

CA4314: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

New Syllabus Proposal

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced Topics in Construction Contracts

Subject Code

CA - Civil and Architectural Engineering

Course Number

4314

Academic Unit

Architecture and Civil Engineering (CA)

College/School

College of Engineering (EG)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

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

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

CA3321 Construction Contracts: Principles and Administration

Students must have attempted (including class attendance, coursework submission, and examination) the precursor course(s) so identified.

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Building on the knowledge base on construction contract discussed in CA3321, this course aims to examine the advanced and topical topics in construction contracting including dispute identifications, resolution methods, insurance, and professional negligence. The operation of construction contracts under the PRC Contract and Construction Law will also be introduced.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the nature of construction disputes.		x	x	
2	Explain the operation of various dispute resolution mechanisms.		x	x	x
3	Describe the functions of construction insurance		x	x	x
4	Demonstrate the law of negligence in construction professional services.		x	x	x
5	Discuss the operation of construction contract within the framework of PRC contract and construction law.			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	Students will engage in complex concepts and topical issues in construction contracting.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2
2	Tutorials	Students will engage in hands-on exercises to apply the skill and knowledge discussed in lectures	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	-	Yes
2	Mid-term Quiz	1, 2, 3	20	-	No
3	Essay	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

3

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

30

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

30

Additional Information for ATs

To pass the course, a student must obtain minimum marks of 30% in both coursework and examination components, and an overall mark of at least 40%.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Presentation

Criterion

Ability to disseminate the salient points addressing the key issues being addressed.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Mid-term Quiz

Criterion

Ability to command the subject matters being tested.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Essay

Criterion

Ability to identify the critical issues arising from the problem. Demonstrate the competence in conducting independent research to formulate recommendations.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Demonstrating the ability to apply principles to formulate solutions appropriate to the issues at stake.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

High

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal level

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Construction disputes; resolution processes, insurance, professional negligence and PRC regulatory framework for construction project developments.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Cheung S.O. (2014) "Construction Dispute Research: Conceptualisation avoidance and resolution", Springer International Publishing.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Keating, D (2024), Building Contracts, 12th Edition, Sweet & Maxwell.
2	Denys N. (2022) "Hudson's Building and Engineering Contracts", 14th Edition, Sweet and Maxwell.
3	Soo G. and Lo M. (2025), Construction Law and practice in Hong Kong, 5th Edition, Sweet and Maxwell.
4	Gerber, P., & Ong, B. (2013). Best Practice in Construction Disputes: Avoidance, Management and Resolution. (1st ed.) LexisNexis Butterworths.
5	Glofcheski R. (2023) "Tort Law in Hong Kong" 5th edition, Sweet and Maxwell.
6	Course materials and Selected publications as provided by the instructor.