

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester A 2016 / 2017**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Introduction to Constitutional and Administrative Law in China

Course Code: LW5965

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) LW6121C, LW6121E and LW5965 are equivalent courses

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to introduce the constitutional and administrative law of the PRC and give students a basic knowledge of China's legal system from the constitutional and administrative law perspectives. It gives students a basic knowledge of the legislative process of the PRC and enables them to understand the dynamics behind the rapidly changing constitutional and administrative law of the PRC.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Identify and describe the legislative powers and functions of the National People's Congress and the Local People's Congresses.		√	√	√
2.	Critically analyse various Chinese constitutional issues such as constitutional principles, constitutional structure, central-local relationship, constitutional review, and protection of human rights from the perspective of comparative law.		√	√	√
3.	Critically analyse various Chinese administrative law issues relating to administrative reconsideration, administrative litigation and state compensation from the perspective of comparative law.		√	√	√
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.			Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	
Lectures and Seminars	Lecture will be given on theoretical issues; Case studies will be used; Comparison with other legal systems will be made; Students will be engaged in both case analysis and comparative study discussion.	√	√	√	3 hours/week or a total of 39 hours of block teaching

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.			Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3		
Continuous Assessment: 50%					
Coursework	√	√	√	50%	
Examination: 50% (duration: 3 hours)					
Examination	√	√	√	50%	
				100%	

Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes (lectures, seminars, presentations). If a student does not meet this requirement, he/she may be disqualified for assessment.

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 40% in both coursework and examination and an overall mark of 40% in order to pass the course.

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Coursework	<p>Demonstration of understanding of principles and theories.</p> <p>Application of knowledge to specific issues.</p> <p>Ability to engage in argument-based analysis.</p> <p>Aptitude in formulating original arguments.</p>	<p>Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.</p>	<p>Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.</p>	<p>Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.</p>	<p>Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.</p>	<p>Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.</p>
2. Examination	<p>Demonstration of understanding of principles and theories.</p> <p>Demonstration of ability to identify issues.</p> <p>Application of knowledge to specific issues.</p> <p>Ability to engage in argument-based analysis.</p> <p>Aptitude in formulating original arguments.</p>	<p>Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.</p>	<p>Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.</p>	<p>Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.</p>	<p>Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.</p>	<p>Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.</p>

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Syllabus

1.1 Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, National People's Congress, Local People's Congress, Basic Law, Illegality of Governmental Action, Unconstitutionality of Governmental Action, Party System, Human Rights, Provincial Legislation, Legislative Process, Civil Obligations.

1.2 Detailed Syllabus

1. Historical development of constitutional and administrative law of the PRC; legal tradition of Chinese law. Comparisons with developments in other civil law and common law countries.
2. Basic concepts of the constitutional law of the PRC; current debates and the theories of China's constitutional law; the relationship between constitutional law and socialist legality.
3. The role of the Communist Party under the Constitution; nature and classification of the Constitution; the relationship between the Party and the State; public law and politics in other jurisdictions.
4. Nature of the State: Unified, federal or confederal system; autonomous regions; special administrative regions; future developments; the organisation of the PRC government; the relationship between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary (including courts and procuratorates); role of the Army.
5. Election System: Election of the delegates of the Legislature—the National and Local People's Congress; Election of members of the State Council and the local government; the Party system.
6. Civil obligations and political rights of citizens: Socialist concept of citizen rights and human rights; White Paper on Human Rights; international standards on human rights; human rights remedies.
7. Legislative process: Law making bodies—National People's Congress and Local People's Congress, State Council. Hierarchy of law—Constitution, national legislation, ordinary legislation, administration regulation, provincial legislation, departmental order etc. Functions of the National People's Congress—Law making, interpretation and supervision of law, supervision of the Constitution.
8. Concepts of administrative law: Procedural and substantive law; comparison with other civil law systems and the common law system; Role of administrative law; origin of the petition right to sue the government; Letters and Visits System.
9. The civil service system of the PRC and administrative law.
10. Administrative review/reconsideration system; administrative liability.
11. Administrative compensation and the State Compensation Law.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

Nil.

