

LW6192E: ADMIRALTY LAW

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Admiralty Law

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

6192E

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

Nil

Exclusive Courses

LW5583, LW6183E and LW6583E Maritime Claims and Practices in Admiralty, LW6592E Maritime Law (old course title: Maritime Law II)

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Admiralty law is the core subject of shipping law. Admiralty law regulates the rights and duties of people whose object of trade is a ship. The subject comprises areas of the law concerned with the conduct of seamen at sea while navigating or assisting other ships in need and the liability of their employers. The subject includes many other specialised areas of the law, most of which are regulated through international conventions, but it excludes the law relating to the carriage of goods by sea, international trade law and marine insurance as well as the Admiralty enforcement procedures. These are covered in separate courses.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe and display knowledge of the law relevant to sale and purchase of ships, ship-buildings, and related financing issues.		x	
2	Describe and display knowledge of the liabilities arising from shipping incidents (collisions, groundings, marine pollution).		x	
3	Identify, describe and critically assess the rationale behind the applicable liability regimes and the underlying internationally accepted norms.		x	
4	Discuss existing rules and regulations relating to the management and safety of ships and comprehend their link with the applicable liability regimes. Critically evaluate the sufficiency of such rules to prevent maritime casualties.		x	
5	Describe and demonstrate good understanding of the principles and applicable rules for liability arising from salvage, wreck removal, marine pollution, collision liability and carriage of passengers.		x	
6	Understand and critically assess the legal norms supporting limitation of liability for those operating ships.		x	
7	Apply the knowledge gained to resolve complex legal issues arising from scenarios of shipping accidents.			x
8	Consider the suitability of the Admiralty to the operation of new craft, including autonomous and unmanned ships and underwater vehicles.			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	Seminars	Discussion of law relating to the operation of ships, the policies and the legal principles underpinning them.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3 hours lecture / week or a total of 39 hours of block teaching
2	Tutorials	Case-studies of incidents at sea to promote students' problem-solving and analytical skills	5, 6, 7, 8	3 hours lecture / week or a total of 39 hours of block teaching
3	Guided individual studying	Development of basic independent research and critical assessment skills.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	3 hours lecture / week or a total of 39 hours of block teaching
4	Formative work	Application of legal principles and knowledge to practical situations.	6, 7, 8	3 hours lecture / week or a total of 39 hours of block teaching

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Group presentation in class (one of CILOs 1-6)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	10	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
2	Successful Completion of the Canvas course Locating Common Law materials	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	5	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
3	Coursework: 2500 words on a challenging topic or case study.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	35	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Additional Information for ATs

Examination: The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.

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

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. The examination will be provided with legal materials. Students are required to use computers to type the answers. However, students are NOT allowed to access the internet nor are allowed access to notes or books except dictionaries.

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 50% in both coursework and examination and an overall mark of 50% in order to pass the course. The examination will be provided with legal materials. Students are required to use computers to type the answers. However, students are NOT allowed to access the internet nor are allowed access to notes or books except dictionaries.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Group presentation in class (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to identify issues;
Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.

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

Successful Completion of the Canvas course Locating Common Law materials (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to identify issues;
Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.

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

Coursework: A critical analysis of a case selected from given choices, in which students analyse and critique the case. (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to identify issues;
Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.

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.

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(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.

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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

Group presentation in class (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to identify issues;
Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

(F) Inadequate

Assessment Task

Successful Completion of the Canvas course Locating Common Law materials (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of ability to identify issues;
Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions.

Excellent

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Demonstration of ability to identify issues;
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Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Moderate

Failure

(F) Inadequate

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Ship sale and purchase (new builds and used ships), shipowner' s liability, crew negligence, negligence in management, salvage, wreck removal, collisions, marine pollutions, passenger' s death, towage, limitation of liability

Detailed Syllabus

- a. Introduction
- b. Liabilities arising from shipping incidents - basis of liability
- c. Liabilities arising from shipping incidents - exemptions and recoverable Damages
- d. Salvage - International Law
- e. Salvage - Contracts and Environmental protection
- f. Towage
- g. Marine Pollution incidents
- h. Liability for passengers
- i. Limitation of Liability
- j. Legal norms for the development of unmanned and autonomous ships

- k. Buying an old ship or building a new one
- l. Revision

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Justice Barma (eds), <i>Maritime Law and Practice in Hong Kong</i> (Sweet & Maxwell 2015)
2	Aleka Mandaraka-Sheppard, <i>Modern Maritime Law (Volume 2)</i> . (3rd ed, Routledge-Cavendish 2014) - available on i-law
3	Yvonne Baatz (eds) <i>Maritime law</i> (4th ed, Routledge, 2017)
4	Simon Baughen, <i>Shipping Law</i> (6th ed, Routledge 2015) or the subsequent edition
5	Journals:
6	Lloyd's Maritime and Commercial Law Quarterly
7	The Journal of International Maritime Law