

LW4682: LEGAL CLINIC

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Legal Clinic

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

4682

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

Non-standard Duration

Other Course Duration

(A minimum of 160 contact hours)

Credit Units

0-3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English and Chinese (Cantonese) appropriate to the Legal Clinic setting

Prerequisites

Completed first year LLB

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The main objectives are:

- to provide students with a learning opportunity in a real case setting to nurture lawyering skills and professional ethics;
- to provide students with an opportunity to work closely and build connections with practitioners, to learn and obtain instant feedback from them;
- to provide service for unmet legal needs in the community; and
- to nurture a pro bono ethos and long-term commitment to public service.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

| CILOs | Weighting (if app.) | DEC-A1 | DEC-A2 | DEC-A3 |
|-------|--|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Communicate with a client using appropriate language and style competently and professionally. | x | x | |
| 2 | Interview a client to ascertain the factual circumstances of his case and his major concerns. | x | x | |
| 3 | Write a proper attendance note on the interview and a case summary. | | x | x |
| 4 | Identify and analyse the legal and factual issues of a client' s case. | x | x | x |
| 5 | Conduct legal or other research to facilitate advice to be given to a client. | x | x | x |
| 6 | Apply the legal theories and principles identified from local and comparative literature to the client' s case or situation. | | x | x |
| 7 | Explore legal and practical solutions to the client' s case to suit the client' s needs or concerns. | | x | x |
| 8 | Develop a pro bono ethos and commitment to public service. | | 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 | Clinic (off-campus) | (i) Students will attend the Legal Clinic in Admiralty on a regular basis and assist with its daily operations, including assisting in giving free legal advice and services to members of the public. (ii) Students will attend other venues to provide community outreach services as the course leader may from time to time arrange. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 |
| 2 | Group Training & Review Session | Students will attend a 2-hour training and review session weekly for briefing, debriefing, evaluation and reflection. Training will focus on specific lawyering skills, legal profession ethics and public interest issues in Hong Kong. | 1, 2, 3, 8 2 hours/week |
| 3 | Individual Guidance & Discussion | Students will attend a 1-hour individual session weekly with the course leader/supervising lawyer for guidance on research and relevant substantive law, as well as feedback on research. | 4, 5, 6, 7 1 hour/week |
| 4 | Portfolio | Students will maintain a portfolio, which sets out the time and details of their work, the skills they have put into practice, the knowledge they have attained and a self-reflection section. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 |

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

| ATs | CILO No. | Weighting (%) | Remarks ("-" for nil entry) | Allow Use of GenAI? |
|--|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Client Interview - Case Summary - Research - Summary of Advice - Self-Reflection - Overall Profession Attitude | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 | 100 | Pass/Fail | No |

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

1. Client Interview – Students shall demonstrate the ability to communicate with client using appropriate language and style competently and professionally, pay attention to detail and obtain salient facts from client, spot further information required from client, confirm next steps, write proper and detail attendance note.
2. Case Summary – Students shall demonstrate the ability to set out the material facts and issues of the case, pay attention to detail and spot inconsistencies or obscure information.
3. Research – Students shall demonstrate the ability to search for, locate, extract, organise, evaluate and use or present information that is relevant to a particular legal issue.
4. Summary of Advice – Students shall demonstrate the ability to summarise the advice given to the clients by the volunteer lawyers in precise, plain and comprehensible English and a logical structure, which should include a clear opinion, the chance of success and the call to action provided, if applicable.
5. Self-Reflection – Students shall demonstrate the ability to reflect on the academic growth and the impact of the legal clinic, projects or assignments by describing the overall experience, current strengths and weaknesses, and sharing future plans of participation in pro bono work, if any. Students shall also share their views on the challenges that different classes/groups encounter in accessing social justice and whether existing laws and institutions meet the aims of the justice system and propose solutions, if any.
6. Overall Profession Attitude – Demonstrate perseverance, ethics, competence, professionalism and responsibility for clients and the work assigned.
7. The use of Generative AI tools is not prohibited in day-to-day research.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Additional Information for AR**

Not applicable as students are assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Lawyering skills, legal process, skill-based and clinical legal education, client interviewing, drafting, managing cases, legal negotiation and advocacy, social justice, access to justice, legal ethics, social responsibility, and self-reflective learning.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

| Title | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | M Caroline & J S Webb, <i>Lawyering Skills and the Legal Process</i> (2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2005). |
| 2 | <i>The Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct</i> (3rd ed., Hong Kong: The Law Society of Hong Kong, 2013). |
| 3 | <i>Code of Conduct for the Bar of Hong Kong</i> (Hong Kong: Hong Kong Bar Association, 1995). |

Additional Readings

| Title | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Recommended Readings on specific topics will be provided during the course. |