

PLE5029: CHINESE FOR LEGAL PRACTICE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Chinese for Legal Practice

Subject Code

PLE - Professional Legal Education

Course Number

5029

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

2

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Chinese (Cantonese)

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

Chinese (Cantonese)

Prerequisites

Basic proficiency in spoken Cantonese and written Chinese

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to refine students' Chinese oral (Cantonese) and writing skills in legal practice. It prepares students to enter the legal profession as a trainee solicitor or a bar pupil undertaking work that requires oral and written communications in Chinese. Students will apply Chinese writing, drafting and oral skills in the following areas:

- Letters of advice and other written correspondence
- Opinion drafting
- Contract drafting
- Court documents drafting
- Legal translation
- Oral communications in court

The structure of the course will be in the form of 8 large group lectures and 8 small group sessions. Guest lecturers may be invited on relevant topics. Large group lectures aim to provide students with the framework for the relevant topics. Students will be given examples of good and bad drafting and pitfalls to watch for in written and oral communications in Chinese. Small groups will provide students with the chance to engage in practical, hands-on activities and receive feedback on their written work assignments and oral communications.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Apply a problem solving approach to a client' s issues including: - Identifying client goals; - Identifying legal issues; and - Applying the law to the facts.		x	x	x
2 Draft documents used in the practice of law in Chinese, including - Correspondence - Letter of advice and opinion - Court documents - Contracts - Submissions			x	x
3 Identify and apply fundamental elements of legal translation			x	x
4 Practice and refine Cantonese oral communications skills and etiquettes in the courtroom			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	1	Teaching and learning will be based on a mixture of lecture and interactive discussion and drafting and role play exercises in the small groups.	1, 4	
2	2	Teaching and learning will primarily be based on receiving feedback on exercises and improving the work products based on such feedback.	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Oral coursework assessment	1, 2, 3, 4	35	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

35

Examination (%)

65

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

50

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

50

Additional Information for ATs

Final Written Examination: CILO No. 1,2,3.

The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Oral coursework assessment (35%)

Criterion

To pass the Oral Coursework Assessment students must obtain a mark of 50%.

To pass the Examination at the end of Semester B students must obtain a mark of 50%.

In order to pass this course, students have to pass both the Mid Term Coursework Assessment and the Examination at the end of Semester B.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) The work meets the client' s needs in all respects, evidenced by:

- a superior grasp of the issues and subject matter
- superior organization and writing (or oral) skills
- a capacity to analyze and synthesize
- possession of an extensive knowledge base
- a superior use of lawyer skills

Good

(B+, B, B-) The work meets the client' s needs in most respects, evidenced by:

- a strong grasp of the issues and subject matter
- good organization and writing (or oral) skills
- some critical and analytical ability
- an understanding of the applicable law and procedures
- a good use of lawyer skills

Fair

(C+, C, C-*) The work meets the client' s main needs, evidenced by:

- an adequate grasp of the issues and subject matter
- fair organization and writing (or oral) skills
- an ability to develop solutions to the client' s problems
- a basic use of lawyer skills

Marginal

(D*)

Failure

(F) The work does not meet the client' s needs, evidenced by little or an insufficient:

- grasp of the issues and subject matter
- critical and analytical ability
- understanding of the applicable law

Assessment Task

Written examination at end of semester (65%)

Criterion

To pass the Oral Coursework Assessment students must obtain a mark of 50%.

To pass the Examination at the end of Semester B students must obtain a mark of 50%.

In order to pass this course, students have to pass both the Mid Term Coursework Assessment and the Examination at the end of Semester B.

Excellent

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- a superior grasp of the issues and subject matter
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Additional Information for AR

* Note: The University's grades C- and D are not used in the PCLL.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- Problem solving / planning
- Drafting court documents in Chinese
- Drafting opinion and advice letters in Chinese
- Drafting contracts in Chinese
- Legal translation (Chinese/English)
- Oral advocacy in Cantonese

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Course guide and desk book for this course

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bilingual Laws Information System - Hong Kong Ordinances and Subsidiary Legislation (http://www.elegislation.gov.hk)
2	Lexis and/or Westlaw - available through “Electronic Resources” section of the Run Run Shaw Library website
3	See course guide