

LW5673: ANIMAL LAW AND WELFARE

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Animal Law and Welfare

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

5673

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

LW4673 Animal Law and Welfare

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The aims of this course are to provide students with an introduction to those principles, rules, and regulations using a Team Based Learning (TBL) approach with the use of technology and AI - as developed by common law and from legislation

that affect animals with a further view to encourage and motivate students in the developments of this area. The course will provide a summary of historical origins and examine the current laws in their philosophical and practical aspects underpinning a variety of differing perspectives with a focus on comparing the laws relating to animals across different jurisdictions. The course will further implement on the practical aspects of the laws relating to animals and welfare by providing a motivated and innovative environment for a possibility of putting in practice interactions and experience in animal related work together with TBL learning.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Understand the legal status and welfare of animals, including the historical evolution of their status and be familiar with the ways in which different categories of animals are regulated by laws.	x		
2	Identify the law and welfare principles relating to animals and apply them to determine the affects they have on issues of human-animal interaction.		x	x
3	Analyse the evolution, interpretation, and enforcement of laws relating to the treatment and its welfare and use of animals. Focusing on the far-reaching and diverse nature of animal law issues, such as in the context of property law (animals as personal property), tort law (veterinary malpractice, nature of damages for animal loss), criminal law (anti-cruelty laws, animal fighting laws), and welfare.		x	x
4	Display knowledge and examine laws and welfare relating to animals in other jurisdiction as compared to in Hong Kong.		x	x
5	Examine the law relating to animals as a burgeoning and dynamic field of law applicable in current sociality and legal systems and to discover and innovate proposal plans for possible implementation in Hong Kong for the betterance of animal issues.		x	x
6	Use interviewing skills to extract necessary information to form proper legal advise.		x	
7	Learn in a TBL environment and the use of AI and technology in an appropriate way.		x	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)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	<p>Lecture</p> <p>Explain basic rationale of current legal status of animals and animal welfare which include the historical evolution of the status</p> <p>Explain basic legal and welfare principles that affect animals and the issues of human-animal interaction.</p> <p>Analyse and explain the evolution, interpretation, and enforcement of laws and welfare relating to the treatment and use of animals.</p> <p>Introduce animal law and welfare in different jurisdictions and compare them with Hong Kong animal law.</p> <p>Introduce the concept of development of animal law and welfare and the development of an animal based project.</p> <p>Using TBL to explain legal client interviewing skills.</p> <p>Using TBL with interaction with AI and video teaching to learn animal welfare situations in the real-world and to learn and to develop team-related skills.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	

<p>2</p>	<p>Case-studies/ discussion</p>	<p>Case-studies/discussion familiar with the ways in which different categories of animals are regulated by laws and welfare principles with the use of TBL and AI technologies.</p> <p>Case-studies/discussion on the laws and welfare relating to animals and focus on the issue of animal welfare and human-animal interactions with the use of TBL and AI technologies.</p> <p>Case-studies/discussion on the far-reaching and diverse nature of animal law and welfare issues, such as in the context of property law (animals as personal property), tort law (veterinary malpractice, nature of damages for animal loss), criminal law (anti-cruelty laws, animal fighting laws), and other various laws with the use of TBL and AI technologies.</p> <p>Develop self-confidence in application of legal principles, advocacy skills, interviewing skills and public speaking.</p> <p>Foster students' growth through development of greater intellectual and interpersonal maturity as well as teamwork.</p>	<p>1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7</p>	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Real-time discussion and “meeting” with a “client” (AI chatbot) of an animal welfare issue, and ability to extract necessary information and facts to enable the completion of a written advice. (Task 1)	4, 6	10	-	No
2	Based on Task 1. Above, complete a written legal advice (Task 2) to the “client” in relation to the animal welfare issue.	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	20	-	No
3	Discover the animal law and welfare topic and explain the differences and improvements/ consequences that may be applicable to the “client” in the relevant animal welfare issue based on Task 2.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No
4	Discover and innovate a project in relation to animal welfare and/or law including the possibility of implementation with the production of a product at the end.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	No
5	Presentation of project in relation to animal welfare Confidence building and students' maturity	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

40

Additional Information for ATs

The use of Generative AI tools by students in the completion of any part of all assessment tasks is not allowed, except for the designated AI Chatbot in Task 1. A designated generative AI is only used as part of assessment Task 1.

Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 and 2023/24

Students must obtain an aggregate mark of 50% and a minimum of 50% in each of the Assessment Tasks (1-5) to pass the course.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter

Students must obtain an aggregate mark of 40% and a minimum of 40% in each of the Assessment Tasks (1-5) to pass the course.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Continuous Assessment (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to articulate argument in an effective and clear way. Ability to apply the law with effective communication skills.

Ability to complete examination questions and show ability of team work.

Require good articulation in written form of arguments and in depth opinions with proper research for evidences and authority.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal

(D) Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

Continuous Assessment (Applicable to students admitted in Semester A 2022/23 and 2023/24)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to articulate argument in an effective and clear way. Ability to apply the law with effective communication skills.

Ability to complete examination questions and show ability of team work.

Require good articulation in written form of arguments and in depth opinions with proper research for evidences and authority.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

(F) Inadequate

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Animals, Animal Law, Animal Responsibility, Animal Welfare, Property, theoretical, ethical, and socio-political perspectives on human-animal dynamics, Policy, anti-cruelty laws.

Detailed Syllabus

The students are provided with an overview of the course and resources in support of the study of the subject and encouraged to discover the comparative aspect between the laws in Hong Kong and other jurisdictions.

Therefore, the course will deal with the following:

- a. A summary of historical origins of the legal concept applicable to animals, animal welfare etc.
- b. The principles, rules, and regulations as developed by common law and from statute that affect animals.
- c. It will examine such laws in their philosophical, scientific, and practical underpinnings, and from a variety of differing perspectives, exploring how the law has treated animals in the past and may treat them in the future both locally and internationally.
- d. It will discuss the foundational of defining animals to the pragmatic aspects of cases involving animals and discuss the substantive constraints that might occur in prosecuting an animal cruelty case in Hong Kong and will address diverse questions and answers in such areas as contract, tort and criminal in a comparative manner.
- e. It will allow students to appreciate the current status of the social, economical, political and legal status of animals and allow them to use a pragmatic approach to deal with the issues that had or may arise.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	There is no required textbook for this course. A detailed reading list will be provided in the course manual to be distributed during the first lecture.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Following textbooks may give overview of the subject:
2	An introduction to animals and the law/ Joan E. Schaffner. Schaffner, Joan. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York, NY : Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
3	The autonomous animal : self-governance and the modern subject / Claire E. Rasmussen Rasmussen, Claire Elaine.
4	Online Resources
5	LexisNexis

6	Westlaw
7	EU Protocol on animal welfare
8	http://www.voiceless.org.au/Law