will be covered in the course include international standards for clinical trials involving pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical product, and medical devices (with focus on devices based on artificial intelligence or machine learning); direct human experimental and biomedical research involving human participants; 'non-invasive' epidemiological and other studies involving only the use of data; human tissue banking and biobanking; cohort studies; genomic research; the research use of 'legacy' diagnostic tissue or data collections; the sharing of personal, medical and genomic information (e.g. in electronic medical records), and through remote healthcare systems and applications in the Internet of Medical Things; public 'diseases registries' and the use of medical information for public health research purposes; the legal and ethical regulation of multi-centre and multi-jurisdictional collaborative biomedical research; data-mining and the implications of migration to large-scale national health records systems; human embryonic stem cell and induced pluripotent stem cell research; genome editing and gene therapy; and ethical and regulatory standards for governance of biomedical research at the institutional level (through Institutional Review Boards, or Human Research Ethics Committees).

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

The course seeks to help students understand and keep abreast of biotechnological developments and to enable them to identify ethical, regulatory and legal issues that are relevant to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device sectors, and to equip them with the basic language and vocabulary necessary to address these issues. To this end, students will be introduced to basic technical (i.e. medical or scientific) information that relates to the technology (e.g. AI-based medical software or gene therapy) considered in this course.

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

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

LLAW6280 Introduction to artificial intelligence and law

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

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

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

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

LLAW6285 Legal data science

This course offers a hands-on introduction to legal data science and aims to improve students' understanding of:

- 1) legal issues that involve technology;
- 2) the technologies that underlie many legal-tech products; and
- 3) how technology can be used in empirical legal research.

This class also provides practice in the logical reasoning skills important to many areas of legal practice and improves students' abilities to communicate with clients in high-tech industries.

No computer programming experience is required. Class operates in a "flipped" manner with weekly homework and readings, and intensive classroom activities that are designed to help students overcome obstacles.

Assessment: 10% participation, 20% weekly homework assignments, 10% quiz, 60% final project

LLAW6287 FinTech finance

The course will appraise the impact of financial and information technologies on banking

and other financial services providers, as it closely follows the legal and regulatory developments in equity and debt finances in Hong Kong and globally leading FinTech hubs.

The course will focus on financial technology (FinTech) and regulatory technology (RegTech), used increasingly by financial institutions and their regulators to enhance regulatory compliance in and supervision of a sophisticated and fast-changing financial sector. A major part of the course syllabus will involve the systematic analysis of the emerging opportunities brought about by open banking for both traditional and challenger banks, virtual banks and their business model(s) and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's Open API Framework for the Hong Kong Banking Sector. To that end, the course will also highlight the challenges faced by banking institutions, including traditional banks and virtual banks, in complying with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, the key data protection law in Hong Kong. In this regard, the thematic focuses will be on (1) data protection law in the digital banking era, in general; and (2) data governance (including data security) in the implementation of open banking, in particular.

Other special focuses of the course include equity and debt-based crowdfunding, denoting a tripartite relationship among the crowdfunding platform (CFP) operator, the fundraiser (i.e. the company that raises funds through the CFP) and the investors (crowdfunders). Behavioural economics postulates that not all investors are rational, including both unsophisticated individual investors and sophisticated institutional investors (such as mutual funds, pension funds and insurance companies). Regulation may thus be used to impose on the issuer (i.e. the company that raises funds by issuing securities) a duty to disclose information about its business plan and finance forecast with a view to curbing the lemon problem. Likewise, investors must prove their financial eligibility to be allowed to invest in equity crowdfunding. In general, the securities sector is characterised by consumer protection and an investor-disclosure system.

