

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION [LLM(ARB&DR)]

(These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the LLM(ARB&DR) curriculum in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter.)

(See also [General Regulations](#) and [Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula](#).)

LLMADR1. Admission Requirements

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, a candidate

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (b)
 - (i) shall hold the degree of Bachelor of Laws with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; or
 - (ii) shall hold the degree in a discipline other than law with at least second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and have at least two years of relevant experience and professional qualifications; or
 - (iii) shall have obtained either the Common Professional Examination of England and Wales or the Common Professional Examination Certificate of this University provided that in either case the candidate has also obtained a degree with at least a second class honours of this University, or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b).
-

LLMADR2. Advanced standing

Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully no more than 5 years before admission to the curriculum. Candidates who are awarded Advanced Standing will not be granted any further credit transfer for those studies for which Advanced Standing has been granted. The amount of credits to be

granted for Advanced Standing shall be determined by the Board of the Faculty of Law, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) a candidate may be granted a total of not more than 9 credits (one course) for Advanced Standing unless otherwise approved by the Senate; and
 - (b) credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
-

LLMADR3. Period of study

- (a) The curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution shall normally require one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study, and shall include any assessment to be held during and/or at the end of each semester including summer semester.
 - (b) Candidates shall not in any case be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years in the case of full-time candidates and three academic years in the case of part-time candidates, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law.
-

LLMADR4. Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum for the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, a candidate shall

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed under TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
 - (b) satisfactorily complete 72 credits in the case of a full-time study in one academic year, including a capstone experience, or 36 credits in the case of a part-time study in each of the two academic years of study, including a capstone experience.
-

LLMADR5. Selection of courses

- (a) Candidates shall select their courses in accordance with these regulations and the guidelines specified in the syllabus before the beginning of each semester. Changes to the selection of courses may be made only during the add/drop period of the semester in which the course begins, and such changes shall not be reflected in the transcript of the candidate. Requests for changes after the designated add/drop period of the semester shall not normally be considered.
- (b) Withdrawal from courses beyond the designated add/drop period will not be permitted, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the

Faculty of Law. Withdrawal without permission will result in a fail grade in the relevant course(s).

LLMADR6. Dissertation

- (a) Candidates, whether full-time or part-time, who elect to submit a dissertation shall submit the title within four weeks of the first day of the semester register for. The dissertation must be presented not later than December 31 or May 31 of the year for a 9-credit or an 18-credit dissertation enrolled in the first semester respectively. The May 31 deadline shall also be applicable to candidates who enroll in a 9-credit dissertation in the second semester.
 - (b) In exceptional circumstances a candidate may apply to the Board of the Faculty of Law for an extension of the period within which the dissertation must be presented at least three months before the prescribed date of submission. Late applications for extension will not be considered, except for medical reasons or with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law.
 - (c) The candidate shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents his or her own work undertaken after registration as a candidate for the degree. The examiners may require an oral examination on the subject of the dissertation.
-

LLMADR7. Progression in curriculum

- (a) Candidates shall normally be required to undertake a combination of courses and study requirement as prescribed in these regulations and the syllabus, and in the manner as specified below, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty of Law:
 - (i) Candidates who are on a one-year full-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 27 credits nor more than 36 credits in any one semester (not including the summer semester).
 - (ii) Candidates who are on a two-year part-time mode of study shall normally be required to take not fewer than 9 credits nor more than 18 credits in any one semester (not including the summer semester).
 - (iii) Where candidates are required to make up for failed credits, the Board of the Faculty of Law may give permission for candidates to exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits.
 - (iv) In each case under (i) or (ii) above, the total number of credits taken shall not exceed the required curriculum study load of 72 credits for the normative period of study specified in LLMADR3(a).

- (b) Candidates may, with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, transfer credits for courses completed at other institutions during their candidature. The number of transferred credits may be recorded in the transcript of the candidate, but the results of courses completed at other institutions shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA. The combined total number of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing and credit transfer shall not exceed half of the total credits normally required under the curriculum of the candidates during their candidature at the University.
 - (c) Unless otherwise permitted by the Board of the Faculty of Law, candidates shall be recommended for discontinuation of their studies if they have:
 - (i) failed to complete successfully 45 or more credits (under one-year full-time study) or 18 or more credits (under two-year part-time study) in two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester), except where they are not required to take such a number of credits in the two given semesters, or
 - (ii) failed to achieve an average semester GPA of 1.5 or higher for two consecutive semesters (not including the summer semester); or
 - (iii) exceeded the maximum period of registration specified in LLMADR3(b).
-

LLMADR8. Exemption

Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, up to 9 credits (one course) in the requirement prescribed in the regulations and the syllabus governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty of Law, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

LLMADR9. Assessment

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
- (b) Candidates suspended under Statute XXXI shall not be allowed to take, present themselves for, and participate in any assessments during the period of suspension, unless otherwise permitted by the Senate.
- (c) Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

- (d) Candidates are required to make up for failed courses in the following manner:
 - (i) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (ii) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
 - (iii) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
 - (iv) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.
 - (e) Where candidates are permitted or required to present themselves for re-assessment/ re-examination/ assessment in an alternative course under (d) above, the new grade obtained together with the previous F grade shall be recorded on the transcript and be included in the calculation of the semester GPA, year GPA and the cumulative GPA. Such candidates shall not be eligible for any mark of distinction.
 - (f) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
-

LLMADR10. Absence from examination

Candidates who are unable through illness to be present at the written of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the First Semester of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on the form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provisions made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

LLMADR11. Requirements for graduation

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, candidates shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) complete the curriculum requirements prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses within the maximum period of registration and satisfy the examiner in not fewer than 72 credits in accordance with the regulations governing examinations

procedures, which shall include the successful completion of a capstone experience as specified in the syllabus;

- (c) have achieved a Cumulative GPA of 1.50 or above.
-

LLMADR12. Grading system

Individual courses shall be graded in accordance with TPG9 (a) or (c) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula as determined by the Board of Examiners.

LLMADR13. Classification of awards

Upon successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded the degree with distinction as determined by the Board of Examiners, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

COURSEWORK

The Board of Examiners shall decide what proportion of the final assessment for each course shall be determined by written work carried out during the course of study. Candidates will be informed at the beginning of the course of the relative proportions of the final assessment to be derived from coursework and from written examinations which will be held at the end of the teaching programme.

OBJECTIVES

Hong Kong is an ideal venue for the arbitration and mediation of disputes arising from international commercial and financial investment in Hong Kong, Mainland China and the rest of Asia. As the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government has stated its goal of further enhancing Hong Kong as a leading regional and international centre for dispute resolution, the Faculty of Law is offering the degree of Master of Laws in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution to train professionals with the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise in dispute resolution methods, particularly negotiation, mediation and arbitration. This specialised postgraduate degree programme is part of a comprehensive arbitration and dispute resolution teaching and research initiative of the Faculty of Law. This initiative seeks to (a) better serve the dispute resolution needs of Hong Kong's business, commercial and broader community; and (b) advance the Faculty as a regional and international centre of excellence in the teaching and research of negotiation, mediation, arbitration and dispute resolution generally.

DISSERTATION

An 18-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words on a legal topic approved by the Faculty Higher Degrees Committee. A 9-credit dissertation shall comprise a paper on a legal topic likewise approved with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words. In both cases the dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

STRUCTURE

Candidates are required to complete 72 credits, including the required compulsory courses and a capstone experience in accordance with the regulations for this degree and the syllabus as set out in either A or B below. Candidates may choose courses from the course outlines of individual areas of law below, and courses from any of the specialist programmes, but in any event no more than two courses from other LLM specialist programmes.

COURSE OUTLINES

(Each of the courses listed below carries 9 credits unless otherwise stated.)

