

Lingnan University
Department of Accountancy
Course Syllabus

Course Title	: Law in Everyday Life
Course Code	:
Recommended Study Year	: Year 1 to Year 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional Approach
Class Contact Hours	: 42 hours (3-hours lecture per week)
Category	: CLC
Prerequisite(s)	: NIL
Co-requisite(s)	: NIL
Exclusion(s)	: NIL
Exemption Requirement(s)	: NIL

Brief Course Description:

Law affects our daily life, our rights, and our social, economic, political and emotional well-being. University students therefore need a basic understanding of the legal system and the laws likely to affect their everyday life. This course covers the most interesting, useful and basic legal knowledge on a variety of issues: marriage, employment, consumer rights, information technology, etc.

This course is topic-driven. In each lecture, a particular topic and several selected relevant cases will be introduced and discussed in order to encourage students to consider the particular legal issues behind current social phenomena or developments.

Aims:

The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of law which affects their daily life and to stimulate their interest in legal issues. Students will be able to understand fundamental legal principles, identify related legal issues, critically analyze legal problems and apply relevant legal principles to solve problems they may face in their daily life. The course attaches greater importance to the understanding of relevant legal principles and critical thinking concerning current legal issues than the rote learning of laws or rules.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

On completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Explain and interpret the general principles, rules and relevant laws covered by the contents of this course
2. Apply general legal principles and laws covered by this course in solving practical issues
3. Analyze relevant legal affairs behind current issues in society
4. Critically examine relevant existing rules, systems or judgements

Indicative Contents:

1. **Marriage**
Legal issues concerning marriage and divorce; separation of property on divorce
2. **Employment**
Employment contracts; protection of employers' rights; retirement protection such as MPF and long-service award issues in Hong Kong
3. **Consumer Issues**
Protection of rights of consumers; legal issues on online shopping
4. **Information Technology**
Legal issues on intellectual property and information technology; cyber law; internet censorship
5. **Tort**
Grounds for compensation to an aggrieved party for damages or injury suffered
6. **Current Issues**
Legal and/or constitutional affairs behind current political or social issues

Teaching Method:

Sectional approach and topic-driven approach will be adopted. Legal knowledge and cases are introduced and discussed under different topics. Class activities include lectures and in-class discussions. Students are expected to participate in class discussion to enhance their understanding of the topics covered and develop their critical thinking.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

1. Final project is designed to assess students' understanding of the course contents and problem-solving skills (LO 1 and 2).
2. Individual assignment assesses students' application and analytical skills and their capacity to examine relevant rules, laws or judgements (LO 3 and LO 4).
3. Students are required to make a group presentation on a case (LO 1).
4. Assessed participation in classroom discussion/debate measures the students' understanding of relevant knowledge (related to all LOs depending on the issues discussed).

Learning Outcomes	Measurement of Learning Outcomes		
1. Explain and interpret the general principles, rules and relevant laws covered by the contents of this course	Final project is designed to assess students' understanding of the course contents and problem-solving skills	Students are required to make a group presentation on a case	Assessed participation in classroom discussion/debate measures the students' understanding of relevant knowledge (related to all LOs depending on the issues discussed)
2. Apply general legal principles and laws covered by this course in solving practical issues	Final project is designed to assess students' understanding of the course contents and problem-solving skills		Assessed participation in classroom discussion/debate measures the students' understanding of relevant knowledge (related to all LOs depending on the issues discussed)
3. Analyze relevant legal affairs behind current issues in society	Individual assignment assesses students' application and analytical skills and their capacity to examine relevant rules, laws or judgements		Assessed participation in classroom discussion/debate measures the students' understanding of relevant knowledge (related to all LOs depending on the issues discussed)
4. Critically examine relevant existing rules, systems or judgements	Individual assignment assesses students' application and analytical skills and their capacity to examine relevant rules, laws or judgements		Assessed participation in classroom discussion/debate measures the students' understanding of relevant knowledge (related to all LOs depending on the issues discussed)

Assessment:

Final project	30%
Individual assignment	40%
Group presentation	20%
Participation	10%

Required/Essential Readings:

D.K. Srivastava (ed.), *Business Law in Hong Kong (fifth edition)*, Sweet and Maxwell, 2017.