The course will shed light on the legal and regulatory requirements, along with supervisory and policy measures, towards FinTech alternative finance at both local and international levels. Requirements, measures and 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 will be closely examined. Combining supervisory approaches—for instance, the principle-based approach and the cost-benefit approach—with academic approaches, the course will promote and enable 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, reflecting on and closely following 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 and will include 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 first introduce FinTech innovations such as blockchain, artificial intelligence, robo adviser solution and big data, all of which are exemplary of information technology, 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 system, sharing economy, data governance and control and privacy protection for consumers.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% research paper, 50% take home exam

LLAW6300 Digitalisation: health, law and policy

This course has three key objectives:

1. Introduce students to the ethical and legal implications of digitalisation of health and related aspects of law, primarily from a policy and regulatory standpoint. **Health** is referred to generally as the module for the study of digitalisation in a variety of health-related contexts, including healthcare (e.g. electronic health records and use of sensors to monitor medical adherence), biomedical research (e.g. use of artificial intelligence (AI) in drug development and medical research), health funding and insurance (e.g. use of Big Data analytics in claim and loss predictions) and public / global health (e.g. use of digital technologies to support realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals);
2. Introduce students to Computational **Law** as applicable to digitalisation of health (as outlined in Objective (1) above). The module will focus on a number of computational models of legal reasoning (and related legal application that have been developed), and will examine how modern legal expert systems are likely to change in response to the digitalisation of healthcare; and
3. Introduce students to data visualisation (in both health and law) and means of thinking critically about an increasingly data-driven world (with focus on potential sources of misinformation and disinformation).

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

The jurisprudential basis of right to information, freedom of expression (as pertinent to health), privacy, as well as concerns with misinformation and disinformation will be studied. The course will also cover the role of national laws, international law, and

instruments touching on digitalisation concerns in health and related aspects of legal practice and regulation. Of these laws and normative instruments, this course will focus on those that pertain to data security, collection, sharing and use, control (e.g. through intellectual property) as well as those that apply to data custodians and intermediaries (including cloud platforms). Additionally, the normative impact of social organisations (including business entities) on digitalisation and regulatory trends will be considered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

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

LLAW6302 LITE lab: emerging technology and business models (postgraduate)

Law, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (LITE) Lab@HKU is an

interdisciplinary and experiential programme for students from all backgrounds.

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

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

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

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

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

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

LLAW6311 Sustainability and competition law

This course examines the interaction between sustainability and competition between market actors and its regulation via competition law. The course is not tied to one specific jurisdiction, although it will often reference European competition law and related systems as the debate has matured in that part of the world.

Sustainability goes beyond environmental protection. It marries social development and economic development with environmental protection by ensuring that 'development [...] meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Brundtland Commission, 1987). The UN's 2030 Agenda outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets, one of which encourages

especially large and transnational companies to integrate sustainability into their operations.

Business action can impact sustainability and competition. However, the interaction between competition and sustainability raises a number of challenging questions, such as whether competition law should take sustainability into account when considering business activities and their effect on competition. Even where this question is answered in the affirmative, numerous more technical questions as to implementation remain.

To address these questions the course is divided into four parts. The first part provides a basic introduction into sustainability and the normative questions of whether competition should take account of sustainability concerns. The second part covers the economics of competition and sustainability. In this part, the course explores in particular how the protection of competition, consumer welfare, and sustainability overlap. In its third part, the course addresses substantive competition law questions with a focus on two sub-questions: How competition authorities can foster sustainability by targeted enforcement (such as against cartels that prevent consumers from buying sustainable products)? How to treat business action that contributes to a more sustainable world, how and under what conditions can competition law allow such activities? The final part of the course explores procedural tools that enforcers have at their disposal in the context of sustainability questions.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% an assigned case/paper presentation, 50% research paper

LLAW6313 Law as data

Law is created, transmitted, and performed through speech. By summarizing and extracting information from large amounts of text, we can better understand legal behaviour and institutions. This course has three objectives. First, to introduce some of the building blocks for treating legal text as data. Second, to gain some hands-on experience in analysing text data using the Python programming language. Third, to explore how quantitative methods for text analysis can yield social scientific insights. Motivated examples are provided throughout. No knowledge of Python is necessary although prior exposure to programming will be very helpful. Knowledge of calculus and linear algebra is highly recommended.

