

# LW8704D: DOCTORAL THESIS

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## Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Doctoral Thesis

### Subject Code

LW - Law

### Course Number

8704D

### Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

### College/School

School of Law (FL)

### Course Duration

Non-standard Duration

### Other Course Duration

The minimum course duration is two years. Students should note that this course is a required course for the Chinese judge students in the JSD programme, and the maximum period of study for JSD is six years. Any periods of leave of absence and academic suspension are counted towards the maximum period of study.

### Credit Units

0-22

### Level

D8 - Professional Doctorate

### Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

### Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

Chinese (Putonghua) supplemented by English

### Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

### Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English or Chinese

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

**Equivalent Courses**

Nil

**Exclusive Courses**

LW8001 Doctoral Thesis ("old" course code for LW8703D), LW8703D Doctoral Thesis

**Additional Information**

Before enrolling on this course, Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) students are required to:

1. satisfy the requirements of the taught component; and
2. obtain a CGPA of at least 2.0 for cohorts 2013 and before and a CGPA of at least 2.7 for cohorts 2014 and thereafter; and
3. obtain Programme Director's approval of the thesis topic and outline.

If a student fails only one core course, and has obtained approval of his/her thesis topic and outline, he/she may be permitted to take this course on condition that he/she passes the failed course within the next academic year. No substitute course is permitted.

If a student fails only one elective, and has obtained approval of his/her thesis topic and outline, he/she may be permitted to take the "Doctoral Thesis" course on condition that:

1. he/she passes the failed course within the next academic year; or
2. satisfies substitute requirement(s) as stipulated by the Dean of School of Law.

**Part II Course Details****Abstract**

Doctoral Thesis offers students a challenging and enriching opportunity to propose, formulate and carry out an independent research project with originality and develop research methodology to be applied in their own research. The course as a whole will be set as a discovery-enriched project encouraging students to develop analytical and problem-solving skills in research and writing, to discover critical legal issues and formulate solution to the issue with strong theoretical foundation. The thesis will help the students to develop innovative thinking in tackling legal issues to meet the needs of the local as well as international communities

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)**

|   | CILOs                                                                                         | Weighting (if app.) | DEC-A1 | DEC-A2 | DEC-A3 |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | carry out independent research with suitable methodology;                                     |                     | x      | x      | x      |
| 2 | discover, identify and analyse legal issues effectively;                                      |                     | x      | x      | x      |
| 3 | write research articles and other scholarly works of publishable quality;                     |                     | x      | x      | x      |
| 4 | promote a culture of knowledge and innovation, and apply legal theory to practice creatively. |                     | x      | 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    | Individual consultation | Individual consultation | 1, 2, 3, 4 |                            |

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

| ATs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | CILO No.   | Weighting (%) | Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1</p> <p>A student is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) make one presentation at a JSD Colloquium. The presentation should clarify the research and finding of the dissertation as a discovery-enriched project, and is to be made six months before the submission of thesis (supervisors have the discretion to decide whether to shorten the six-month requirement);</li> <li>(ii) attend at least one presentation made by another student at any other JSD Colloquium;</li> <li>(iii) submit a doctoral thesis, which should then be confirmed by the Panel of Examiners that the thesis is of the required academic standard;</li> <li>(iv) pass the oral examination of the thesis.</li> </ul> <p>The thesis must display a high level of originality, intellectual accomplishment and must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) make a substantial intellectual contribution to legal scholarship; and</li> <li>(2) be of publishable quality.</li> </ul> <p>The length of a thesis should be around 80,000 words in English or around 100,000 characters in Chinese.</p> | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 100           | <p>This course is a dissertation-type course. Students are not permitted to repeat a dissertation-type course. The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.</p> |

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Pass (P)**

(P) Pass

**Failure (F)**

(F) Fail

### **Additional Information for AR**

Assessment Rubrics not applicable. The course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

## **Part III Other Information**

### **Keyword Syllabus**

#### **1. Keyword Syllabus**

Independent research, research methodology, identification and analysis of legal issues.