2.2 Recommended Reading

Text(s)

Juan J. Linz, Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes, (Colorado, London: Lynne Rienner, 2000)

Randall R. Peerenboom, China's Long March toward Rule of Law, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)

Randall Peerenboom ed., Judicial Independence in China, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Mark Tushnet, Advanced Introduction to Comparative Constitutional Law, (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2014)

Lin Feng, Constitutional Law in China, (Hong Kong: Sweet & Maxwell Asia, 2000)

Albert H.Y. Chen ed., Constitutionalism in Asia in the Early Twenty-first Century, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014)

Qianfan Zhang, The Constitution of China: A Contextual Analysis, (Oxford: Hart Publishing, 2012)

Xu Chongde and Niu Wenzhan, Constitutional Law in China, (The Netherlands: Kluwer Law International, 2013)

Rosalind Dixon & Tom Ginsburg eds., Comparative Constitutional Law in Asia, (USA: Edward Elgar, 2014)

Vicki C. Jackson and Mark Tushnet, Comparative Constitutional Law, (New York: Foundation Press, 1999)

Tom Ginsburg and Rosalind Dixon, Comparative Constitutional Law, (Edward Elgar, 2011)

Michel Rosenfeld and András Sajó, The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Constitutional Law, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Han Dayuan, Constitutional History of Modern China (新中国宪法发展史), (Hebei People's Press, 2000)

Han Dayuan, Study of Chinese Constitutional Events (中国宪法事例研究), (Beijing Shi: Fa lü chu ban she, 2005)

- Lin Feng, Administrative Law: Procedures and Remedies in China, (Hong Kong: Sweet & Maxwell Asia, 1996)
- James P. Brady, Justice and Politics in People's China, (London: Academic Press, 1982)
- Derk Bodde and Clarence Morris, Law in Imperial China, (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967)
- Paul Heng-chao Ch'en, Chinese Legal Tradition under the Mongols, (Princeton University Press, 1979)
- Wang Guiguo and John Mo eds., Chinese Law, (Kluwer Law International, 1999)
- Randall Peerenboom, 'Assessing Human Rights in China: Why the Double Standard?' Cornell International Law Journal, 2005, Vol. 38, No.1, pp. 72-163.
- Ming Wan, 'Human Rights Lawmaking in China: Domestic Politics, International Law, and International Politics', Human Rights Quarterly 2007, Vol. 29, No.3, pp.727-753.
- Zhiwei Tong, 'A Comment on the Rise and Fall of the Supreme People's Court's Reply to Qi Yuling's Case', Suffolk University Law Review, 2010, Vo. 43, p. 671-680.
- Jiang Shigong, 'Written and Unwritten Constitutions: A New Approach to the Study of Constitutional Government in China', Modern China, January 2010, Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 12-46
- He Xin, 'The Party's Leadership as a Living Constitution in China', Hong Kong Law Journal, No.1, 2012, pp. 73-94.
- Wang Shucheng, 'Emergence of a Dual Constitution in Transitional China', Hong Kong Law Journal, Vol.45, No.3, 2015, pp. 819-850.
- Michael W. Dowdle, 'The Constitutional Development and Operations of the National People's Congress', Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Vol. 11, Spring 1997, No. 1, pp. 1-125
- Stanley B. Lubman, A Bird in a Cage: Legal Reform in China after Mao, (Stanford University Press, 1999)
- Albert Hung-ye Chen, An Introduction to the Legal System of the People's Republic of China (4th edition), (LexisNexis, 2011)
- Jerome Alan Cohen, R. Randle Edwards and Fu-mei Chang Chen, Essays on China's Legal Tradition, (Princeton University Press, 1980)
- Ch'ien, Tuan-sheng: The Government and Politics of China, (Stanford University Press, 1970, reprint of Harvard University Press, 1950)
- T'ung-Tsu Ch'u, Law and Society in Traditional China, (Hyperion Press, Inc., 1980)
- Du Xichan/Zhang Lingyuan: China's Legal System: A General Survey, (New World Press, China, 1990)
- Joseph D. Lowe, The Traditional Chinese Legal Thought, (Berkeley: Calif, 1984)

2.3 Online Resources

Westlaw China; Lexis HK; pkulaw (English version of 北大法寶)