Assessment: 50% problem sets, 50% examination

LLAW6325 Digital transformation of legal services

The legal profession and services are at a crossroad prompted by advances in technology and digital transformation. Historically the profession of lawyers were people with privileges and influence. Then industrialization propelled the profession to greater heights. Now digital transformation creates new opportunities as well as transforming the profession from the ground up. This course explores all these themes as well as innovative

developments of the profession and services including the deployment of artificial intelligence. Furthermore, consider how different business models, change management, leadership and beyond is going to transform legal services. Therefore, the aim of this course is to explore and discuss the impact of digital transformation on the profession and the future of lawyering. To achieve this, the course takes an interdisciplinary approach combining business studies, digital transformation, and the development of legal services.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% research essay, 50% take home examination

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

LLAW6326 Topics in technology law

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:

1. Legal protection of personal data;
2. Legal regulation of algorithms; and
3. 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, 80% research essay

LLAW6333 AI and private law

This course explores the legal implications of emerging AI technologies within the private law landscape. We will examine how AI capabilities in autonomy, machine learning, and big data analytics challenge existing legal doctrines and rights protections. Students will assess AI impact across core domains of private law including contracts, torts, intellectual property, corporate law, and consumer protection. By evaluating AI's alignment with these principles, we can work to shape policies that foster AI innovation responsibly. Additionally, students will develop the skills needed to be effective modern-day lawyers, understanding how AI transforms legal practice and preparing them to navigate its impact on their future careers.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 20% presentation, 60% two essays

LLAW6338 Regulatory eco-system of artificial intelligence and advanced technology

With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced technology (AT), the risks posed to society and individuals continue to grow ever so rapidly. Whilst the EU was one of the first to regulate AI and soon to come is cyber resilience regulations. Other areas of AT regulations include robotics and blockchain are on the rise. However, they are fragmented and reactive. This course will examine the regulatory eco-system of AI and AT that includes public policy debates, laws, regulations, and international/sectoral standards or voluntary codes of practice on the use of AI, cloud, robotics, internet of things, drones, blockchain (smart contract) and Regtech & Suptech. Furthermore, to gain insights in how AI and AT are being regulated requires a good grasp of the hard and soft laws as well as an appreciation of government policies and regulators' enforcement strategies are imperative. It covers both theoretical and applied knowledge in the regulation of AI and AT. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach combining law, regulatory studies and public policy.

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

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

LLAW6345 Competition law and labour

This course explores the interactions between competition and labour laws in the European Union and United States. Although they are often considered opposed regulatory mechanisms - the former enabling combinations, the latter combating them - they have both sought to govern labour markets. Consequently, they have influenced, supported, and clashed with one another in pursuit of distinct visions of labour market governance. This interface provides the subject matter of this course.

The course first situates students in the economics of labour markets and how workers and employers interact legally. Going beyond neoclassical theories of labour market competition, this first part of the course provides an overview of how workers and employers cooperate and struggle to regulate both labour and product markets. Moreover, it elaborates on the distinct regulatory mechanisms of labour and competition law, as well as their visions for labour markets.

Subsequently, the second part of the course explores the history of labour antitrust in the United States to highlight how labour and competition laws can both clash and coexist. Specifically, it traces the evolution of American labour antitrust from a union-busting tool of employers in the 20th century to a pro-labour regulatory mechanism in the 21st. To that end, it elaborates on the foundations and development of US antitrust and labour law. The focus will be on the comparative weakness of American labour laws - a weakness that first allowed union-busting and then called for antitrust interventions to protect workers.

The third part of the course focuses on European experiences of competition law enforcement in labour markets. It contrasts the comparative restraint of competition law enforcers in the 20th century with the widespread and divergent enforcement in the 21st. Moreover, it compares the institutional design of American and European competition and labour laws to explain their distinctly different enforcement experiences. Accordingly, this part also provides an overview of the foundations and evolution of European competition and labour laws.

By studying these American and European case studies, the course highlights the contentious regulations of labour markets and competition law's interactions with other fields of law. After completing this course, students will gain a clearer understanding of competition law's malleability and reach beyond product markets. Additionally, students will have delved into case studies illustrating one of the core skills of lawyers and regulators: leveraging the inconsistencies within and between different fields of law to advance specific agendas.

Assessment: 20% participation, 30% in-class midterm examination, 50% final take home examination

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.