#### **2. Categories of Research and Possible Areas under Each Category**

The following are the five categories of research and the possible areas under each category:

##### **(i) Commercial Law**

- arbitration and dispute resolution
- banking and securities law
- comparative contract law
- comparative tort law
- corporate governance

##### **(ii) Development Law**

- human rights and development
- law and governance
- law and development

##### **(iii) International Economic Law**

- international financial law
- international investment law
- international trade law
- international taxation
- intellectual property law
- international transportation law
- WTO law

##### **(iv) International Law**

- public international law
- private international law
- law of the sea
- air and space law

##### **(v) Public Law**

- the Basic Law
- civil and criminal justice
- comparative administrative law
- comparative constitutional law
- comparative criminal law and procedure
- comparative legal systems and legal traditions

#### **3. Thesis Topic and Outline**

Students who wish to start their registration for the course should submit their thesis topics by the end of Week 6 of the preceding semester. Thereafter, a supervisor will be appointed by the School of Law to each student. Each student should then prepare a thesis outline under the guidance of his/her supervisor. Upon satisfaction of the supervisor of the thesis outline, the student will submit his/her outline to the Qualifying Panel to be established by the School of Law for approval. After the outline is approved by the Qualifying Panel, the student should write his/her thesis in accordance with the outline.

#### **4. Supervisors and Qualifying Panels**

The School of Law will establish a Qualifying Panel for each student. The composition of the Panel is:

- Chairman: Supervisor
- Members:

(a) a member appointed by Dean (SLW) from among SLW staff who is of Assistant Professor level or above and whose area of expertise is public law or private law; and

(b) Co-supervisor (if any); and/or

(c) member(s) appointed by Dean (SLW) from among SLW staff who are of Assistant Professor level or above.

The composition of the Panel is subject to approval by the School Graduate Studies Committee.

The Panel should normally

- prescribe courses for students, as appropriate;
- approve proposals for Independent Work;
- monitor student performance, providing a report on each student's progress to SGS at least once per year;
- make recommendations to SGS on students' ability to continue studies and to undertake Independent Work; and
- recommend termination of candidature if the student's academic performance is unsatisfactory.

After the start of the Doctoral Thesis, a JSD student must provide a report on his/her progress to his/her Qualifying Panel at least once per year. He/she must also submit a written report on his/her study progress to his/her supervisor at the end of every Semester A and Semester B. Students may choose to write their annual progress reports and/or semester progress reports in English or Chinese.

The Panel must be satisfied that the work is being conducted independently by the student and has been undertaken substantially during the student's candidature.

In addition, the School of Law will assess each JSD student's progress in his/her thesis writing on a yearly basis. Students' semester progress reports and annual progress reports will carry significant weight during this annual assessment process. A student's study may be terminated if his/her progress is determined to be unsatisfactory or if he/she fails to submit progress reports

#### 5. Co-supervision

After successful completion of the taught component, a student can apply to go back to his/her own country to write the thesis. The supervision work of the student may be done jointly by the chief supervisor and the co-supervisor. The chief supervisor must be a full-time staff member of City University of Hong Kong School of Law. The co-supervisor must be qualified to be a supervisor of PhD students in his/her own institution. The student must report regularly to his/her supervisors on at least on a semester basis.

#### 6. Medium of Thesis Presentation

Students may choose to write their thesis in English or Chinese. Any CityU JSD thesis written in Chinese will be required to be submitted with a detailed English abstract.

#### 7. Oral Examination of Thesis

The thesis is assessed on the basis of written work and an oral examination, by a Panel of Examiners.

The Panel of Examiners will be appointed by the SGS and constituted according to University regulations.

Oral examinations may be conducted in English or Chinese.

### Reading List

#### Additional Readings

| Title |     |
|-------|-----|
| 1     | N/A |