

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester A 2024/25**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Private Law of the PRC

Course Code: LW5611

Course Duration: One Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

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) LW3611 Private Law of the PRC

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) NIL

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course examines the analytical framework for understanding the three core areas of Chinese private law: contract, property and tort. While Chinese private law is located within the Civil Law Tradition, it displays unique features which demonstrate both its receptivity to global norms and the influence of Chinese social, political and economic factors. Chinese contract law is integral to the functioning of the Chinese market economy and bears the influence of international contract norms. Yet, the conception of ‘right to subrogation’, the ‘right to withdrawal’ and the ambit of third party rights can be surprisingly extensive from the perspective of European private law. Property law will bear socialist overtones and communitarian concerns, even as private ownership and enterprise are promoted. Tort law adopts concepts such as ‘presumed liability’ and ‘equitable liability’ underpinned by the unique social welfare and insurance arrangements in China.

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.	Demonstrate knowledge of basic legal principles of Chinese contract law, property law and tort law.	40%	✓	✓	
2.	Demonstrate knowledge of the similarity and difference between Chinese private law and the common law counterpart.	30%	✓	✓	✓
3.	Demonstrate ability to apply knowledge to solve practical legal problems.	30%	✓	✓	✓
		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	
2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial	Students are expected to participate actively in discussions and express their creative views	✓	✓	✓	3
	Each student is instructed to choose a research topic within the field of PRC private law.	✓	✓	✓	

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		
Continuous Assessment:				40%	
Presentation: 10%	✓	✓	✓		
Assignment: 30%	✓	✓	✓		
Examination: (duration: 2 hours)				60%	
				100%	

The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 50% in both coursework and examination and an overall mark of 50% in order to pass the course.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 40% in both coursework and examination and an overall mark of 40% in order to pass the course.

When University facilities and resources are available, students may be required to take a computer-based examination in computer labs. During the examination, students are blocked from access to files, programs and the Internet.

5. Assessment Rubrics

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

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
Coursework	Familiarity with the subject matter; understanding of the subject; extensive knowledge base; critical capacity and analytic ability; original thinking; good organization.	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate
Examination	Familiarity with the subject matter; understanding of the subject; ability to solve problems; analytic capacity, good organization.	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
Coursework	Familiarity with the subject matter; understanding of the subject; extensive knowledge base; critical capacity and analytic ability; original thinking; good organization.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.
Examination	Familiarity with the subject matter; understanding of the subject; ability to solve problems; analytic capacity, good organization.	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

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.)

1. Basic legal concepts in Chinese private law
2. Contract law I: general principles and formation
3. Contract law II: validity and contractual interpretation
4. Contract law III: performance and third party claims
5. Contract law IV: termination of contract
6. Contract law V: breach and remedies
7. Tort law I: framework of tort liability
8. Tort law II: liability for others
9. Tort law III: defence and remedies
10. Tort Law IV: notion of equity in tort law
11. Property law I: perceptions of property
12. Property law IV: security interests

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

1. Mo Zhang: Chinese contract law: theory and practice (Martinus Nijhoff 2006)
2. Bing Ling: Contract law in China (Sweet & Maxwell Asia 2002)

2.2 Additional Readings

Legislation

1. General Principles of Civil Law and General Provisions of Civil Law
2. Contract Law
3. Interpretation No. 1 of the Supreme People's Court on the Application of Contract Law
4. Interpretation No. 2 of the Supreme People's Court on the Application of Contract Law
5. Tort Liability Law
6. Consumer Rights and Interests Protection Law
7. Product Quality Law
8. Property Law
9. The Interpretations of Supreme People's Court on Several Issues Concerning the Specific Application of Law in the Trial of Disputes over Partitioned Ownership of Building Areas
10. Security Law
11. Judicial Interpretation of the Supreme People's Court on Some Issues Regarding the Application of Security Law

Online resources

Database of PRC laws and judicial cases: www.lawinfochina.com