A. Candidates with a degree in law¹ will follow the following syllabus:

Compulsory courses

LLAW6138 Arbitration law

LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting

LLAW6161 Mediation

Capstone course

LLAW6135 Alternative dispute resolution

Electives

LLAW6310 Adjudication

LLAW6241 Arbitration award writing

LLAW6185 China investment law

LLAW6186 China trade law

LLAW6162 Collaborative law and practice

LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia

LLAW6276 Consensus building and facilitation as dispute processes

LLAW6252 Construction of commercial contracts

LLAW6141 Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance

LLAW6207 Corporate conflicts

LLAW6082 Corporate governance and shareholder remedies

LLAW6267 Courts

LLAW6217 Culture, diversity and power in dispute resolution

LLAW6173 Dispute resolution systems design

LLAW6174 Family mediation

LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong & international perspectives

LLAW6107 Insurance law

LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law

LLAW6237 International arbitration: practice, process and strategy

LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration

LLAW6321 International commercial litigation

LLAW6007 International dispute settlement

LLAW6037 International environmental law

LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes

LLAW6182 International organizations

LLAW6128 International trade law I

LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union law

¹ Candidates with a degree in law from a non-common law jurisdiction may take up to three 9-credit courses of foundational law courses among the eight 9-credit courses of this programme, subject to approval of the Head of the Department of Law. Any of these foundational courses may also be used in place of the elective(s). The foundational law courses are as follows:-

LLAW6158 Contract law

LLAW6159 Evidence

LLAW6160 Legal system and methods

LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration
LLAW6313 Law as data
LLAW6323 Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions
LLAW6029 Managing commercial disputes in China: law, issues and techniques
LLAW6324 Mediation advocacy
LLAW6163 Negotiation: settlement and advocacy
LLAW6176 Online dispute resolution
LLAW6196 Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution
LLAW6109 Public international law
LLAW6281 Research seminar in ADR ethics and policy
LLAW6315 Theories and methods on law and society
LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation*
LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation* (18 credits)

B. Candidates with a degree in a discipline other than law will follow the following syllabus:

First Year (36 credits)

Compulsory courses

LLAW6158 Contract law
LLAW6159 Evidence
LLAW6160 Legal system and methods

Capstone course

LLAW6135 Alternative dispute resolution

Second year (36 credits)

Compulsory courses

LLAW6138 Arbitration law
LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting
LLAW6161 Mediation
LLAWxxxx (*Elective course*)

Electives

LLAW6310 Adjudication
LLAW6241 Arbitration award writing
LLAW6185 China investment law
LLAW6186 China trade law
LLAW6162 Collaborative law and practice
LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia
LLAW6276 Consensus building and facilitation as dispute processes
LLAW6252 Construction of commercial contracts
LLAW6141 Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance
LLAW6207 Corporate conflicts
LLAW6082 Corporate governance and shareholder remedies
LLAW6267 Courts
LLAW6217 Culture, diversity and power in dispute resolution
LLAW6173 Dispute resolution systems design

LLAW6174 Family mediation
LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong & international perspectives
LLAW6304 Governing online platforms: law, economics and politics
LLAW6107 Insurance law
LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law
LLAW6237 International arbitration: practice, process and strategy
LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration
LLAW6321 International commercial litigation
LLAW6007 International dispute settlement
LLAW6037 International environmental law
LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related
disputes
LLAW6182 International organizations
LLAW6128 International trade law I
LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union law
LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration
LLAW6313 Law as data
LLAW6323 Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions
LLAW6029 Managing commercial disputes in China: law, issues and techniques
LLAW6324 Mediation advocacy
LLAW6163 Negotiation: settlement and advocacy
LLAW6176 Online dispute resolution
LLAW6196 Preventative law: approaches to conflict prevention and resolution
LLAW6109 Public international law
LLAW6281 Research seminar in ADR ethics and policy
LLAW6315 Theories and methods on law and society
LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation*

* subject to the approval of the Director of the Programme; LLAW6014 and LLAW6054 are mutually exclusive.

NOTE: Not all courses will be offered in any given year. For actual courses available, please refer to annual course offerings.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN ARBITRATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION [LLM(ARB&DR)]

Compulsory courses for all candidates

LLAW6138 Arbitration law

The aim of the Arbitration Law course is to provide students with sufficient knowledge and understanding of the law of arbitration.

During the course, the students will focus on the dispute resolution process, as set out in more detail in the syllabus, including the following ADR methods:

- Negotiation;
- Mediation;
- Early Neutral Evaluation
- Expert determination;
- Adjudication
- Dispute Boards
- Arbitration
- State Court Litigation

Further in the course, the students will learn about the history of arbitration and about the major international arbitration legal instruments (NY Convention, UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules, UNCITRAL Model Law, the Washington Convention, and others). Further, the students will explore the differing statutory approaches to arbitration in the globalized world (common and civil law), the choices available to the parties in dispute resolution, the concepts of arbitration agreements, the arbitral procedure (commencement, tribunal appointment. Evidence, document production, written submissions, hearings, and others).

The students will learn about the duties and obligations of an arbitral tribunal, the notion of independence and impartiality, jurisdiction and powers, costs, and awards.

At the end of the course, the students will learn about the role of the state courts in arbitration, and about their supervisory powers.

The specific educational learning outcomes of this course are as follows:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

- To enhance understanding of arbitration as a private consent-based method of resolving disputes.
- To introduce the fundamental principles of arbitration law set out in detail in the syllabus below.
- To introduce the importance of the Hong Kong Arbitration Ordinance when

deciding disputes.

- To introduce the essential elements of a binding arbitration agreement and an enforceable arbitration award.
- To introduce the important role of reading and analyzing the sources of arbitration law, including both statutes (particularly domestic arbitration statutes such as the Arbitration Ordinance) and judicial decisions (case law).

B. Intellectual and Practice Skills

This course seeks to help students develop the following intellectual skills:

- Ability to analyse and solve complex factual legal problems by selecting and applying relevant arbitration law principles;
- Ability to apply rules of law to hypothetical factual situations;
- Ability to isolate crucial issues in hypothetical factual scenarios; and
- Ability to support oral and written arguments using relevant judicial decisions and statutory provisions.

This course also seeks to help students develop the following practical skills:

- Ability to undertake the reading and research of the sources of arbitration law;
- Ability to express ideas both orally and in writing in a clear and coherent manner; and
- Ability to translate technical legal terms into language appropriate for users of arbitration and dispute resolution generally.

Students will consider a range of theoretical issues and substantive topics in this course, including:

- General Introduction to Arbitration and ADR
- Agreement to Arbitrate
- Appointment of Arbitrator
- Rights, Duties and Powers of an Arbitrator
- Commencement of Arbitration and Interlocutory Proceedings
- Arbitration Hearings
- Evidence in International Arbitration
- Costs & Interest in Awards
- Appeals
- Enforcement and Execution of Awards

Assessment: 30% research paper, 70% written final examination

LLAW6157 Arbitration practice, procedure and drafting

The aim of the Arbitration Practice, Procedure & Drafting course is to provide students with sufficient knowledge of and practice in the key procedural features in an arbitration (including preliminary meetings and the hearings, discovery and inspection of documents, interlocutory proceedings, pleadings and submissions, evidentiary issues, decision making and arbitration awards). There is particular focus on developing the students'

ability to dispense independent advice of the arbitration process with confidence. The course also considers the knowledge and practical skills necessary to write a final, reasoned and enforceable arbitration award.

The specific educational objectives of this course are:

A. Knowledge and Understanding

- To give an overview of the dispute resolution processes in both common and civil law jurisdictions, including negotiation, mediation, early neutral evaluation, expert determination, adjudication, dispute boards, arbitration, and court litigation;
- To introduce the history of arbitration and its development as a private method of dispute resolution;
- To introduce the background to, and scope of the New York Convention, the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and the UNCITRAL Model Law, as well as their key characteristics;
- To introduce global harmonisation and different statutory approaches to arbitration (including both common and civil law jurisdictions and “soft law”);
- To set out choices available to parties in dispute resolution and discuss the importance of the seat of the arbitration and arbitration rules, as well as the implications of party autonomy;
- To introduce the drafting requirements of an arbitration agreement and procedural elements of the arbitration process;
- To describe the processes and requirements relating to the appointment of an arbitral tribunal, recognise the importance of its independence and impartiality, as well as explain its jurisdiction, powers, duties and procedural choices;
- To introduce the key procedural features of the arbitration process, including preliminary meetings, discovery and inspection of documents, arbitration hearings, making submissions before an arbitrator or tribunal, making interlocutory applications, and the presentation and reception of evidence, decision making and arbitration awards;
- To explain the nature of and principles relating to remedies, costs, interest and arbitrator’s entitlement to fees and expenses, as well as to recognise the impact of currency on costs and damages issues;
- To introduce the essential elements of how to draft a final, reasoned and enforceable arbitration award that is clear, cogent, comprehensive and concise, and to address ambiguities and corrections in an award; and
- To consider the role of courts before, during and after an arbitration process.

