

FACULTY OF LAW

Department of Law

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

The function of contract; formation of a valid contract; offer and acceptance; capacity; illegality; interpretation of the terms of a contract; misinterpretation; mistake; duress and undue influence; privity; performance; discharge and breach; quasi-contract; remedies; principles of agency.

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

General principles of liability, negligence, defences to negligence, vicarious liability, loss distribution, fatal accidents, duty of care towards employees, statutory compensation for employees, breach of statutory duty, occupiers' liability, nuisance, Rylands v. Fletcher, trespass to person, trespass to property, other intentional torts to person and property, defences to trespass, defamation, other interests protected by the law of tort, remedies (damages and injunction).

LLAW1008. The legal system (6 credits)

An overview of major legal systems in the world (common law, civil law, socialist law, religious law), including a brief overview on a comparison between the common law system and the PRC legal system; the ideology of the common law system and the rule of law, justice and separation of powers; development of the Hong Kong legal system; classification of law, sources of Hong Kong law; law making process; Hong Kong court system; doctrine of stare decisis; access to justice and legal aid; legal profession and legal services; jury system; law reform; Government lawyers and organization of Government legal services; the language of the law; interface between the PRC legal system and the Hong Kong legal system

LLAW1009. Law and society (6 credits)

This course aims to capture the dynamics between law and society, namely, how law is shaped by social changes, perception and thought, and how society is moulded by legal rules and norms. Broad interdisciplinary knowledge and perspectives relevant to the study of the relationship between law and society will be discussed. Theoretical, empirical and policy considerations will be taken into account. General themes chosen to highlight the above dynamics will include the relationship between law and political power, law and economic development, law and history, law and family, and law and social life. Specific topics covered may vary from year to year and may include the following: the rule of law and the liberal constitutional state; law and economic development in the age of globalisation; the anthropology of law; law and culture; law and morality; the historical and philosophical foundations of western and Chinese law; current socio-legal issues in Hong Kong.

LLAW2001. Constitutional Law (6 credits)

The nature and characteristics of constitutions; constitutional doctrines : constitutionalism, the rule of law, the separation of powers, judicial review, autonomy, democracy, and human rights protection; the resumption of sovereignty and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, its framework and content, interpretation and amendment; international dimension and external affairs;

the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and their inter-relationship; comparison of the constitution of Hong Kong with the territory's colonial constitution and constitutions in other parts of the world; the relationship between Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Central Government of the People's Republic of China; the executive, legislative and judicial organs of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and their inter-relationships; human rights protection in Hong Kong; the prospect of constitutionalism in Hong Kong; judicial review of administrative action; control of law-making by delegates; the ombudsman; administrative appeals.

LLAW2003. Criminal law I (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the principles of Hong Kong criminal law and liability. Topics include the nature and classification of crime, elements of criminal procedure in Hong Kong, the burden of proof and the impact of constitutional human rights, and the general principles of criminal responsibility, including criminal defences and degrees of participation. Offences considered will include homicide and theft.

[Co-requisite: LLAW2004 Criminal law II]

LLAW2004. Criminal law II (6 credits)

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

[Prerequisite: LLAW 2003 Criminal law I]

LLAW2009. Introduction to Chinese law (6 credits)

A general overview of the legal system and the basic principles of law in force in mainland China today. Topics to be covered include the historical background to the contemporary Chinese legal system; constitutional law; sources of law; the law-making institutions and processes; the courts, procuratorates and legal profession; basic principles of civil and criminal procedure and administrative litigation; basic principles of civil, commercial, administrative and criminal law; and the impact of globalisation on Chinese legal developments.

LLAW1010. Legal research and writing I (3 credits)

Case reading: distinguishing law/fact; learning the structure and language of common law judgments; identifying relevant facts; identifying and defining legal issues, ratios, arguments, reasoning with precision; learning the ways in which judges in one case treat the judgments in earlier cases; precedent in action.

Basic legal writing skills using short weekly marked up and graded writing assignments in the format of case briefs, letters to clients, closed internal memoranda. Emphasis will be placed upon correct use of general English and appropriate legal terminology, clarity of expression and logical, effective organisation of ideas and arguments.

Learning skills: pre-class preparation; in class exercises, participation in class discussions using group and Socratic methods.

LLAW1011. Legal research and writing II (3 credits)

All about legislation: the anatomy of an ordinance; the life cycle of an ordinance; the nature and use of the revised and loose-leaf editions of the Laws of Hong Kong and the Legal Supplements to the Gazette; the structure of the English Statute Book, the nature of subordinate legislation; reading ordinances; statutory interpretation in common law jurisdictions.

Basic legal writing skills using short, weekly marked up and graded writing assignments involving precise identification and resolution of statutory interpretation problems.

