

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester B in 2013/2014**

Part I

Course Title: Legal Knowledge and Perspectives for Social Workers

Course Code: LW5963

Course Duration: One Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: Nil

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

1. Course Aims

This course aims to:

- provide students with an understanding of the key aspects of the Hong Kong legal system
- introduce students to key aspects of substantive family law in Hong Kong
- introduce students to relevant law relating to youth in Hong Kong
- introduce students to relevant law relating to child protection in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to mental health issues in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to drug issues in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to criminal activity issues in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to labour and employment issues in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to discrimination issues in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to human rights issues in Hong Kong
- introduce students to the relevant law relating to public order issues in Hong Kong

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	➤ Describe and explain the basic principles of Hong Kong law relating to social work practice.	10%
2.	➤ Analytically and critically describe and explain: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ what the marriage law is in Hong Kong○ the relevant law relating to youth○ the law related to child protection○ the procedure for protecting and prosecuting youth in Hong Kong○ the relevant law related to mental health issues○ the procedure under mental health law○ the law and procedure related to drugs in Hong Kong○ the law and procedure related to criminal activity in Hong Kong○ the law and procedure related to labour and employment in Hong Kong○ the law and procedure related to discrimination in Hong Kong○ the law and procedure related to human rights in Hong Kong○ the law and procedure in relation to public order in Hong Kong	60%
3.	➤ Critically evaluate <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the relationship between the development of family law and society○ the next development in family law, criminal law, mental health law, labour and employment law, discrimination law, public order law and human rights law in Hong Kong	30%

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLA1	TLA2	TLA3	Hours / course (if applicable)
CILO 1	√	√	√	
CILO 2	√	√	√	
CILO 3			√	

TLA1: Lecture

The course leader will present and explain the substantive law on the topics listed below in the course syllabus.

TLA2: Interactive class discussions

Students will learn how to apply family law to hypothetical situations similar to those they may face in their future social work practice. Students will also be engaged in debates to develop a critical view on the strengths and deficiencies of the various areas of family law, especially in relation to their future social work practice and clients' needs.

TLA3: Research

Students will use relevant materials and authorities to write one paper.

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)
CILO 1,2,3	AT1: 3 hour written open book examination Students' knowledge and understanding of the substantive course content will be assessed.	50%
CILO 1,2,3	AT2: 2000-word individual term paper. The topic of the term paper will be based on the application of a specific legal scenario and how it relates to social work. Alternatively, students can choose to write a 2000-word essay that critically investigates an area of law related to social work practice.	50%

5. Grading of Student Achievement: Standard (A+, A, A-...F). Grading is based on student performance in assessment tasks / activities.

To pass this course, students must obtain an aggregate mark of 40% and a minimum of 40% in each of the coursework and the examination elements of the assessment. Coursework for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed otherwise than by the end of session examination.

Assessment will be formative to enable students to demonstrate their capacity to understand, analyse and apply rules and principles and summative to assess understanding and knowledge.

A 3-hour written examination will be held during the University examination period. The examination is designed to assess students' knowledge and understanding of the course and key learning outcomes. Students are expected to read the prescribed readings, be familiar with the relevant legislation and revise those materials covered in lectures and tutorials. Information on the examination is provided throughout the course, and in particular during the final week of the semester.

Details of the written assignment will be provided to students by week 4 of the semester at the latest. The length of the written assignment will be stated on the written instructions but will not exceed 2,000 words in any event.

Students' participation during the interactive tutorial sessions allows them to demonstrate their capacity to understand the subject matter. Student responses in these sessions enable both the students and their tutors to assess the adequacy of their learning and how to improve it where necessary. Students receive formative feedback on their coursework and class performance.

Students are encouraged to take an active approach to their learning in both self-study and the classroom. Sharing experiences, views and feelings are welcomed and may play an important part in learning and development. As in other classes students are encouraged to form study groups and work together in their preparation though individual essays must ultimately be students' own work. Co-operative peer learning enhances academic achievements through working together, clarification of concepts, discussion of ideas, generation of approaches and problem-solving.

Part III

1. Keyword Syllabus

- HK Legal system
- Family law
- Child Protection
- Human Rights
- Public Order Ordinances
- Criminal law
- Employment
- Data protection
- Drug law.

Detailed Syllabus

1. Family law in Hong Kong
2. Anti-discrimination – law and procedure
3. Mental Health – law and procedure
4. Public order – law and procedure
5. Human Rights – law and procedure
6. Criminal law and procedure
7. Employment law and procedure
8. Data protection law and procedure
9. Drug law and procedure
10. Child Protection

Ordinances

Marriage Reform Ordinance Cap. 178
Marriage Ordinance Cap. 181
Matrimonial Causes Ordinance Cap. 179 [and Rules]
Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Ordinance Cap. 192
Guardianship of Minors Ordinance Cap. 13
Domestic and Cohabitation Relationships Violence Ordinance Cap. 189
Separation and Maintenance Orders Ordinance Cap. 16
Sex Discrimination Ordinance Cap. 480
Disability Discrimination Ordinance Cap. 487
Family Status Discrimination Ordinance Cap. 527
Race Discrimination Ordinance Cap. 602
Mental Health Ordinance Cap. 136
Bill of Rights Ordinance Cap. 383
Police Force Ordinance Cap. 232
Protection of Children and Juveniles Ordinance Cap. 213
Public Order Ordinance Cap. 245
Offences Against the Person Ordinance Cap. 212

Students may be referred to further ordinances on the student handouts as appropriate.

Recommended reading

Students will be referred to relevant reading of texts and articles on the student handouts as appropriate.

Online Resources

www.judiciary.gov.hk
www.hkfla.org.hk