B. Intellectual and Practical Skills

This course seeks to help students develop the following intellectual skills:

- Ability to analyse and solve complex factual legal problems by selecting and applying relevant arbitration law principles;
- Ability to apply rules of law to hypothetical factual situations;
- Ability to isolate crucial issues in hypothetical factual scenarios;
- Ability to support oral and written arguments using relevant judicial decisions and statutory provisions;
- Ability to evaluate submissions and distil relevant issues from them;

- Ability to evaluate evidence, deduce facts from it; and
- Ability to decide issues and make rational decisions by applying legal principles to facts.

This course also seeks to help students develop the following practical skills:

- Ability to undertake the reading and research of the sources of arbitration law;
- Ability to express ideas both orally and in writing in a clear and concise manner;
- Ability to translate technical legal terms into language appropriate for users of arbitration and dispute resolution generally;
- Ability to act as counsel in an arbitration proceeding and make oral and written submissions and interlocutory applications before an arbitrator or tribunal;
- Ability to act as an arbitrator and control the arbitration process in a fair and impartial manner, giving the parties balanced opportunity to make submissions and present their cases;
- Ability to render fair and rational procedural and substantive decisions within an arbitration hearing;
- Ability to select appropriate rules and procedures and apply them in a reasoned manner;
- Ability to draft and publish a final, reasoned and enforceable arbitration award; and
- Ability to intelligently and intelligibly use language that is grammatically correct and correctly spelt.

The following topics will be covered in the course:

- Overview of dispute resolution processes
- History of arbitration, international conventions and rules, and global harmonisation
- Choices available to parties in dispute resolution
- Arbitration agreement and commencement
- Arbitral Tribunal: Appointment, independence and impartiality, jurisdiction and powers, and duties and procedural choices
- Procedures: Pleadings, documents and evidence, applications to the tribunal and hearing
- Remedies, costs, interest and currency
- Awards
- Role of the courts

Prerequisites: Have taken and passed LLAW6138

Assessment: 30% Take home award writing exercise, 70% 3-hour limited open book written examination (For purposes of CIArb accreditation, students must achieve a minimum of 55% of the final mark of the written examination alone.)

LLAW6161 Mediation

The mediation module is a comprehensive 40-hour module approved by the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited (HKMAAL) to satisfy Stage 1 of the

mediator accreditation process. Participants are educated and trained in the process of mediation and the necessary skills required for effective mediation of disputes and are also assessed for HKMAAL mediator accreditation. While the participants will be introduced to a broad range of dispute resolution processes, the course focuses specifically on the process of mediation, including the structure and phases of mediation, the essential communication skills, management of the mediation process and effective mediation skills.

The course teaches the facilitative model of mediation. Please note that this is not the only way a mediation can be conducted. It is also the process which course assessors will expect and the process which HKMAAL expects people to follow if they wish to sit for the Stage 2 mediator accreditation assessments after the course.

The teaching of the Mediation Skills Training Course relies on an interactive and role playing method of learning and participants must have sufficient command of English language to comprehend and express themselves in an articulate manner. The course involves education and training in the mediation process, management and communication skills and the core skills necessary to conduct an effective mediation. Case studies, large and small group discussions, role playing (of different parts - the mediator, mediating party and advisor), Faculty coaching, individual feedback and peer review are all utilised. The participants mediate simulated cases with Faculty observation and assessment of mediation performance. Participants must complete the practical spoken part of the mediation assessment and may also be required to submit written assignments as part of the course assessment e.g. dealing with mediated settlement agreements and other mediation issues.

Assessment: 50% participation in mediation role play simulations, 50% research assignment

Compulsory courses for candidates without a degree in law

LLAW6158 Contract law

This course is designed to provide students enrolled in the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution or other programme who do not have a first degree in law to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding of contract law. Students who thoroughly prepare for and participate in the course will be able to:

- understand the theoretical and practical aspects of contract law such as the legal principles of this subject. Both common and civil law approaches will be dealt with.
- analyze contract law problems by spotting the legal issues in which contractual obligations arise, identifying the relevant principles of contract law and applying the law to the legal problems in order to reach a solution.
- understand the underlying philosophies and public policy considerations behind certain principles of contract law
- engage in discussion of a variety of legal issues surrounding contract law
- evaluate the functions that contract law plays in our society and the extent to which principles promote these functions.

The following topics will be covered:

Contractual and quasi-contract obligations: Introduction to contract law, approaches to contracts in civil and common law jurisdictions, contract types, formalities, formation of a contract under civil and common law systems, contents of contract, privity and third party rights, offer revocation of offer, invitation to treat and acceptance, intention to create legal relationship, social and commercial agreements, consideration and promissory estoppel under civil and common law, consent and certainty, terms, representations, exclusion and limitation clauses, unfair contract terms, interpretation, effects and liabilities, (civil and common law), misrepresentation in different jurisdictions, its remedies and rescission, mistake, illegal or prohibited contracts performance and discharge, non-performance (breach), rules of remoteness and mitigation, remedies such as contractual damages, illegal contracts, undue influence, duress, good faith and unconscionability, fraud, frustration, agency (principal/agent and effects on third party), unjust enrichment.

Assessment: 60% end of term final examination (2.5-hour limited open book), 20% take home mid-term problem, 20% class participation

LLAW6159 Evidence

The aim of the course is to enable students to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding of the nature and the law of evidence to act effectively as a dispute resolver.

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate sound conceptual, technical and practical knowledge of:

- Distinguishing facts in issue, relevant facts and collateral facts in a dispute;
- Using judicial notice, admissions and presumptions in a dispute;
- Classification of different types of evidence and the significance of the classification;
- Assessing the relevance of a piece of to the issue evidence in dispute;
- Evaluating the admissibility of a piece of evidence for an issue in dispute;
- Determining how a piece of evidence can be presented to the tribunal;
- Assessing the weight of a piece of admissible evidence;
- Allocating of the burden and standard of proof on the parties in dispute;
- Distinguishing the concepts of legal burden and evidential burden;
- Identifying when a piece of evidence can/cannot be used for a hearsay purpose;
- Identifying and applying the rules related to examination of witnesses (including cross-examination and re-examination);
- How a tribunal may assess the weight to be given to evidence used for a hearsay purpose;
- Explaining the significance of written evidence in a dispute;
- Identifying when a piece of evidence may be subject to legal professional privilege and/or the doctrine of without prejudice;
- How parties in dispute may seek disclosure of evidence from the opposing parties;
- Identifying when and how expert evidence may be used by the parties in dispute; and
- Explaining the duties and responsibilities of an expert witness in a dispute.

Assessment: 70% in-hall examination, 30% in-class presentations

LLAW6160 Legal system and methods

The aim of the Legal System and Methods module is to provide students who do not have a first degree in law to acquire sufficient knowledge and understanding of the Hong Kong legal system and legal research, legal analysis and legal reasoning. The module will provide an introduction to the Hong Kong legal system and introduce students to sources of law, categories of law, the courts, the civil process in Hong Kong, the personnel of the legal system and other relevant aspects. Students will be trained in the use of legal materials and introduced to the case law process, the precedent system, the legislative process and approaches to statutory interpretation. Students will acquire and develop basic legal skills such as legal research, legal analysis and legal reasoning:

- understand the salient features of the HK legal system which act as a sound foundation for the study of other courses in this degree.
- engage in discussion of a variety of legal issues surrounding the HK legal system and critically evaluate some current issues.
- understand the development of common law and civil law systems of law, in particular the nature of case law and the rules of judicial precedent, as well as the

significance of statute and its interpretation. The place and use of conventions (CISG) and common used principles such as PICC, PECL and UNIDRIOT principles of international commercial contracts will be explored.