Learning skills; pre-class preparation, in class presentation on part of the life cycle of an ordinance, participation in very small group discussions with systematic reporting and feedback.

LLAW1012. Legal research and writing III (3 credits)

Library research involving identifying and physically locating appropriate Hong Kong and English case law and statutory provisions using (i) paper and (ii) electronic sources with emphasis upon thoroughness, efficiency and being as up to date as practically possible; basic research tools for Canada and Australia; use of legal encyclopedias, especially Halsburys, and digests such as Current Law and Hong Kong's own materials; a first introduction to legal journals.

Students will be expected to do a number of ungraded, narrowly focused research assignments, designed to assist students in familiarizing themselves with legal research tools and methods. They will then be expected to complete a research plan, a research file, an office memo, a barrister's skeleton, oral argument and final judgment – all based on an assigned research request (a different research request set by each tutor).

LLAW2012. Commercial law (6 credits)

This course will introduce the fundamental principles of commercial law through the integration of legal issues associated with contracts, personal property, security and finance and equity in the context of commercial transactions. It focuses on the types of commercial transactions, the legal relations between parties thereto, issues arising from interrelated financial transactions, and credit and security. It covers introduction to personal property, rights in rem and rights in personam, bailment; commercial transactions (sale of goods and services, statutory control on unconscionable terms; implied terms and exemption/limitation clauses; transfer of title, *nemo dat*); gift; negotiable instruments, assignment of choses in action and security interests (retention of title, lien, pledges, mortgages, fixed and floating charges, guarantees); protection of interests in property and remedies (conversion, detinue, trespass, unjust enrichment, set-off); introduction to bankruptcy and corporate insolvency; settlement of commercial disputes.

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

Introduction: concept of a proprietary interest; what is property law; classification of property; the nature of a trust.

Ownership, title and possession: legal ownership; title; leasehold estates in Hong Kong; ownership and possession; tenure and estates; equitable interests; possession-recovery and protection of possession; adverse possession and possessory title.

Priority: doctrine of notice; statutory intervention (e.g. land registration); subrogation.

Creation and transfer of proprietary interests in land: creation; assignment; intervention of equity (e.g. *Walsh v Lonsdale*, part performance, estoppel, constructive and resulting trusts).

Future interests: remainders and reversions: trusts for sale; vested and contingent interest; rules against inalienability.

Concurrent interests: joint tenancy and tenancy in common; ownership in multi-storey buildings; severance; termination.

Leases: nature of leases; relationship of landlord and tenant; termination; statutory intervention.

Easements: nature; creation and determination.

Licences: revocability; enforceability.

Covenants: between landlord and tenant; between adjoining and co-owners; role in use and management of land.

Security interests: mortgages; charges; pledges; liens.

Land registration and priorities.

LLAW2015. Legal research and writing IV (3 credits)

Using materials from a range of substantive law courses, students will be required to complete a number of written assignments such as a draft legal brief and a revised version, clauses for or answering problem questions in relation to simple hire purchase, car parking, employment or tenancy agreements; a simple set of pleadings, an essay critically commenting on a legal journal article.

LLAW2016. Legal research and writing V (3 credits)

Students will be required to complete two supervised assignments, each involving the preparation of a research plan, working bibliography (if appropriate), full draft and final polished product. One assignment, to be completed in the first semester, will require research in an area of private law, probably in the form of an open memorandum. The other assignment will require research in an area of public or comparative law with the additional requirement of a presentation of the paper to a seminar of peers as a work in progress. The second assignment and presentation will be completed in the second semester.

LLAW3001. Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)

This course encourages critical reflections on the nature of law, the central issues of jurisprudence and the concepts and techniques used in the operation of legal systems. Topics to be covered may include some of the following: the relationship between law and morality; natural law; legal positivism; Ronald Dworkin's jurisprudence; utilitarianism and economic analysis of law; justice; liberty; rights; the Rule of Law; punishment; adjudication and legal reasoning; legal realism; sociological jurisprudence; critical legal studies; feminist jurisprudence; postmodern jurisprudence.

LLAW3007. Alternative Dispute Resolution (6 credits)

This course will examine the traditional methods of dispute resolution such as judicial adjudication, and consider alternative dispute resolution from both a Hong Kong and an Asian perspective.

This course is composed of two main parts:

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

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

LLAW3009. Banking law (6 credits)

Introduction: history of banking; outline of banking organization, control and regulation of financial institutions in Hong Kong; distinction drawn between banks and other deposit-taking institutions.

Banker-customer relationship: nature of the relationship and its development; meaning of 'customer' and types of accounts; banker's rights as against customer including appropriation of payment, lien and set-off; duties of banker including secrecy and payment of customers' cheques; implied duties of the customer; contractual attempts to modify such duties; supply of references; banker as adviser; determination of relationship.

