

LW8714D: PRIVATE LAW SEMINARS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Private Law Seminars

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

8714D

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

D8 - Professional Doctorate

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

Chinese (Putonghua) supplemented by English

Medium of Assessment

Chinese

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course explores a variety of topics in private law focusing on both substantive rules and their context, application and procedural aspects from Chinese and comparative perspectives. The topics covered may vary each year and may include Contract law, Financial transactions, Banking law, Property Law, Tort law, Medical negligence, Security regulations, Corporate governance, and Intellectual Property law-related topics.

The objective is twofold. First, the course is designed to convey necessary knowledge of the same topic in different legal traditions around the world, including common law, civil law and mixed jurisdictions such as South Africa and Scotland. The course is to focus on the main features of the legal topic in various legal systems in order to show the common features and the main differences. Second, students will be exposed to a critical analysis and a wider perspective through a comparison of different legal systems. This course will therefore cover questions of substantive rule-making, as well as the related problems of contract enforcement, corporate governance, IP enforcement and compliance and the evolution of property rights.

Scholars from other jurisdictions may be invited to give guest lectures whenever it is suitable and necessary.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate an understanding of both classic and the latest research topics in public law.		x		
2	Understand different theoretical debates and arguments on various latest research topics in public law in both common law and civil law jurisdictions.		x	x	
3	Develop the ability to critically evaluate and analyse various latest research topics.			x	x
4	Develop the skills to identify topics for further research basing on existing research output.			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	Lecture	Lectures will introduce both classic and the latest research topics as well as scholarly arguments on those topics.	1, 2	

2	Presentation and Participation in Discussions	Students are required to actively participate during in-class discussions on the presentation of the lecturer as well as the literature they have been assigned to read.	2, 3, 4	
3	Readings	Students are required to read the assigned reading materials before each seminar.	2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Writing a law essay and present it in the Course Conference	1, 2, 3, 4	100	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Assignment/essay (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to formulate research questions conduct independent and critical research, provide a reasoned analysis, and use supporting authorities

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent formulation of research questions, strong evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Marginal

(D) Basic formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Failure

(F) Poor formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Assessment Task

Assignment/essay (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to formulate research questions conduct independent and critical research, provide a reasoned analysis, and use supporting authorities

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent formulation of research questions, strong evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Good

(B+, B) Good formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Failure

(F) Poor formulation of issues, evidence of independent and critical research, and reflection of views supported by authorities

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Keyword Syllabus

1. general principles of civil law;
2. contract rights;
3. contract remedies;
4. medical negligence;
5. corporate governance;
6. securities regulation;
7. class action;
8. trademark law;
9. copyrights law;
10. patent law.

Access to Library Resources

The Law Library has an excellent collection of legal materials in print copy and electronic format. Some important databases include:

- BLIS (Bilingual Laws Information System) which contains the statutory Laws of Hong Kong and selected constitutional documents.

- Lexis/Nexis

- Westlaw

- Law Library Electronic Databases that include Index to Legal Periodicals and Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, Latest Judgement Alert, Hong Kong Premium Service, Hansard U.K

CD-ROM' s include British Hansard, LEXIS/NEXIS, the Laws & Regulations of China, and the European Union Laws Library. There are also databases in Chinese as well as print format copies of Chinese law.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	To be assigned by lecturers.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	To be assigned by lecturers.