- understand the principles of the tort of negligence, the duty of care, pure economic loss, negligent misstatement, nervous shock, breach of duty, causation and remoteness of damage, contributory negligence and consent, vicarious liability, occupier's liability, trespass, nuisance, disputes and their application and operation
- understand and appreciate the potential overlap between tort and contract claims and their remedies
- acquire sufficient legal research skills to locate relevant materials.
- identify crucial issues in hypothetical factual scenarios covering topics of substantive law such as tort, contract and criminal law, apply the law in analyzing the problems and reach a solution.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% end of term test on Torts (1.5-hour limited open book), 60% research essay

Capstone course

LLAW6135 Alternative dispute resolution

The course LLAW6135 Alternative Dispute Resolution ('ADR') examines disputes (their development, form and nature) and the range of processes by which they are handled (or avoided). In so doing, it considers access to civil justice issues and (including questions in the relationship between ADR and rule of law values), focusing on non-adversarial approaches to dispute resolution, especially negotiation, mediation, innovations in litigation and trial, arbitration, and forms of mixed process such as the ombudsperson. Litigation and adjudication have until the past several decades been regarded as 'the standard' mode of resolving disputes, especially among legal professionals and administrators of justice. The use of ADR has now come to be more widely accepted within many civil justice systems, including Hong Kong, so that the term ADR is today sometimes also used to refer to 'appropriate' or 'additional' dispute resolution. The course provides a general analysis of the field, and where relevant, consideration is given to dispute processes in various East Asian jurisdictions.

At the conclusion of this course, students should:

- Be familiar with the analysis of the form and nature of disputes and their incidence in society, the pattern of dispute resolution, the traditional methods of resolving disputes and the potential impact of various social, economic, legal, political and cultural factors on dispute resolution;
- Be familiar with the broad range of alternative methods of dispute resolution encountered in legal practice, and their use and application in Hong Kong and in the Asia Pacific region generally, as well as in a comparative international context;
- Be competent in critically analyzing and evaluating the various alternative methods of dispute resolution (e.g. their advantages and problems) by considering such issues as the legitimate expectations of disputants, quality of and access to justice, public and private costs of ADR and the politics of informal justice;
- Be competent in evaluating the application of ADR methods in various substantive areas and be able to advise future clients about the potential suitability of various dispute resolution processes and prepare them for participation in these varied dispute resolution processes; and
- Have participated in some simulated negotiation and mediation role-play simulations and developed some basic competency in effectively participating in negotiations and mediations. The critical, theoretical and evaluative material will be combined with simulated role-playing exercises for a better understanding of the various dispute resolution methods and processes.

Assessment: 100% research assignment

Elective courses

LLAW6007 International dispute settlement

Disputes are bound to arise on the international level. UN Charter Articles 2(3) and 33 require states to resolve their disputes through peaceful means, which include “negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.” Inasmuch as these peaceful means of dispute settlement are governed by a body of rules and principles, lawyers play an important role in making sure that such means are used in a fair and effective manner. After explaining the history and development of international dispute settlement, as well as the general obligation on states to resolve their disputes peacefully, this course will explore each method in light of the relevant law and cases, with particular emphasis being placed on legal resolution through international courts and tribunals, including international arbitration and resolution through the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. The course concludes by looking at the future of international dispute settlement, including the need for conflict prevention and dialogue, the increasing juridification of dispute settlement, and the problems associated with the proliferation of dispute settlement mechanisms.

Assessment: 20% participation, 80% research paper

LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

An individual research project on an approved topic carried out under the supervision of an assigned teacher, resulting in the submission of a research paper with required length ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 words (excluding tables of cases and statutes, notes, appendices and bibliographies). The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% Research paper

LLAW6029 Managing commercial disputes resolution in China: law, issues and techniques

This course takes students to the areas of significance in the field of dispute resolution in Mainland China, particularly with respect to resolving business and commercial disputes. All major methods of dispute resolution will be examined, including civil litigation, commercial arbitration, and mediation in Mainland China. Some topical issues such as corporate disputes, securities enforcement, private international law, civil justice reform,

and cross-border judicial assistance on commercial matters with Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan will be looked into as well.

Assessment: 30% mid-term response report, 70% research paper

LLAW6037 International environmental law

Air pollution, deforestation, climate change, biodiversity loss and the extinction, or near extinction, of some wildlife species are just some of the many environmental problems that the world faces today. Environmentalists, governments, courts, NGOs, and a variety of other interested parties or stakeholders, both at the top of the international and domestic levels, have contributed to solving environmental problems by the use of law. To what extent has it been successful, or unsuccessful? How do states solve environmental problems collectively, that is, by way of treaties and conventions, and individually, that is, by way of domestic law? How do some states balance economic development and resource exploitation against environmental protection?

This course aims to provide students with a contextual and elementary understanding of the key global and domestic environmental issues and the purported legal solutions. After a broad survey of the major international environmental laws, this course will look at some selected jurisdictions and see the way in which these jurisdictions deal with environmental problems legally. The jurisdictions that will be looked at include China, the UK and Hong Kong, as well as some major regional organizations such as the EU and ASEAN. Moreover, this course will delve into specific areas of environmental concerns such as the marine environment, climate change and the protection of wildlife. Prior knowledge of the subject matter is not required.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6054 9-credit Dissertation

An individual research project on an approved topic carried out under the supervision of an assigned teacher, resulting in the submission of a research paper with required range from 8,000 to 10,000 words (excluding tables of cases and statutes, notes, appendices and bibliographies). The dissertation must provide evidence of original research work and a capacity for critical legal analysis and argument.

Mutually exclusive: LLAW6014 18-credit Dissertation

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6082 Corporate governance and shareholder remedies

This course aims to investigate competing approaches to the concept of corporate governance explored in comparative literature and to canvass major debates on corporate

governance reform among academic, business, and policy circles in Hong Kong and selected jurisdictions, such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. The course will examine important corporate governance norms, mechanisms and institutions, particularly the legal standards and arrangements for directors' duties and shareholder protection and remedies, as well as regulatory initiatives to promote good corporate governance practices and address corporate governance failures.

Assessment: 50% research assignment, 50% examination

LLAW6099 International commercial arbitration

International commercial arbitration is well established as the preferred binding mechanism for resolving cross-border commercial disputes. It has seen particularly marked growth and acceptance in the last 20-30 years, including in the Asia Pacific region. The law and practice of international commercial arbitration, while scarcely regulated, has evolved into a highly specialised craft based on international best practices. This course will consider the international and domestic legal framework for international commercial arbitration, as well as the broader regime including international arbitration rules, international arbitration institutions and organizations and international arbitration practices. However, a key focus will be the inside workings of international arbitrations, revealing the sometimes obscure practices of the discipline. The main topics covered include the making and enforcement of arbitration agreements, establishment of and powers of arbitration tribunals, jurisdictional issues, applicable law (both procedural and substantive), arbitration procedure and evidence, interim and final remedies and rendering and enforcement of arbitration awards (including challenges and appeals). The course will be taught with case examples principally from the Asia Pacific region, and extensive examples from the practices of well known arbitral institutions, such as the ICC International Court of Arbitration, and of arbitrators sitting under the auspices of the ICC.

Students will be expected to have grasped an understanding of the core features of international commercial arbitration as a distinct discipline and to have developed a sense of how to approach technical legal problems that can arise in this field. They should also know their way around the UNCITRAL Model Law and 1958 New York Convention, and be able to apply that knowledge to relevant factual scenarios.

Assessment: 100% take home examination

LLAW6107 Insurance law

The course covers the operation and regulation of the insurance market; the definition, importance and reform of the concepts of "Insurable Interest" and "Utmost Good Faith"; the specific terms of insurance contracts; how losses and claims under insurance contracts are dealt with; the rights of insurers, including subrogation and contribution; the rights and duties of insurance intermediaries; and the nature of property insurance, marine insurance, reinsurance and liability insurance.

Prerequisites: Law of contract

Assessment: 10% class participation, 90% take home examination

LLAW6109 Public international law

Public international law governs inter-state relationships and entities such as individuals, international organizations and so on. The scope and importance of public international law has expanded dramatically in the last century due to increased awareness and studies towards globalisation, escalation of conflicts, environmental issues and human rights violations.