Paper-based funds transfers: general principles in law relating to choses in action and their assignment; negotiable instruments especially cheques; money paid by mistake; forgery; direct debits; credit transfers.

Electronic funds transfers and other modern banking developments: nature and operation of various means of electronic funds transfers including consumer-related and non-consumer-related transfers; legal implications of such transfers; revocability and finality of payment instructions; standing orders; cheque cards; credit cards.

LLAW3010. Business associations (6 credits)

Outline of different types of business associations.

Partnership: their nature and creation and the rights and duties of the partner *inter se* and *vis-a-vis* third parties.

Registered companies: their development and nature; problems relating to incorporation; separate corporate personality; limited liability; memorandum and articles of association; *ultra vires* doctrine; an overview of membership, management and control.

LLAW3015. Company Law (6 credits)

Capital: the nature and types of capital; raising, maintenance and reduction of capital; shares: transfer and registration, purchase by a company and financial assistance for purchase of its own shares; dividends, distributable profits.

Corporate borrowing: debentures, company charges, floating charges, registration, remedies of charge.

The governance of a company: members, general meetings; directors, the position and duties of directors; board meetings; conflict of interest; majority rule, minority protection; external regulation, disclosure, notifications, annual return, audits, inspections and investigations.

Corporate failure: reconstructions and schemes and winding-up (overview).

Listed companies: regulation; public issues; mergers, acquisitions and takeovers.

LLAW3022. Human rights in Hong Kong (6 credits)

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

Study of selected rights, including civil and political rights, economic, social & cultural rights and

people's rights. Topics covered include impact on civil and criminal process, right to a fair and public trial, arrest, search and seizure, torture and degrading treatment, liberty and security of person, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression, right to nationality, right to family, right to political participation, discrimination and equality, right to housing, social securities, education and environment.

LLAW3034. Labour Law (6 credits)

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

LLAW3040. Medico-Legal Issues (6 credits)

This course examine how the law regulates medical practice. Topics examined include consent to medical treatment, abortion, pre-natal injuries, death and withholding life sustaining treatment, euthanasia, organ transplant, confidentiality and access to medical records.

LLAW3043. Principles of Family Law (6 credits)

This course covers basic principles of Hong Kong family law and its historical development. It examines marriage formation, nullity and legal consequences of marriage. It covers protection of spouse and children from domestic violence. This course also covers judicial separation, divorce and ancillary relief. The law relating to children is also examined with emphasis on parental responsibility, child adoption and child protection from abuse and neglect. Also studied is the impact on family law of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties binding on Hong Kong.

LLAW3044. Public International Law (6 credits)

Topics will include some of the following: introduction to the nature of international law and its historical development; sources of international law; the relationship between international and municipal law; the subjects of international law; the concept of sovereignty and state recognition; state jurisdiction; the acquisition and loss of territory; state responsibility; state succession; treaties and other international legal agreements; the pacific settlement of disputes; the use of force; international institutions; human rights.

The above is intended merely as a guide to the general nature of the subject matter to be covered. Special reference will be made throughout to considerations which are particularly relevant in the Hong Kong and Southeast Asian contexts.

LLAW3046. Child and the Law (6 credits)

This course covers the law of parent and child with emphasis on the emerging concept of parental responsibility and the rights of the child. It examines the increasing importance of parentage as a status and the effect of Parent and Child Ordinance (1993) on the status of children in Hong Kong.

Also examined here is the effect of divorce on children and the enforcement of child support obligation. The course also examines the importance of listening to children in family proceedings and the role of mediation in the settlement of family disputes over children. Also considered is the law of child adoption and protection from abuse and neglect.

LLAW3047. The Hong Kong basic law (6 credits)

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

LLAW3057. International criminal law (6 credits)

This course explores the rationale, origins, normative development, institutional mechanisms and role of international criminal law. To do this, we trace the roots of international criminal law in customary laws of war and early attempts to enforce rules prohibiting war crimes, before reviewing the operation of the Nuremberg and Tokyo International Military Tribunals that were established after the Second World War. We then take account of the Geneva Conventions, 1949, and the rise of international human rights law, focusing on the crimes of aggression, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We then delve into the law and practice of the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and relate their establishment and operation to the emerging system of international criminal law, and the process under way to establish the International Criminal Court. Other problems of international crime, including terrorism, drug-trafficking, hostage-taking and hijacking, also will be considered against the backdrop of the domestic and international socio-political realities of our time.

LLAW3058. International Mooting Competition (6 credits)

Students who have been selected as members of the team to represent the University of Hong Kong in one of the international mooting competitions listed below (or any other mooting competition approved by the Faculty Board) are eligible to enrol in this course.

The competitions are the William C Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (takes place in Vienna), the International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, the Telders International Human Rights Law Moot, the Cardozo International Intellectual Property Moot, and the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competition.

