

CA6318: PLANNING PRACTICE, LAW, AND ETHICS IN HONG KONG

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Planning Practice, Law, and Ethics in Hong Kong

Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

Course Number

6318

Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

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

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with a holistic understanding of urban planning practice and the corresponding legislative system. The course emphasizes practical cases that demonstrate required knowledge about statutory and non-statutory planning controls for urban design and planning practice in Hong Kong and other countries.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	analyze the effect of various statutory and non-statutory planning controls and other ordinances in Hong Kong	x	x	
2	comprehend the roles and processes of various institutions in the fields of urban design and planning, and the associated government departments in Hong Kong	x		
3	familiarize students to the professional ethic of planning practice		x	
4	improve students' capability of written and oral presentation within the practical context of urban design and planning in a professional manner	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	Lectures	Principles of urban design and planning, and the associated planning control in Hong Kong; roles and processes of various government departments and agencies in urban development and planning; professional ethic and impact on society and cases in planning practice and appeal decisions	1, 2, 3, 4

2	Tutorials	Group discussions and presentations after a critical review on a variety of cases of professional practice, as well as associated activities in planning law	3, 4	
3	Seminars	Guest speakers from a government department and related agencies is to be invited to share his experience in planning practice with students	1, 2	

Additional Information for LTAs

Semester Hours: 3 hours per week

Lecture/Tutorial/Laboratory Mix: Lecture (2); Tutorial (1); Laboratory (0)

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignment 1	1, 2, 4	20		No
2	Assignment 2	3, 4	20		No
3	Assignment 3	1, 2, 4	30		No
4	Mid-term test	1, 2, 3, 4	30		No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

40

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Assignment 1 (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

ABILITY to PRESENT a critical review of a chosen topic in government planning policies and controls relating to social and cultural aspects in Hong Kong

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignment 2 (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

ABILITY to ESTABLISH a career planning considering the professional ethic and the future of Hong Kong and the World

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignment 3 (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

ABILITY to INVESTIGATE the strength and limitation of planning policies and controls in Hong Kong

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Mid-term test (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

ABILITY to UNDERSTAND and APPLY theories and knowledge to topics related to planning practice, law, and ethics in Hong Kong

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Moderate

Marginal

(D) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignment 1 (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

ABILITY to PRESENT a critical review of a chosen topic in government planning policies and controls relating to social and cultural aspects in Hong Kong

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) High

Good

(B+, B) Significant

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic

Failure

(F) Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

Assignment 2 (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

ABILITY to ESTABLISH a career planning considering the professional ethic and the future of Hong Kong and the World

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Assignment 3 (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

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Mid-term test (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

ABILITY to UNDERSTAND and APPLY theories and knowledge to topics related to planning practice, law, and ethics in Hong Kong

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(B-, C+, C) Basic

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Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Planning practice, Planning legislation and control, Town Planning Ordinance, Buildings Ordinance

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Hack, G., Birch, E., Sedway, P., and Silver, M. (2009) Local Planning: Contemporary Principles and Practice, International City/County Management Association
2	Lai L.W.C. and Ho D.C.W. (2000) Planning Buildings for a High-rise Environment: A Review of Building Appeal Decisions - Hong Kong, Hong Kong University Press
3	Planning Department, HKSAR (2000) Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines
4	Hong Kong Institute of Planners (1996) Planning in Hong Kong 1997 and Beyond
5	Buildings Ordinance, Cap. 123 of Laws of Hong Kong
6	Town Planning Ordinance, Cap. 131 of Laws of Hong Kong
7	http://www.pland.gov.hk/pland_en/tech_doc/hkpsg/index.html