

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course
offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A in 2014 / 2015

Part I

Course Title: Fundamental Questions in Language and Law

Course Code: LT5512

Course Duration: 1 Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English and Chinese

Medium of Instruction: English and Chinese

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: CTL5512 Fundamental Questions in Language and Law

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims

This course aims to help students explore (1) the fundamental concepts and special features of the Hong Kong legal system; (2) the development and operation of Hong Kong's bilingual legal system before and after the Reunification; and (3) the linguistic and conceptual issues involved in the bilingual legislation of Hong Kong. It equips students with the basic tools in legal and linguistic research so as to enable them to carry out independent research for academic or professional purposes.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Explain the basic concepts of the Hong Kong legal system and similar concepts of PRC	
2.	Describe and explain the development and operation of Hong Kong's bilingual legal system	
3.	Explain the linguistic and conceptual issues involved in Hong Kong's bilingual legislation	
4.	Conduct basic legal and linguistic research for their respective professional purposes	

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1-3	Lecture; open class discussion	2 hours lecture; 1 hour tutorial
CILO 4	Lecture; law library tour; basic legal research	3 hours of library tour in week 2 or week 3

Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1	Assigned readings; home assignment	15%	
CILO 2	Assigned readings; home assignment	10%	
CILO 3	Assigned readings; home assignment	15%	
CILO 4	Research assignment	10%	
CILOs 1-4	Final examination (2 hours)	50%	

Grading of Student Achievement:

Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-...F). Grading is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities.

Excellent (A-, A, A+)	Good (B-, B, B+)	Adequate (C-, C, C+)	Marginal (D)
Superior grasp of subject matter; strong evidence of original thinking; excellent organization; strong evidence of extensive knowledge base; excellent analytical ability and critical capacity; superior ability in conducting basic legal and linguistic research	Good grasp of subject matter; some evidence of original thinking; good organization; some evidence of extensive knowledge base; good analytical ability and critical capacity; good ability in conducting basic legal and linguistic research	Reasonable understanding of the subject matter; some attempts at original thinking; adequate organization; some familiarity with literature; some evidence of analytical ability and critical capacity; adequate ability in conducting basic legal and linguistic research	Little understanding of the subject matter; little evidence of original thinking; little familiarity with literature; weakness in analytical and critical skills; weakness in conducting basic legal and linguistic research

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Important concepts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; basic common law concepts; the common law as a system; the legal system of Hong Kong SAR; legal terminologies in Hong Kong and the Mainland, legal research

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

Birks, P. ed., *English Private Law*, Volumes I and II, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000.

Jackson, P., and Leopold, P., *Constitutional and Administrative Law*, 8th ed., Sweet & Maxwell, London, 2001.

McCoubrey, H. and White N. D., *Textbook on Jurisprudence*, 2nd ed., Blackstone, London, 1996.

Smith, A.T.H., *Williams G. W. : Learning the Law*, 12th ed., Sweet & Maxwell, London, 2002.

Walker, R. J., *Walker and Walker's The English Legal system*, 7th ed., Butterworths, London, 1998.

Chinese references

王叔文主編，《香港特別行政區基本法導論》，中共中央黨校，北京，1997.

王振民，《中央與特別行政區的關係》，清華大學，北京，2002.

香港文匯出版社，《基本法的誕生》，香港文匯出版社，香港，1990.

沈宗靈主編，《法學基礎理論》，北京大學出版社，北京，1993。

肖蔚雲主編，《一國兩制與香港特別行政區基本法》，文化教育出版社，香港，1990.

陳弘毅，《香港法制與基本法》，廣角鏡出版社，香港，1997.

陳道華主編，《一國兩制與國家理論》，中共中央黨校，北京，2002.

傅思明，《香港特別行政區基本法通論》，中國檢察出版社，北京，1997.

Online Resources

<http://www.legislation.gov.hk/index.htm>

<http://www.lexisnexis.com>

<http://libweb.cityu.edu.hk/lbdinst/westlaw.htm>

<http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/eres/database/info/chinalawinfo.htm>

<http://law.moj.gov.tw/>