

City University of Hong Kong

Course Syllabus

offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester B 2017/18

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Law of Contract

Course Code: LW6164E

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P6

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) LW5602 Law of Contract

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) LW6564E Law of Contract

Note:

Students who have taken a contract law course at undergraduate level or above at CityU or other institutions in a common law jurisdiction are not allowed to take this course.

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims: –

- acquire knowledge of the law of contract;
- apply that knowledge in the solution of typical problems;
- critically analyse and evaluate the legal principles and doctrines in the law of contract;
- work through the process of agreement and consider the nature of what is agreed;
- prepare for further study of obligations, whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise; and
- promote the attitude of critical and reflective learning of the law of contract.

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 explain the principles of contract law and the different components of the law of contract.	55%	√	√	
2.	Apply the principles of contract law to solve legal problems by: reading and interpreting cases interpreting statutes dealing with facts conducting independent legal research solving problems constructing persuasive arguments by using legal authorities appropriately writing and communicating orally.	35%	√	√	√
3.	Analyse and critically evaluate legal principles and doctrines in the law of contract in the light of doctrinal coherence and the policy objectives of the law.	10%	√	√	
		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/ Tutorials	<p><i>Lectures</i> Students will be introduced to the basic principles of contract through lectures and interactions with the lecturer and amongst themselves by way of discussions, debates and student presentations in the course of the lectures.</p> <p><i>Tutorials</i> Students will be given the opportunity to clarify or raise further questions with regard to the basic principles of contract taught in the lectures and apply them to hypothetical situations to provide solutions through formation of legal strategy or negotiation and best alternatives for the parties in question.</p>	√			3
	<p><i>Lectures</i> Students will read cases to prepare for lectures, interpret statutes and develop persuasive arguments in class discussion.</p> <p><i>Tutorials</i> Students will apply legal principles to the solution of problems. This may be done in the form of discussions, debate or presentations.</p>		√		
	<p><i>Lectures</i> Students will explore relevant issues of law and address the theoretical underpinnings of various topics.</p> <p><i>Tutorials</i> Students will critically analyse and evaluate legal principles and doctrines.</p>			√	

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%					
<p><i>Coursework</i> Students' ability to identify, apply and analyse the relevant principles and components of the law of contract will be tested.</p>	√	√	√	30%	
<p><i>Participation in tutorial sessions</i> Students' ability to understand rules and principles will be tested in forms such as presentations, debates and client counselling.</p>	√	√	√	20%	
<p>Examination: 50% (duration: 2 or 3 hours) Students' ability to solve complex legal problems by providing solutions. Students' ability to identify, apply and analyse the relevant principles of the law of contract will be tested.</p>	√	√	√		
				100%	

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.

The portion of the overall mark allocated to performance/participation in inter-active in class activities will be assessed on the quality of the participation. Assessment criteria for those activities, their nature and their timing will be set out in the study guide/course manual and will be further expanded upon by the course leader.

The duration of the examination may last for 2 or 3 hours and it will be at the discretion of the course leader. The course leader will announce the duration of the examination in the first week of the course. Similarly the course leader will announce whether the examination will be closed book or open book.

To enable the full benefit to be obtained from this course, students should attend all of the classes and activities.

Assessment will be formative to enable students to demonstrate their capacity to understand, analyse and apply rules and principles and summative to assess ability to synthesise primary and secondary material to solve novel problem.

Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes (lectures, seminars, presentation,). If a student does not meet this requirement, he/she may be disqualified for assessment. To enable the full benefit to be obtained from this course, students should attend all of the classes and activities.

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-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Participation in tutorial sessions	-Demonstration of oral presentation skills and willingness / ability to answer questions in class.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.
Coursework assignment	-Demonstration of understanding of principles, theories and concepts. -Demonstration of ability to identify issues. -Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions. -Ability to write and communicate ideas and arguments in a logical manner -Ability to engage in argument-based analysis. -Demonstration of ability to research.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.
Examination	-Demonstration of understanding of principles, theories and concepts. -Demonstration of ability to identify issues. -Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions. -Ability to engage in argument-based analysis. -Aptitude for formulating innovative solutions to designated fact-based questions.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

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.)

Nature of purpose of contract law; sources of contract law; offer; invitation to treat; acceptance; intention to create legal relations; consideration; estoppels; different types of terms such as conditions, warranties and innominate terms; implied terms; exemption clauses; vitiating factors; misrepresentation; mistake; duress; undue influence; discharge of contract: performance, breach and frustration; remedies damages and remoteness of damages.

1.2 Detailed Syllabus

The following topics are studied in detail:

Formation

1. Offer and acceptance.
2. Intention to create legal relations and consideration

Contents of a contract

3. Contract terms: express and implied
4. Contract terms and breach: conditions, warranties and innominate terms
5. Exclusion clauses

Vitiating factors

6. Misrepresentation
7. Duress and undue influence and unconscionability
8. Mistakes

Discharge of contract

9. Performance: defective performance, repudiatory and anticipatory breach
10. Frustration

Remedies

11. Damages: remoteness, mitigation and liquidated damages
12. Specific performance and injunction
13. Revision

2. Reading List

2.1 Recommended Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

Essential Reading

J.C. Smith, *Smith & Thomas: A Casebook on Contract*, Sweet & Maxwell, 13th ed, 2015.

Supplementary Reading

The following books and texts will be referred to in certain topics. Students are expected to download latest Hong Kong cases that are mentioned in the lectures.

Students are also advised to keep abreast of articles on contract law principles published in journals. Specific journal articles may be mentioned and referred to. It is expected that student research papers for assignment will include comparative positions (UK, Singapore, Australia i.e common law jurisdictions) reflecting similarities, application or differences with Hong Kong law.

Texts:

J Poole, *Textbook on Contract Law*, Oxford University Press, 12th ed, 2014.

E Peele, *Treitel on the Law of Contract*, Sweet & Maxwell, 13th ed., 2011.

S. Hall, *Law of Contract in Hong Kong: Cases and Commentary*, 3rd ed, LexisNexis, 2011.

Lee Mason, *Contract Law in Hong Kong*, Sweet & Maxwell, 2011.

Stephen A. Smith and P.S. Atiyah, *An Introduction to the Law of Contract*, Oxford University Press, 6th ed, 2006.

M.P. Furmstone, *Cheshire, Fifoot and Furmstone's Law of Contract*, Oxford University Press, 16th ed., 2012.

Ordinances

Sales of Goods Ordinance (Cap 26).

Supply of Services (Implied Terms) Ordinance (Cap 457).

Control of Exemption Clauses Ordinance (Cap 71).

Misrepresentation Ordinance (Cap 284).

Unconscionable Contracts Ordinance (Cap 87).

Law Amendment and Reform (Consolidation) Ordinance (Cap 23).

2.2 Online Resources

Bilingual Laws Information System at www.legislation.gov.hk