

# LW5600: LAW SCHOOL SURVIVAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Law School Survival Skills Workshop

### Subject Code

LW - Law

### Course Number

5600

### Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

### College/School

School of Law (FL)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

1.5

### Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This intensive preparatory course introduces students to the basic skills that are necessary to succeed in legal education and introduces them to the legal profession. The course offers an overview of the Hong Kong legal system and common law legal sources to help students to prepare for their first semester courses. This course will give students a foundation in how to read caselaw, statutes, and other legal materials and in using standard patterns of legal writing and methods of legal analysis that will be developed further in the first-year Legal Methods, Research and Writing (LW5622). The course focuses on helping students prepare for success in lecture, tutorials, assignments, and examinations. Individual and team-based learning will be utilized on a pass-fail basis. It is essential for all students starting legal education to attend this course.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Develop the ability to identify and discuss the common patterns and forms used in caselaw and statutory materials within the Hong Kong commonwealth legal system	20	x	x	
2	Develop basic analytical skills for legal reading and writing	20	x	x	
3	Engage in critical analysis and develop problem-solving skills using primary and secondary legal authorities and analysing how they ground legal argument	10	x	x	
4	Develop strategies for lecture and tutorial preparation, continuous assessments, and examinations	20	x	x	x
5	Engage with practitioners in different areas of legal practice and explore professionalism expectations and career paths	30	x		

#### 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 real-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.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)



5	Career Foundations Seminars	· Students will explore career paths and deepen their understanding of professionalism skills by engaging with legal professionals in a seminar setting and preparing written responses.	5	6
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**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class Participation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No
2	Class Assignments (Individual or Group)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	70	-	No

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Additional Information for ATs**

This course is marked on a pass-fail basis and there is no course examination. Participation and class assignments will be marked on a pass-fail basis. To pass this course, students must pass both components. Due to the intensive nature of this course, unexcused absences of more than three (3) classroom or more than 1.5 hours of required professional seminar training will result in a failing mark for the participation component and thus for the course. Students must complete all 6 hours of professional seminar hours required.

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Class Participation

**Criterion**

Attends daily. Active participating in in-class activities and exercises. Actively contributes to team-based exercises and in-class discussions.

**Pass (P)**

(P) Adequate

**Failure (F)**

(F) Inadequate

**Assessment Task**

Class Assignments

**Criterion**

Timely completion of all assignments in accordance with instructions at a level that demonstrates appropriate effort and attention to detail in written work product.

**Pass (P)**

(P) Adequate

**Failure (F)**

(F) Inadequate

**Part III Other Information****Keyword Syllabus**

Common law sources of law, caselaw, statutes, legal reasoning, legal interpretation, binding precedent, case analysis, legal reading, legal writing, legal profession, coursework skills, task management, team-based learning

**Detailed Course Programme**

A detailed course programme will be provided in advance of the first class session as part of the Course Manual. The major topics covered in the course include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Introduction to the Hong Kong commonwealth system
- Reading skills for different purposes
- Introduction to legal writing forms and conventions
- Introduction to legal authority and precedent
- Reading case law
- Reading statutory law
- Using primary sources of authority
- Using secondary sources of authority
- Integrating statutory and case law sources
- Legal problem-solving skills
- Professionalism skills
- Working in teams; Group problem-solving
- Preparing for lectures, tutorials, and continuous assessments
- Preparing for exams
- Introduction to the legal profession

**Reading List****Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	The following course text is required: James Holland & Julian Webb, <i>Learning Legal Rules</i> (11th ed. OUP 2022). Note that this text will also be required in the first-semester legal research and writing course.
2	Additional compulsory readings will be distributed to students in advance of each class session. Where appropriate, copies of readings will be made available to the students either through the library catalogue, internet links, or by lodging materials with the library's semi-closed collection.
3	No external legal research is required for this course. However, students are encouraged to explore the law library and its print and electronic resources. These are available at:
4	<a href="https://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/collect/law/index.htm">https://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/collect/law/index.htm</a>
5	<a href="http://lbsystem.lib.cityu.edu.hk/ereslist/index.php?type=db&amp;format=subj&amp;subj=law">http://lbsystem.lib.cityu.edu.hk/ereslist/index.php?type=db&amp;format=subj&amp;subj=law</a>
6	<a href="https://libguides.library.cityu.edu.hk/home">https://libguides.library.cityu.edu.hk/home</a> (click subject = law)

**Additional Readings**

Title	
1	Optional reading materials will be made available to students through a variety of ways. Where appropriate, copies of readings will be made available to the students either through the library catalogue, internet links, or by lodging materials with the library's semi-closed collection. The following may be taken as examples of indicative reading:

2	Bradney A., Cownie, F., Masson, J., Neal A. & Newell, D. How to Study Law (8th ed. London, Sweet & Maxwell, 2017)
3	Bergman, Paul, Patrick Goodman, Thomas Holm, Cracking the Case Method, Legal Analysis for Law School Success (West 2022)
4	Charrow, Veda R., Myra K. Erhardt & Robert P. Charrow Clear and Effective Legal Writing (5th ed. Aspen, 2013)
5	Finch, Emily & Stefan Fafinski, Legal Skills (OUP 2021) (Highly recommended!)
6	Neumann Jr, Richard K, Legal Reasoning and Legal Writing: Structure, Strategy, and Style (6th ed, New York: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business 6th ed. 2009)
7	Mitchell, Jay, Picturing Corporate Practice (West, 2016)
8	Smith, A.T.H., Glanville Williams: Learning the Law (17th ed, London: Sweet and Maxwell, 2020)
9	Ip, Eric, Law & Justice in Hong Kong (Sweet & Maxwell, 4th ed. 2022)