Supplementary Readings:

Jonathan Herring, *Family Law (Longman Law Series) (sixth edition)*, Pearson, 2013
 Rick Glofcheski, *Tort Law in Hong Kong (Fourth Edition)*, Sweet and Maxwell, 2017
 Scott Veitch (Ed.) *Law and the Politics of Reconciliation*, Routledge, 2017
 Kenny K. S. Wong, Alice S. C. Lee, *Intellectual Property Law and Practice in Hong Kong*, Sweet and Maxwell, 2013

Yun Zhao, *Cyber Law in Hong Kong (2nd Edition)*, Kluwer Law International, 2014
Andrew Murray, *Information Technology Law: The Law and Society (3rd Edition)*, Oxford University Press, 2016

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarized ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.

Law in Everyday Life: Group Presentation Rubric

	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
Visual Appeal (20%)	There are no errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. Information is clear and concise on each slide. Visually appealing/engaging.	There are some errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. Too much information on two or more slides. Significant visual appeal.	There are some errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. Too much information was contained on many slides. Minimal effort made to make slides appealing or too much going on.	There are many errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation. The slides were difficult to read and too much information had been copied onto them. No visual appeal.
	16-20 marks	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	0-7 marks
Comprehension (20%)	Extensive knowledge of topic. Members showed complete understanding of legal knowledge.	More than half members showed a complete understanding of topic and the rest members showed basic understanding of topic and legal knowledge.	A few members showed basic understanding of some parts of topic and legal knowledge.	Presenters did not understand topic. Presenters fails to demonstrate basic knowledge.
	16-20 marks	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	0-7 marks
Content (20%)	The presentation was a concise summary of the topic with all issues analyzed. Comprehensive and complete coverage of information.	The presentation was a good summary of the topic. Most important information covered; little irrelevant information.	The presentation was informative but several elements went unanswered. Much of the information irrelevant; coverage of some of major points.	The presentation was a brief look at the topic but many issues were left undiscussed. Majority of information irrelevant and significant points left out.
	16-20 marks	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	0-7 marks
Presentation skills (30%)	Regular/constant eye contact, The audience was engaged, and presenters held the audience's attention. Appropriate speaking volume & body language.	Most members spoke to majority of audience; steady eye contact. The audience was engaged by the presentation. Majority of presenters spoke at a suitable volume. Some fidgeting by member(s).	Members focused on only part of audience. Sporadic eye contact by more than one presenter. The audience was distracted. Speakers could be heard by only half of the audience. Body language was distracting.	Minimal eye contact by more than one member focusing on small part of audience. The audience was not engaged. Majority of presenters spoke too quickly or quietly making it difficult to understand. Inappropriate/disinterested body language.
	24-30 marks	18-23 marks	12-17 marks	0-11 marks
Preparation/ Participation/ Group Dynamics (10%)	All presenters knew the information, participated equally, and helped each other as needed. Extremely prepared and rehearsed.	Slight domination of one presenter. Members helped each other. Very well prepared.	Significant controlling by some members with one minimally contributing. Primarily prepared but with some dependence on just reading off slides.	Unbalanced presentation. Multiple group members not participating. Evident lack of preparation/rehearsal. Dependence on slides.
	8-10 marks	6-7 marks	4-5 marks	0-3 marks