This *postgraduate* course explores the history, ideas and concepts that shape public international law and practice, and on the relationship between public international law and other ideas and phenomena. It aims to (i) provide a critical introduction to the subject matter and in-depth investigations into specific themes (such as war and peace, territorial disputes, state immunities, international dispute resolutions) and (ii) equip students with the skills and ability to advise on the basics of public international law and to analyze contemporary international legal problems.

Assessment: 50% mid-term examination, 50% research paper

LLAW6128 International trade law I

This course will provide students with a practical insight into a number of areas of international trade law and the practices of the Admiralty and Commercial Courts. It will use shipping scenarios to illustrate the various contracts and issues that arise in private international trade.

The course is designed to make students research and use case law, ordinances and international conventions. It is taught in a practical way and requires students to think of commercial solutions to problems.

The course covers the following areas:

- International sale of goods – the contracts and terms found in sale contracts involving an international element
- Marine Insurance – what is covered by insurance and the duties on an insured
- Letters of Credit – the method of financing the sale contract and the obligations on the banks and parties
- Carriage of goods by sea – who has a right to sue the sea carrier of the goods, the obligations on the sea carrier of the goods and whether the sea carrier can sue anyone for their losses
- Jurisdiction and choice of law – in which country a claim can be brought and which law will be applied to the claim
- Litigation – the most useful procedures used in commercial litigation such as

- security for costs, freezing injunctions, orders for inspection, arrest of ships
- Arbitration – the procedures that apply to an arbitration of a claim

Prerequisites: Law of contract and law of tort

Assessment: 100% Take home assessment

LLAW6132 International and comparative intellectual property law

This course introduces the international framework within which intellectual property law operates, including copyright, patents, trademarks, industrial designs, unfair competition, trade secrets, geographic indications, and other forms of intellectual property (IP). The course examines how multilateral conventions and agreements such as Berne Convention, Paris Convention and TRIPS Agreement shape national IP laws, the role of international bodies such as WIPO and WTO, the effect of bilateral agreements, and other international influences on the development of IP law. The course also introduces the enforcement provisions and WTO dispute settlement mechanism concerning international IP disputes. While devoting special attention to IPRs protection for cutting edge technologies such as biotechnology and information technology, the course also discusses the protection for traditional knowledge and folklore, and the overall implications of international IP protection for global competition between developed and developing countries in an integrated world market.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 90% take-home examination

LLAW6141 Contemporary issues of comparative platform governance

This course examines the legal backdrop of digital platforms and the way they are viewed by authorities and courts as distinct new regulatory objects that need to be addressed. The emergence of this new regulatory object is part of a global tendency that reflects a vital reassessment of tech power and state sovereignty. There are, however, considerable differences in the ways digital platforms are dealt with in different jurisdictions. The course compares the evolving legal regimes of the new digital age and covers principles that govern private and public relationships concerning digital platforms, deploying concrete examples – policy documents, technological developments, legal amendments – to make it obvious that this aspect of the economy is an important issue that lawyers need to be able to wrestle with.

The specific topics covered include: the distinctive legal features of digital platforms and their ecosystems; the layers of governance relationships structuring interactions between different parties, such as advertisers, consumers and users in today's platform economy; the goals and enforcement of competition law and its intersection with related areas of consumer, data protection and intellectual property laws; the limits of competition and the rise of new types of regulatory instruments in national and international contexts such as the EU Digital Markets Act/Digital Services Act/Data Act/Data Governance Act/AI Act; the complementarities between economic and political power; and new issues

regarding the development of Web3 and artificial intelligence.

The course will enable students to engage critically with key debates in contemporary platform governance and provide relevant background for those interested in cross-border legal work.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% case commentary, 50% take home examination

LLAW6162 Collaborative law and practice

This interactive skills-based course will explore two dispute resolution models, the new and innovative collaborative practice model and the mediation model, as they are being developed and utilised within the family law context. The student will learn the basics of interest-based negotiation as it is used in both these dispute resolution models, as well as the conceptual and procedural framework for both collaborative practice and family mediation. The course will explore the use of advocacy (both oral and written advocacy) in both collaborative practice and as counsel in the mediation process. Students will also analyze the future development of both collaborative practice and mediation in the broader context of the Hong Kong community.

Assessment: 40% class participation/role play, 30% in-class presentation, 30% short research paper

LLAW6163 Negotiation: settlement and advocacy

This course is designed to give students an intensive opportunity to develop negotiation skills which can be used in the global arena to create and repair relationships and to manage and resolve conflict. Classes will consist primarily of inter-active negotiation role play simulations and inter-personal communication exercises, together with some lectures and class discussions. Initially, we will explore personal characteristics, cultural matters and communication skills. Then, we will focus on the acquisition of negotiation skills through inter-active negotiation problems. Throughout the course, we will emphasise critical reflection on the negotiation process.

This Negotiation module will involve an interactive mix of class discussions, small group sessions, student exercise and negotiation role playing simulations. Each seminar has a specific topic and students are provided with assigned readings. The teaching programme is designed to encourage maximum participation of students in the teaching process.

Students must be aware of the following expectations upon by the teacher in this course – all students in the Negotiation course must:

1. Attend all classes, on time and all the time. Each student depends on full and active participation by every other student. This cannot be over emphasised.
2. Be prepared to participate.

3. Prepare written outlines for all Negotiation Problems.
4. Complete all Negotiation Problems in class.
5. Complete and submit a descriptive, analytical journal of the student's progress in acquiring negotiation skills during the course.

Assessment: 50% research paper, 25% outlines and participation, 25% skills journal

LLAW6173 Dispute resolution systems design

This module will explore the growing trend toward the design and development of dispute resolution systems within the organizations: in the workplace, at the enterprise level, in business-to-business and e-commerce marketplaces, and in other organizational settings. Starting with the historical and legal context, the module will examine the burgeoning field of dispute systems design on the new economy with focus on the potential advantages and disadvantages of this approach to what is arguably the privatization of justice. Students will also be provided with a practical framework to apply dispute systems design concepts in specific situations. The specific objectives of the module are as follows:

- To learn the language and conceptual framework of dispute systems design;
- To examine the latest developments in dispute system design and the goals and policies behind them, with particular emphasis on the implications of complexity studies;
- To identify emerging “best practices” and make future predictions for the field;
- To explore specific, practical examples of existing dispute systems in a variety of settings; and
- To get acquainted with strategies in designing dispute systems and consider how to apply them in particular contexts, drawing upon the experiences and interests of students in the course.

Assessment: 100% continuous assessment

LLAW6174 Family mediation

Using a combination of lecture, discussion, demonstration, and simulation, Family Mediation will present students with the theory and practice of family mediation, including: a basic grounding in the practice and theories of mediation, an understanding of the many variations of how mediation is actually conducted in family law cases, critical judgment as to when family law mediation might or might not be appropriate in individual cases, a familiarity with legislation involving family law mediation and critical inquiry as to the efficacy of different legislative initiatives, special issues facing mediators in family law mediation, and ethical consideration both as a family law mediator and as an attorney in family law mediation.

Assessment: 20% participation, 30% presentation, 50% written assessment

LLAW6176 Online dispute resolution

This course will introduce students to the use of information technology as a means of facilitating the resolution of disputes between parties. Despite the prevalent impression that online dispute resolution (ODR) is simply the online equivalent of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the course will demonstrate to the students that ODR can augment the traditional means of resolving disputes by applying innovative techniques and online technologies to the process. Although the course will focus on the technological application in out-of-court alternative dispute resolutions, it by no means ignores the potential that these technologies have for direct application in the litigation system. The course will examine online negotiation, mediation, arbitration, their combinations or other alternatives. The course has both theoretical and practical value to practitioners and academics.

Assessment: 60% research paper, 40% in-class Moot Court practice

LLAW6182 International organizations

Using the case method, this course explores the key court decisions that have helped establish the legal principles that empower and regulate international organizations. Analysis of these cases illuminates the relationship and tension between international law and politics in this area, as well as shows how courts help and hinder the development of international organizations, sometimes in the same case. Additional case studies will focus on contemporary problems facing a variety of international organizations. The debates and assessment exercises will strengthen students' critical reasoning skills, in addition to fostering a sophisticated understanding of the law created for and by international organizations.

