

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester A 2024/2025**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Criminal Litigation Practice

Course Code: PLE5019

Course Duration: Semester B

Credit Units: 3

Level: P

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of Assessment: English

Prerequisites:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to prepare students to begin the practice of criminal litigation.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Explaining the overall structure and applying the main principles of criminal litigation practice to resolve real life problems and challenges that occur in criminal litigation practice.		✓	✓	
2.	Engaging in a range of tasks found in real life practice in criminal matters.		✓	✓	
3.	Engaging in basic and useful skills required of lawyers in criminal litigation practice.		✓	✓	✓
4.	Explaining and discussing with a client their analysis, giving advice on some basic criminal litigation situations and ethical issues that may arise.		✓	✓	✓
5.	Identifying new developments in areas of the law, such as in the use of evidence.		✓	✓	
		100%			

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.					Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Large Groups, students will engage and deal with the specific stages, from the beginning to the end of a Criminal Litigation process. Furthermore, in Large Groups, students will also participate in demonstrations conducted. ➤ In Small Groups, students will conduct simulated practice based role plays of different stages of the Criminal Litigation process, whereby they will give advice based on the situations encountered with. Students will also engage in group discussion, guided by the tutor to consolidate their learning and after the discussion, students will draft letters of advice, finalize a set of Admitted Facts and give advice on sentencing. Students will also individually draft an advice on appeal. Furthermore, students will make bail applications and pleas in mitigation and will be given feedback on their performances. 	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5		
Continuous Assessment: 20%							
Mid-term assessment		✓	✓			20%	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
Examination: 80% (duration: 3 hours)							
Final examination	✓			✓	✓	80%	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
						100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-*)	Marginal (D*)	Failure (F)
1. Mid Term Coursework Assessment	To pass the Mid Term Coursework Assessment students must obtain a mark of 50%. To pass the Examination at the end of Semester B students must obtain a mark of 50%.	The work meets the client's needs in all respects, evidenced by – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a superior grasp of the issues and subject matter • good organization • a capacity to analyze and synthesize 	The work meets the client's needs in most respects, evidenced by – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strong grasp of the issues and subject matter • some critical and analytical ability • an understanding of the applicable law and procedures • a good use of lawyer skills. 	The work meets the client's main needs, evidenced by – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an adequate grasp of the issues and subject matter • an ability to develop solutions to the client's problems • a basic use of lawyer skills. 		The work does not meet the client's needs, evidenced by little or an insufficient – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grasp of the issues and subject matter • critical and analytical ability • understanding of the applicable law and procedures.
2. Examination at the end of Semester B	In order to pass this course, students have to pass both the Mid Term Coursework Assessment and the Examination at the end of Semester B.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possession of an extensive knowledge base • a superior use of lawyer skills. 				

* Note: The University's grades C- and D are not used in the PCLL.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

The conduct of criminal cases in the Magistrates' Court; District Court and High Court; police powers, process to compel appearance; formulation and amendment of charges; bail; transfers and committal proceedings; discovery; trial; juries; sentencing; costs; appeals.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

The Criminal Litigation Practice Deskbook

Some Ordinances and Subsidiary legislation will need to be downloaded as well; this will be indicated in the Deskbook.

Knight and Upham, 'Criminal Litigation' (Legal Practice Manual) Second Edition, Thomson, Sweet & Maxwell 2005 reprint.

Simon Young 'The Essential Statutes on HK Criminal Law and Procedure 2008/9 Lexis Nexis

Useful for reminding about the basics: Amanda Whitfort 'Criminal Procedure in HK - A Guide for Students and Practitioners' Lexis Nexis 2006

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

- Bilingual Laws Information System - Hong Kong Ordinances and Subsidiary Legislation (<http://www.legislation.gov.hk/eng/home.htm>)
- Lexis and/or Westlaw - available through "Electronic Resources" section of the Run Run Shaw Library website
- Andrew Bruce, S.C. 'Criminal Procedure – Trial on Indictments'
- Audrey Campbell-Moffat 'Magistrates Court Manual', Sweet & Maxwell
- Cross and Cheung 'Sentencing in Hong Kong', Butterworths