

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Course
offered by School of Law
with effect from Summer Term in 2014**

Part I

Course Title: LW5667

Course Code: City University Law Review

Course Duration: Two semesters (Sem A + Sem B)

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: For 2013 Cohort and thereafter: LW5621 Legal Systems of Hong Kong and Mainland China, and LW5602 Law of Contract

For all cohorts: Only those students who are selected for the Editorial Board of the City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityU LR) are eligible to enrol in this elective course.

Precursors: For 2012 Cohort and before: LW5653 Common Law Legal Methods
For 2013 Cohort and thereafter: LW5622 Legal Methods, Research and Writing

Equivalent Courses: LW4667

Exclusive Courses: LW4667

Part II

Course Aims

This course aims to:

- harness students' skills to identify an appropriate topic to write a paper and find relevant research materials to support an argument;
- enable students to discover and apply good citation practices as part of research ethics;
- develop the skills of students to write papers with an element of originality and of publishable quality; and
- introduce students to various techniques related to the editing of papers and/or the production of a law journal; and
- allow students to explore, as part of a team, what producing and publishing a law journal entails.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Identify a new or topical legal issue appropriate to write a paper.	10%
2.	Use critically and cite appropriately relevant scholarly materials to advance an argument in a written form.	20%
3.	Write a paper of publishable quality and with an element of originality on a selected issue in a coherent, persuasive and structured manner.	30%
4.	Apply various editing tools and production techniques innovatively to diverse types of papers received for publication by the <i>CityU LR</i> (or any other law journal).	40%

Alignment of CILOs with PILOs (Please do the alignment between PILOs and CILOs.)

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)		CILOs
1	Explain and assess specified areas of the law and legal system of Hong Kong, with particular emphasis on the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena.	3
2	Assess the common law system and its values, and its interaction with the law of China, the East Asian region and the wider world.	--
3	Explain, interpret and apply main principles of ethics, civil duty, and social and professional responsibility.	--
4	Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of law as a means of regulating society in the context of competing and conflicting interests.	3
5	Demonstrate and apply skills of legal analysis and reasoning, skills of legal research, and skills of oral and written expression appropriate to the practice of Hong Kong and Chinese law, to a level appropriate to a graduate-entry degree in law.	1-4

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.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILOs 1-2	Seminars on researching and citation skills (Through these seminars, students will be exposed to techniques of identifying a new/topical legal issue, finding relevant research materials to support an argument and engaging with current scholarship in a given area. Students will also be trained – with the help of past or current submitted papers – to discover and apply correct and consistent citation practices.)	Four 2-hour seminars scheduled in Sem A and/or Sem B (total 8 hours)
CILO 3	Writing seminars (In addition to exposing students to techniques and styles of coherent legal writing for journals, these seminars will require students to do mock writing and rewrite some short passages of published pieces. Students will also be given ideas as to what originality entails and how to structure a cohesive argument.)	Six 2-hour seminars scheduled in Sem A and/or Sem B (12 total hours)
CILO 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sample editing exercises and actual editing of papers under guidance-cum-supervision of the Faculty Editor, the Editor-in-Chief and the Editor (during editing process, students will discover and learn about new legal issues and diverse writing styles); and/or ➤ Performing responsibilities related to the production or marketing of the <i>CityU LR</i> under the guidance-cum-supervision of the Faculty Editor. 	Minimum 19 hours of supervised/guided editing or other production-related tasks (scheduled in both Sem A and Sem B)

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)	Remarks
CILOs 1-3	Submission of an article or case note of publishable quality and with an element of originality (4,000 to 6,000 words, including footnotes)	50%	Submission schedule to be announced in due course
CILO 4	Editing papers allocated to one's team and/or performing other administrative responsibilities related to the production or marketing of the <i>CityU LR</i> .	30%	On a rolling basis in both Sem A and Sem B
CILO 4	Active participation in the Editorial Board meetings and in seminars offered for this course.	20%	In both Sem A and Sem B

Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Students' achievements will be graded on the basis of their performance vis-à-vis the ILOs in the following three assessment tasks/activities:

- *Writing an article or case note of publishable quality*: 50% (ability to write a coherent, persuasive and structured piece which has an element of originality and is well-supported with relevant materials cited in an appropriate manner)
- *Editing papers and/or performing other production-related responsibilities*: 30% (ability to apply various techniques innovatively to edit papers as per the *CityU LR* style and/or perform satisfactorily and efficiently other responsibilities related to the production or marketing of the journal)
- *Active participation in seminars and the Editorial Board meetings*: 20% (unless there are sound reasons, students are expected to attend and actively participate in all seminars and Board meetings; they are also expected to discharge satisfactorily the responsibilities assigned by the Faculty Editor/ Editor-in-Chief/Editor)

To pass this course, students must obtain a minimum of 40% in each of the above assessment tasks/activities.

Grading will be done as per the Law School's adopted standards: A+ (85 or above), A (80-84), A- (75-79), ... F (below 40).

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Identifying a new or topical legal issue; Research and citation skills; Writing a publishable paper; Discovering and applying good citation practices; Research ethics; Editing techniques; Production and marketing tools for law journals.

Recommended Reading Text(s)

Bryan A Garner, *Legal Writing in Plain English: A Text with Exercises* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001).

Heather Meeker, 'Stalking the Golden Topic: A Guide to Locating and Selecting Topics for Legal Research Papers' (1996) *Utah Law Review* 917.

William Strunk, Jr., *The Elements of Style*, 4th edn. (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2000).

Eugene Volokh, *Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar Papers, and Getting on Law Review*, 4th edn. (New York: Foundation Press, 2010).

Oxford Standard for the Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA), 4th edn. (Oxford Faculty of Law, 2012).

City University of Hong Kong Law Review Style Manual (CityU LR, 2012).

Online Resources

To be advised during the seminars.