Assessment: 50% mid-term examination, 50% research paper

LLAW6185 China investment law

This course provides a comprehensive, informed treatment and analysis of the legal, policy and business aspects of foreign direct investment in China. Areas covered include: current PRC foreign investment policies and priorities, including "encouraged industries"; investment incentives and investment protection; PRC regulatory authorities and government approval process; offshore structures; PRC foreign-related business and investment organizations: representative offices, branch offices, holding companies, foreign investment enterprises (FIEs): Sino-foreign cooperative and equity joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises (WFOEs), listed and unlisted Sino-foreign joint stock limited companies (JSLCs); practical joint venture contract drafting and operational issues; trading and distribution; technology transfer; conversions; mergers and acquisitions; selected regulatory issues: corporate income taxation, foreign exchange control; FIE debt and equity financing; out-bound China investment.

Assessment: 100% research paper

LLAW6186 China Trade law

The course introduces China's legal regime on international trade at both the macro- and micro-economic levels. Areas covered include: China's participation in the WTO, and in other multilateral, regional and bilateral trade-related arrangements; Regulation of China's foreign trade: the legal framework of PRC Foreign Trade Law; PRC customs, licensing and quotas, inspection/standards systems, and trade remedies (anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures); Trade transactions under the PRC Civil Code and CISG; Trade dispute resolution.

Assessment: 20% course participation, 80% research paper

LLAW6196 Preventative law: approach to conflict prevention and resolution

Lawyers can play a key role not just in the resolution of disputes, but also in the prevention and management of conflicts within organizations and societies. This course will explore key processes through which a system is consciously created to address conflicts among individual and entities, as well as legally defined disputes. Similar to the public health model, which aims to promote positive individual and collective habits that stem the occurrence of disease, this course seeks to examine those mechanisms, principles and processes oriented toward the prevention of conflict. The approach of the course will be both theoretical and participatory in nature.

Assessment: 75% research paper, 25% class participation

LLAW6207 Corporate conflicts

With increasing globalisation many corporations today operate beyond their domestic borders. Many businesses operate transnationally by means of a multinational group structure or through the medium of a joint venture. This course seeks to introduce students to the issues that arise in dealings with corporations that have a presence in more than one jurisdiction.

Some of the issues which we will be looking at are: What laws regulate companies that are incorporated in one jurisdiction but operate in another? How are mergers and amalgamations of corporations done when corporations operate in a number of jurisdictions? What are the issues that arise in the transnational collapse of corporations such as those we have witnessed in recent years? How are they dealt with?

The financial and securities markets are grappling today with issues arising from dealings in securities from multiple jurisdictions. We will also consider these issues.

The course will be useful to those who intend to have a corporate practice, or to work in the corporate, securities or banking sectors.

Assessment: 20% presentation and defense of paper, 80% research paper

LLAW6217 Culture, diversity and power in dispute resolution

This course will examine the dimensions of culture relevant to dispute resolution, including diverse identities, perceptions and world views. Using short lectures, experiential exercises, dialogues and discussions, students will explore the various processes, capacities and tools that can be used to bridge intercultural disputes. Drawing on current interdisciplinary literature and case examples from scholarly and personal sources, participants will:

- explore interpersonal and intergroup dynamics of intercultural disputes;
- learn about the processes to address deep rooted intercultural conflict;
- examine and critique cultural dimensions of conventional dispute resolution processes, including in person and online mediation;
- analyze implicit meanings and cultural values of a continuum of dispute resolution processes as applied in a variety of sectors and settings, including private and public sector organizations and communities;
- identify ways that chaos and complexity theories inform conflict analysis and implications for dispute resolution process design;
- experience imaginative and creative tools for transforming cultural disputes;
- experiment with somatic, arts-based methodologies including applications and limitations in inter-cultural dispute intervention; and
- apply cultural fluency in a range of case types and practice settings through small group discussions and practice outside the classroom.

Assessment: 80% research paper, 20% written assignment

LLAW6222 Financial dispute resolution: Hong Kong & international perspectives

In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis various dispute resolution responses occurred. In respect of consumer/institution disputes, the course will focus on the new financial dispute resolution regime in Hong Kong and the establishment of the Financial Dispute Resolution Centre (FDRC) and what these developments may signify for the future of resolving financial disputes in Hong Kong. In addition, the course will provide a comparative overview of financial dispute resolution from some selected markets globally. In response to increasing investor participation in financial markets, regulators and governments have sought different ways of responding to investor-broker disputes. This course will analyze these different approaches and discuss the impact of legal systems, markets and cultural preferences. The course will consider what choices have been made by Hong Kong in order to adapt to local circumstances and will challenge students to assess these choices in the light of global experience.

In respect of institutional disputes, the course also considers how institutional clients are beginning to turn to ADR to solve their disputes e.g. PRIME Finance. The design of dispute resolution systems can be key to their success. Students will be expected to understand who the stakeholders are in financial disputes, what their specific needs are and how systems can be designed to address these concerns.

The class will be assigned reading in advance of class. Students will be expected to participate in discussions and role-plays during class. Students will work on a specific case study and work to resolve the dispute through negotiation, mediation and arbitration.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 20% individual presentation, 60% research paper

LLAW6230 Law and practice of investment treaty arbitration

This course is about a form of arbitration which is specific to disputes arising between international investors and host states – i.e. investor-state disputes – involving public, treaty rights. In contrast, international commercial arbitration typically deals with the resolution of disputes over private law rights between what are usually private parties.

It will be of interest to those interested in arbitration, or the law of foreign investment.

The course will be taught from the viewpoint of a commercial law practitioner, and international lawyer and former treaty negotiator who has drafted such treaties.

Assessment: 50% take home examination, 50% research paper

LLAW6237 International arbitration: practice, process and strategy

The course will introduce students to the practice of international arbitration with a focus on administered arbitration (utilizing the HKIAC Administered Arbitration Rules) and investment arbitration. Utilizing a case study as the basis for the course, students will apply the theory of arbitration to a mock case. The course will provide students with the opportunity to manage a case from the beginning to the end. From negotiating and drafting an arbitration clause to drafting pleadings, students will have the opportunity to enhance their legal writing skills in the context of an arbitration. Students will also learn how to strategise and learn the various options available during the course of an arbitration (mediation, negotiation, settlement, etc). An investment arbitration component will be incorporated into the case study whereby students will learn how to navigate the investment arbitration process and options. Mock hearings will also take place before eminent arbitrators in the industry. The class will be assigned reading in advance of class. Students will be expected to participate in role-plays and teamwork during class.

Assessment: 20% completion of a final research paper, 80% class participation, written assignment and oral presentation in class

LLAW6238 Comparative arbitration in Asia

The course will survey the arbitration laws in common and civil law jurisdictions in Asia, including but not limited to PRC, Hong Kong SAR, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia. For the sake of comparison and analysis, reference will be made to the UNCITRAL Model Law and the laws of major arbitration centers around the world. In addition, the course will compare and contrast the various approaches taken by arbitral institutions in these regions (such as HKIAC, SIAC, CIETAC, KCABC etc.) with respect to procedural and other matters. Again, reference to the UNCITRAL Model Rules and the rules of other major arbitral institutions (such as the ICC and the LCIA) will be useful for comparison and analysis.

Notwithstanding reference to UNCITRAL and other materials, the course will focus on the laws and procedural rules in use in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, although the course will take a comparative approach to these laws and rules across common and civil law jurisdictions in the region, the interaction of state law and institutional rules within a particular jurisdiction will also be the subject of analysis and discussion. Finally, cultural and other issues which may impact the practice of arbitration in a given jurisdiction will be explored.

Students will be assigned reading in advance of class, and will be expected to participate in discussions during class.

Assessment: 60% research paper, 20% presentation, 20% class participation

LLAW6241

Arbitration Award Writing

This course provides students with the knowledge required to understand and consider evidence, weigh it up and analyse submissions, arrive at a conclusion, and write a final, reasoned and enforceable Arbitration Award in compliance with the UNCITRAL Model Law and Arbitration Rules.

This course focuses on the processes followed by an arbitrator in defining the issues that have to be decided by an award, dealing with the submissions made by the parties, analysing the appropriate law, evaluating the evidence, applying the law to that evidence, arriving at a conclusion and then writing a final, reasoned and enforceable award.