Law in Everyday Life: Individual Assignment Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
Content (40%)	Demonstrates insightful and adequate personal thoughts on legal affairs behind current issues. Supports each claim with compelling evidence; evidence is seamlessly integrated into assignment. Thesis is clear and focused; offers original analysis. Expression of ideas is consistently accurate, logical and clear.	Demonstrates reasonable and adequate personal thought on legal affairs behind current issues. Supports most claims with relevant evidence; most evidence is integrated into assignment. Thesis is clear and focused; recycles discussion but offers some original analysis. Expression of ideas is generally accurate, logical and clear. Lapses are rare and minor in nature.	Demonstrates acceptable and sufficient personal thought on legal affairs behind current issues. Supports some claims with evidence, but evidence is not always relevant; some evidence is integrated into assignment, but some evidence disrupts the flow of the assignment. Thesis is clear but unfocused; recycles discussion. Expression of ideas is reasonably accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of lapses.	Demonstrates inadequate or ridiculous personal thought on legal affairs behind current issues. Includes many unsupported claims; most evidence disrupts the flow of the assignment. Thesis is unclear and/or unrelated to assignment. Ideas are not expressed logically, and are characterized by significant inaccuracies and lack of clarity
	32-40 marks	24-31 marks	16-23 marks	0-15 marks
Comprehension (30%)	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are consistently accurately applied and critical examination is developed strongly. Demonstrates mastery of course content; makes rich connections to course content, and ideas.	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are generally accurately applied and critical examination is developed well. Demonstrates comprehension of course content; makes several/useful connections to course content and ideas.	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are sometimes correctly applied and critical examination is developed reasonably. Demonstrates basic engagement with course content; makes a few connections to course content and ideas.	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are not applied, or are generally applied incorrectly; important aspects of the topic remain unaddressed; critical examination is not developed. Demonstrates lack of engagement with course content; makes no/strained connections to course content and ideas.
	24-30 marks	18-23 marks	12-17 marks	0-11 marks
Organization and integration (20%)	All paragraphs relate to the thesis in a clear manner; individual paragraphs have a clear focus; there are clear transitions between paragraphs or ideas; the order in which the	Nearly all paragraphs relate to the thesis in a clear manner; all or most individual paragraphs have a clear focus; there are generally clear transitions between paragraphs or ideas; it is sometimes unclear why	Most paragraphs relate to the thesis in a clear manner; more than half of the individual paragraphs have a clear focus; it is sometimes unclear why ideas are presented in their particular order and there are	Assignment is disorganized to the point that the order in which ideas are presented appears virtually random.

	ideas are presented makes sense.	ideas are presented in their particular order.	often unclear transitions between ideas.	
	16-20 marks	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	0-7 marks
Quality of English (10%)	Assignment demonstrates almost perfect grammar, punctuation and spelling errors. Precise language and effective word choice. Appropriate citations and reference list.	Assignment demonstrates competent grammar punctuation and spelling errors. Competent language and effective word choice. Most citations and reference list are appropriate.	Assignment demonstrates some grammar mistakes or some punctuation and spelling errors. Some mistakes on word choice. Some inappropriate citations and reference list.	Assignment demonstrates incompetent grammar with many mistakes or punctuation and spelling errors. Many mistakes on language and word choice. Inappropriate citations and reference list.
	8-10 Marks	6-7 Marks	4-5 Mark	0-3 Marks