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

A member of the Faculty will act as supervisor for those enrolled in the course. Assessment for the course may include components for written work, oral advocacy, and a brief individual research paper.

Remarks: With the Head's permission, it is possible to take this course on a non-credit earning basis.

LLAW3059. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (6 credits)

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

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

Remarks: With the Head's permission, it is possible to take this course on a non-credit earning basis.

LLAW3062. Human Rights in China (6 credits)

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

LLAW3069. Regulation of Financial Markets (6 credits)

This foundation course addresses the nature and operation of financial markets and the role of regulation. Coverage, based on comparative analysis and international standards, will include major financial sectors (banking, securities, insurance), supporting legal and institutional structures, and current issues and trends.

LLAW3071. Equality and Non-discrimination (6 credits)

This course is an LLB law elective and a designated research course (satisfying the research requirement for LLB students).

This is an exciting time to study equality rights, as Hong Kong has only recently entered the field enacting the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and the Disability Discrimination Ordinance in 1995. The government introduced a Race Discrimination Bill in December 2006 which is will be debated in the Legislative Council while this course is running in the 2007 spring term. When drafting this legislation, the Hong Kong government borrowed heavily from other countries (primarily from Australia and the UK). In addition, Hong Kong courts often look to international and foreign jurisprudence when interpreting the anti-discrimination ordinances. This course, therefore, takes a comparative approach to understanding this area of law.

The course introduces students to different concepts of equality, definitions of discrimination, the impact of efforts to redress discrimination through law and policy, and clashes between equality and

other values. Course materials include: treaties and other international materials; legislation from Hong Kong and other jurisdictions; leading cases from Hong Kong and other jurisdictions; and academic commentary. Given the comparative approach of the course, it is not possible to study all grounds of discrimination in one semester. The teacher will distribute materials and lead discussions on three or four of the following grounds of discrimination: gender; race; disability; sexuality; transgender; age. The syllabus will also include one or two types of harassment (e.g. sexual harassment, racial harassment, or harassment on the ground of disability) and an introduction to the enforcement models for equality rights. Student research assignments and in-class presentations can address additional forms of discrimination and harassment, as well as current debates on concepts of equality and competing values. For example, students may wish to research potential conflicts between anti-discrimination laws and religious or cultural values; between affirmative action and “formal” concepts of equality; or between freedom of expression and laws prohibiting sexual and racial harassment. Given the limited amount of Hong Kong case law in this field, student research topics should normally take a comparative approach and should not be confined to Hong Kong law.

LLAW3080. Governance and Law (6 credits)

This course seeks to understand why the state regulates certain activities and behaviour in society, what different forms of regulation exist, when and what kind of legal regulation is deemed necessary, how legal regulation is enforced, and checks balances against abuse in enforcement. This course is jointly taught by staff from the Department of Politics and Public Administration and the Department of Law. The main objective of the course is to explore the interface between the study of Politics and Law in understanding governance. Relevant case studies will be included for illustration and discussion. To take this course, student must have successfully completed POLI1002 Fundamentals of Public Administration and LLAW3093 Administrative Law. Students are allowed to take either POLI0064 or LLAW3080 to fulfill the respective programme requirements for the Department of Politics and Public Administration or the Department of Law.

LLAW3090. Legal aspects of white collar crime (6 credits)

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

LLAW3091. Ethnicity, human rights and democracy (6 credits)

The rise of ethnic consciousness and the prevalence of conflicts based on diverse ethnic claims raise fundamental problems for rights and democracy. The course examines the causes of the rise of ethnicity and the challenges it poses to rights and democracy. The dominant modes of rights and liberal democracy, based on notions of the individual (or citizen) and social homogeneity, seem to clash with the claims of groups rights and cultural relativism. Many recent developments in the regime of rights and international law respond to this clash: the rise of rights of indigenous peoples, consociationalist democracy, new modes of expression of self-determination, developments in the rights of minorities, various forms of autonomy, the expansion of the scope of humanitarian intervention, and the adaptation of bills of rights to accommodate multi-culturalism.

LLAW3093. Administrative Law (6 credits)

The topics which may be included in the course in any particular year include theories of administrative decision-making, judicial review of administrative action (ultra vires and procedural fairness, Wednesbury unreasonableness, proportionality, abuse of power), delegated legislation, administrative law remedies, control of law-making by delegates, the practical aspects of bringing an action for judicial review under Order 53 of the Rules of the High Court, non-curial means of control and scrutiny of administrative action (Ombudsman, Administrative appeals, public enquiries), the structure and operation of administrative tribunals in Hong Kong, the Bill of Rights and review of administrative decision-making in Hong Kong, and access to information.

LLAW3101. Cybercrime (6 credits)

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

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