Prerequisites:

- (1) Students or graduates of the HKU LL.M. in Arb & DR programme are required to pass the following compulsory courses:
 - LLAW6135 Alternative Dispute Resolution
 - LLAW6138 Arbitration Law, and must achieve a minimum of 55% in the examination (grade C for admission before academic year 2012-13 or D+ from 2012-13)
 - LLAW6157 Arbitration Practice, Procedure and Drafting, and must achieve a minimum 55% in the examination (grade C for admission before 2012-13 academic

year or D+ from 2012-13)

AND

(2) Non-law students or graduates also need to achieve a minimum of 55% in the examination of the following courses:

- LLAW6160 Legal System and Methods
- LLAW6158 Contract Law
- LLAW6159 Evidence

Assessment:

- A 100% written examination. The written examination requires students to write a reasoned and enforceable arbitration award, final as to the issues it determines.
- In order to be eligible for applying for the Fellow grade of the CI Arb. students must achieve a minimum overall mark of 70% in the LLAW6241 examination.

LLAW6252 Construction of commercial contracts

This LLM elective is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principles of construction of commercial contracts. Unlike the substantive law of contract, construction of contractual terms is essentially intuitive in nature, with no rules but, rather, with fundamental guiding principles which have evolved from a large body of case law and, indeed, continue to evolve. It is, therefore, essential that any commercial lawyer has a solid grasp of such principles so as to enable them to anticipate how contractual terms are likely to be interpreted by the court for the purposes of giving advice and drafting contractual documents.

Other than examining the guiding principles of contractual construction, the course will also consider related concepts, such as implied terms, rectification and estoppel by convention, which are also highly relevant to the overall construction issue. To this end, the course will draw on, develop and deepen the knowledge acquired from their undergraduate study of the Law of Contract.

Prerequisite: Have taken and passed the law of contract

Assessment: 80% take home assignment, 20% group project

LLAW6267 Courts

This course takes an interdisciplinary, comparative, and empirical perspective on politically relevant questions concerning the design and operation of courts. Potential topics include the manner in which social scientists study courts; the nature and basis of judicial power; the practical effects of judicial review; the different ways in which a system of judicial review can be designed; the role of courts in nondemocratic environments; the challenges of defining and achieving judicial independence; and the dynamics by which courts expand into the domain of politics. Students should be prepared for copious reading assignments commensurate with a graduate-level course in the social sciences and consisting primarily of academic scholarship rather than cases. The readings

are intended to introduce participants to the major debates and empirical arguments found in the scholarly literature on courts. The course will be conducted as a true graduate seminar, meaning that class time will consist primarily of collective critical discussion of the readings rather than passive absorption of the instructor's views. Each week, students will be required not only to demonstrate knowledge of what is in the readings, but also to offer their own evaluation and critique of the empirical arguments found in the readings and to articulate arguments of their own. The expectation is that students will engage in critical and original thinking and become active participants in the scholarly debate rather than passive consumers of scholarship produced by others.

Assessment: 30% research paper, 50% reaction papers, 10% oral presentation, 10% participation

LLAW6276 Consensus building and facilitation as dispute processes

This course will focus on complex, multi-party disputes and the combinations of traditional processes (negotiation) and newer ones (consensus building, reg-neg) that are being used to facilitate settlements. The course will open with review of democratic and process theory from law, political science and philosophy and then turn to some basic skills training in behavioral approaches to negotiation, mediation, facilitation and other dispute resolution processes when there are multiple parties and multiple issues at stake. Thereafter, students will then explore several case studies taken from environmental conflicts, local governance issues, racial and ethnic conflicts, community disputes and international conflicts. They will study group and organizational behavior, coalitions, argumentation and principled bargaining, the role of law in negotiations and mediations, tensions between competition and cooperation as modes of conflict resolution, the differences between secret and public settings for negotiation, the role of power in multi-party cases and the role of different kinds and styles of conflict management and facilitation. The course will also discuss issues of legality, ethics and legitimacy in the use of these different approaches to conflict resolution.

Students will read, discuss and use a variety of role-plays and simulations to explore the issues involved in negotiation, coalition building, representation, facilitation, meeting management, mediation, communication, rules of decision, consensus building and other issues which are presented when multiple parties seek to resolve their conflicts and disputes outside of a conventional bi-lateral litigation model. This course will also focus on issues of group dynamics and processes of decision. Students will learn how to be an effective part of a group (as a participant, advocate, representative and leader) and they will practice leading and managing group processes, an essential part of being a lawyer or effective dispute resolver or manager. Thus, they will learn from being inside group processes and complex conflict situations, as well as standing outside of them to analyze and lead them. In some exercises students will formally be assigned to an observer or mediational role; in others they will be assigned roles of direct participation or representation of constituencies. The course will also explore the role of lawyers in these different roles.

Assessment: 30% class participation, 30% mid-term paper, 40% research paper

LLAW6281 Research seminars in ADR ethics and policy

The aim of this course is to help students gain familiarity with the law, ethics and policy of alternatives to court adjudication – including arbitration, mediation, and direct negotiations, and to help counsel clients to select appropriate mechanisms. Recent scholarship examining efforts toward enhancing efficiency, fairness, and access to justice will be examined. In addition, students will be assisted to develop greater awareness of the underlying ethical dimensions in the practice of ADR, including professionalism, adherence to best practices, and understanding of underlying ethical issues such as confidentiality, implicit bias and fairness. The aim is that through such understanding, students will be assisted to gain relevant tools to resolve ethical dilemmas that may arise in practice. The course will be based on class participation, discussion and a research essay examining a particular area of ADR policy reform.

Assessment: 20% class presentation/participation, 80% research essay

LLAW6288 Introduction to European Union law

This course is intended to introduce students to law and institutions of the European Union. The EU law constitutes an autonomous and developed legal system which is directly binding on all member states. It is based on international treaties (TEU, TFEU, CFR), but it is also composed of thousands of regulations and directives enacted by the EU bodies, as well as of the case law of the EU Court of Justice. An important portion of both legal regulations and judicial case-law addresses matters of fundamental rights.

The course is structured as a general introduction and, by definition, must be very selective. It is focused on EU “constitutional law” and does not enter into any of the specialized branches of EU law.

It explores, first, historical development of the European integration (topic 1) and the institutional scheme of the EU (the Union: competences, accession and withdrawal – topics 2-3; the three branches of government – topic 4).

Secondly, the course moves to matters of the EU legal order: system of sources (topic 5), primacy and direct effect of EU law (topics 6-7), liability and enforcement (topic 8).

Finally, the remaining three topics deal with EU fundamental rights: their development and present scope (9), prohibition of discrimination and relation to the ECHR (10), protection of personal liberty (European Arrest Warrant and blacklisting – topic 11).

Assessment: 20% class participation, 80% take home examination

LLAW6294 International investment: structuring, protecting, and resolving related disputes

Since the early days of the colony, when Hong Kong's first trading houses were established with Jardine & Matheson leading the way, and until contemporary Hong Kong with major listed Chinese conglomerates such as China Merchants investing in major infrastructure projects around the world, Hong Kong has been known for its market-oriented approach and for its outlook to international investment and trade.

The course is a unique offering at a post-graduate level that is tailor-made for Hong Kong's international investment and trade community, whether in-house counsel, practising lawyers, managing directors, or project managers in charge of international transactions. The course is thus designed for students with a legal background (preferably a law degree) and for those students who have a background in international business transactions, international project management, and in transboundary infrastructure and banking projects.

The course is an interdisciplinary programme that unites several key legal disciplines under the general dispute resolution umbrella: public international law, investment and trade, investment structuring, investment protection, political risk insurance, WTO dispute resolution mechanism, and resolution of investment disputes.

Pre-requisite: Legal background (a degree in law or a certificate in dispute resolution), background and/or interest in other related industries (international banking, infrastructure, insurance, international business)

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% mid-term examination, 60% in-hall examination

LLAW6304 AI and competition law

Large Language Models, like ChatGPT, are a recent demonstration of the abilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is a rapidly developing field that challenges many areas of the law. Competition law is no exception.