Law in Everyday Life: Final Project Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
Content (40%)	Demonstrates insightful and adequate personal thoughts on legal affairs behind current issues. Supports each claim with compelling evidence; evidence is seamlessly integrated into assignment. Thesis is clear and focused; offers original analysis. Expression of ideas is consistently accurate, logical and clear.	Demonstrates reasonable and adequate personal thought on legal affairs behind current issues. Supports most claims with relevant evidence; most evidence is integrated into assignment. Thesis is clear and focused; recycles discussion but offers some original analysis. Expression of ideas is generally accurate, logical and clear. Lapses are rare and minor in nature.	Demonstrates acceptable and sufficient personal thought on legal affairs behind current issues. Supports some claims with evidence, but evidence is not always relevant; some evidence is integrated into assignment, but some evidence disrupts the flow of the assignment. Thesis is clear but unfocused; recycles discussion. Expression of ideas is reasonably accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of lapses.	Demonstrates inadequate or ridiculous personal thought on legal affairs behind current issues. Includes many unsupported claims; most evidence disrupts the flow of the assignment. Thesis is unclear and/or unrelated to assignment. Ideas are not expressed logically, and are characterized by significant inaccuracies and lack of clarity
	32-40 marks	24-31 marks	16-23 marks	0-15 marks
Comprehension (30%)	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are consistently accurately applied and critical examination is developed strongly. Demonstrates mastery of course content; makes rich connections to course content, and ideas.	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are generally accurately applied and critical examination is developed well. Demonstrates comprehension of course content; makes several/useful connections to course content and ideas.	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are sometimes correctly applied and critical examination is developed reasonably. Demonstrates basic engagement with course content; makes a few connections to course content and ideas.	Appropriate legal rules and concepts are not applied, or are generally applied incorrectly; important aspects of the topic remain unaddressed; critical examination is not developed. Demonstrates lack of engagement with course content; makes no/strained connections to course content and ideas.
	24-30 marks	18-23 marks	12-17 marks	0-11 marks
Organization and integration (20%)	All paragraphs relate to the thesis in a clear manner; individual paragraphs have a clear focus; there are clear transitions between paragraphs or ideas; the order in which the ideas are presented makes sense.	Nearly all paragraphs relate to the thesis in a clear manner; all or most individual paragraphs have a clear focus; there are generally clear transitions between paragraphs or ideas; it is sometimes unclear why ideas are presented in their particular order.	Most paragraphs relate to the thesis in a clear manner; more than half of the individual paragraphs have a clear focus; it is sometimes unclear why ideas are presented in their particular order and there are often unclear transitions between ideas.	Assignment is disorganized to the point that the order in which ideas are presented appears virtually random.

	16-20 marks	12-15 marks	8-11 marks	0-7 marks
Quality of English (10%)	Assignment demonstrates almost perfect grammar, punctuation and spelling errors. Precise language and effective word choice. Appropriate citations and reference list.	Assignment demonstrates competent grammar punctuation and spelling errors. Competent language and effective word choice. Most citations and reference list are appropriate.	Assignment demonstrates some grammar mistakes or some punctuation and spelling errors. There are some mistakes on word choice, and some inappropriate citations and reference list.	Assignment demonstrates incompetent grammar with many mistakes or punctuation and spelling errors. There are many mistakes on language and word choice, inappropriate citations and reference list.
	8-10 Marks	6-7 Marks	4-5 Mark	0-3 Marks

Law in Everyday Life: Participation Rubric

Performance Level	Excellent	Good	Pass	Failure
Attendance and Listening (30%)	<p>Student is always prompt and regularly attends classes. Student listens attentively when others present materials, perspectives, as indicated by comments that build on others' remarks, i.e., student hears what others say and contributes to the dialogue.</p> <p>24-30 Marks</p>	<p>Student is rarely late to class and rarely misses classes. Student is mostly attentive when others present ideas, materials, as indicated by comments that reflects and build on others' remarks.</p> <p>18-23 Marks</p>	<p>Student is sometimes late to class/misses classes. Student is often attentive when others present ideas, materials, as indicated by comments that reflects and build on others' remarks.</p> <p>12-17 Marks</p>	<p>Student is often late to class and/or has poor attendance of classes. Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; detracts from discussion; sleeps, etc.</p> <p>0-11 Marks</p>
Quality of responses (70%)	<p>Student always proactively contributes to class by offering ideas and asking questions. Comments are always insightful and constructive. Comments balance between general impressions, opinions and specific, thoughtful criticisms or contributions.</p> <p>56-70 Marks</p>	<p>Student always proactively contributes to class by offering ideas and asking questions. Comments are mostly insightful and constructive. Occasionally comments are too general or not relevant to the discussion.</p> <p>42-55 Marks</p>	<p>Student only sometimes contributes to class by offering ideas and asking questions. Comments are sometimes constructive, with occasional signs of insight.</p> <p>28-41 Marks</p>	<p>Student never contributes to class by offering ideas and asking questions.</p> <p>0-27 Marks</p>