As more and more firms employ AI to set prices, rebates, and manage sales more generally, new challenges emerge. For instance, AI algorithms might be used to automatically adjust prices in response to competitor actions. The more sophisticated AI becomes, the more complex the challenges for competition law. These challenges can arise across all traditional areas of competition law, including anticompetitive collusion, unilateral behaviour, and merger control, as AI increasingly influences market dynamics.

The course will be divided into four parts. The first part will explore the current state of AI and its usage and potential usage in markets. The second part will examine the theory and feasibility of AI-facilitated collusion, as explored by scholars like Ezrachi and Stucke, along with potential antitrust responses. The third part will delve into an emerging area of research: how AI pricing and market actions affect the assessment of unilateral conduct, with a focus on AI-based predatory pricing and other exclusionary behaviour. Finally, the

fourth part will explore how these insights and broader structural questions can inform competition policy in the area of mergers.

Assessment: 20% class participation, 30% an assigned case/paper presentation, 50% research paper

LLAW6310 Adjudication

The course provides a sound knowledge and understanding of the process of adjudication as a mode of dispute resolution. The course anticipates the passage of Security of Payment Legislation (SOPL) in Hong Kong in 2018 for the construction sector and the introduction of a regime of mandatory adjudication for certain construction disputes. There are five main parts to the course of differing emphasis: (1) A review of the Security of Payment Legislation (SOPL) (or Current Proposals) with reference to the relevant law, practice and experience of adjudication in overseas jurisdictions primarily in England and Wales; but also referring to Scotland, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and Malaysia. (2) A review of key areas of the law and practice relevant to adjudication in Hong Kong. (3) An introduction to adjudication, adjudication procedures, the hearing process, adjudicators' powers and writing the decision both in theory and in practice. In this part of the course there is an emphasis on the parties and their disputes, jurisdictional matters, evidence, and legal issues typically arising in adjudications. In addition, the appointment of adjudicators, his or her duties, the place of natural justice, reaching a decision and decisions' enforcement are also closely examined. (4) Facilitated problem-solving to enable a better understanding of the SOPL, adjudication process and procedures, and ongoing discussion of a detailed case study throughout the course to model how a dispute typically proceeds and the pleadings unfold in chronological order. (5) Completion of a short in-class written exam during the course which tests problem-solving abilities and a longer take-home decision-writing exam following the classes which requires the preparation of a reasoned decision typically rendered after an adjudication hearing which tests problem-solving and writing abilities.

Assessment: 100% take home examination

LLAW6313 Law as data

Law is created, transmitted, and performed through speech. By summarizing and extracting information from large amounts of text, we can better understand legal behaviour and institutions. This course has three objectives. First, to introduce some of the building blocks for treating legal text as data. Second, to gain some hands-on experience in analysing text data using the Python programming language. Third, to explore how quantitative methods for text analysis can yield social scientific insights. Motivated examples are provided throughout. No knowledge of Python is necessary although prior exposure to programming will be very helpful. Knowledge of calculus and linear algebra is highly recommended.

Assessment: 50% problem sets, 50% examination

LLAW6315 Theories and methods on law and society

This course will introduce the major topics in the fields of law & society, including legal pluralism, dispute transformation, judicial decision making, legal profession, legal consciousness, discourse analysis, law and regulation, law and social movements, law and psychology, and law and politics. It will cover how empirical data are used to make a theoretical point.

Assessment: 30% coursework, 70% final paper

LLAW6321 International commercial litigation

International commercial disputes dealt with by national courts involve various substantive, procedural and conflict-of-laws issues. This course aims to present a full picture of how international commercial disputes are resolved in the path of the courts' decision-making. The court seized with a commercial dispute will first decide whether the court has jurisdiction to hear the case. In cases where there is a parallel proceeding in a foreign country, the court may consider whether to issue an anti-suit injunction or stay the proceedings. Once the jurisdictional issues are cleared, the court will proceed to the merit of the case. The court will assess the parties' contractual claims and defences under the applicable law to the contract.

This course will tackle these issues arising from different and distinct types of international commercial contracts.

This course consists of two parts.

Part one covers common issues to different types of contractual disputes such as:

- Principle of party autonomy
- How to deal with jurisdictional conflicts: anti-suit injunctions and stay of the proceedings (including recent anti-anti-suit injunctions regarding patent infringement)
- General clauses in international commercial contracts (boilerplates)

Part two tackles more contract-specific issues in international sales contracts, shipping and insurance contracts, licence agreements, EPC contracts, shipbuilding contracts, franchise agreements, commercial agency contracts, financial contracts and shareholders agreements such as:

- Grounds to establish/contest the court's jurisdiction
- Principles to determine the applicable law of the contract
- Typical claims and defences under specific contracts

In Part Two, the above-mentioned issues will be addressed under specific contractual contexts. For example, in the lecture covering international sales of goods will cover which court (habitual residence of the seller or buyer, or place of performance) shall have

jurisdiction; how to determine applicable law in a sales contract; typical claims and defences under the CISG.

The topics will be taught with an extensive case law of the UK, Europe and the courts in the Asia Pacific region.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% team/self presentation, 60% research essay

LLAW6323 Legal concepts and practical application in financial transactions

The purpose of this course is to examine significant legal concepts and private law issues encountered in commercial finance and investment banking. A sound knowledge of these areas of law in the transactional context provides a firm foundation for legal practice in international law firms and at the Bar including skills in tackling the latest challenges thrown up by globalization and the digital economy.

This course builds on the knowledge students have acquired in the core courses of Contracts and Torts in the application in the financial markets and will provide a deeper understanding of the part that private law plays in such markets.

The course will begin with an introduction to transactional structures in the financial markets including loans, guarantees, bonds, derivatives and structured finance. The aim is to consider various concepts in contract, property and trusts which are used to allocate, manage and transfer risk in transactions. While the focus will be on English law and Hong Kong law, the course will consider civil law jurisdictions for criticism and comparison (and the practical impact on transactions). For example, taking security for bonds and loans and the enforcement of security would have different impact under different laws. The course will also consider developments in the financial markets including tokenisation of financial instruments.

Prerequisite: Contract law

Assessment: 40% class participation and written comments in online platforms, 60% essay

LLAW6324 Mediation advocacy

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to understand the mediation process, the impact of the process on the parties and an understanding of the skills needed to be an effective advocate in mediation. Classes will focus on ensuring that students have a strong grasp of the principles and theoretical basis for mediation. The class will explore the negotiation principles which underly mediation and how this informs mediation advocacy.

The active participation of students is necessary and will involve preparing for class through assigned reading or through reflection on how to incorporate skills into their own

personal toolkit. In particular, the students will participate in inter-active mediation and negotiation role-plays. This provides an experiential learning as students can acquire skills and a deeper understanding of theories through practical application.

The roleplays will enable the students to appreciate the communication, cultural and emotional challenges experienced by clients and advocates. Building on this with an understanding of negotiation skills, the students will be able to consider the modes of advocacy which are available to advocates and how advocates in mediation can provide the most effective support to their clients. The professional and ethical responsibilities of an advocate within mediation to support without prejudice negotiations within the context of potential litigation will be considered.

Prerequisite: Mediation

Assessment: 25% participation and skills journal, 75% research paper

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FORMAT, BINDING, AND PRESENTATION OF DISSERTATIONS FOR HIGHER DEGREES BY COURSEWORK

1. Each copy of a dissertation shall be typewritten or printed on one side only of International size A4 paper² (except for drawings, maps, or tables on which no restriction is placed), with a margin of not less than 38mm on the left-hand edge of each page.
2. The appropriate Board of the Faculty shall decide whether any dissertation submitted successfully in part-fulfilment of a higher degree by coursework shall be an accession to the University Library.
3. If it is to be an accession to the Library the top copy of the dissertation shall be used, and bound in one or more volumes as determined by the Librarian and between boards faced with cloth in black for MA, MPA, MMedSc, in dark blue for MSW, MBA, and in green for all others. The title, name of author, degree, and date shall be lettered in gilt on the front cover and spine in accordance with the standard layout approved by the Librarian. The title of a dissertation written in Chinese shall be lettered on the cover in Chinese and English.

² 297 mm x 210 mm

N.B. Candidates for higher degrees are reminded that any dissertation not typed or printed on the correct paper will not be accepted. Any candidate who has difficulty in obtaining the paper should consult his Faculty Office.