

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:	Legal Placement
Course Code:	LW5612
Course Duration:	A minimum of 160 contact hours (equivalent to 4-week full time work) for the full time or the part-time legal placement to be done within 2 semesters of an academic year. (3 semesters may be allowed in the same academic year subject to course leader's approval)
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	A combination of English and Chinese
Medium of Assessment:	English For all cohorts: Only JD students with a CGPA of 2.85 or above immediately prior to undertaking the placement are allowed to take this course. In order to complete this course, students must have their application for internship approved by the Course Leader prior to commencement of the placement. The approval of the Course Leader is required for all internships whether arranged through the SLW or Join-in (Self-Solicited). Only an application approved by the Course Leader prior to commencement of the placement will be considered as an eligible basis for this course.
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title)	LW5601 Hong Kong Legal Systems, LW5622 Legal Methods, Research and Writing, and LW5602A Law of Contract I
Precursors: (Course Code and Title)	N/A
Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title)	LW4612 Legal Placement
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	N/A

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The aims of this course is

1. to provide students with a structured opportunity to obtain practical experience from working in a law office or a legally related working environment, doing law related work relevant to their level of competence and experience and to enable potential employers to give structured feedback on the student's potential;
2. to provide students with structured means to apply their knowledge into a new legal environment and discover solutions in practice;
3. to prepare students to practice professionally in the legal field; and
4. to develop the student's ability to apply academic knowledge in real life situations.

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)	DEC related learning outcomes		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Suggest and discover reasoned and justifiable solutions to problems using appropriate strategies, principles, values and legal arguments gained at the law firm or legal environment of the placement.		✓	✓	✓
2.	Describe and understand the operation of the law and its interplay with the society				
3.	Discuss verbally and in writing, solutions to an ethical dilemma present in a real-life case in the law firm or legal environment in which the student has been placed.		✓	✓	✓
		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.

Alignment of CILOs with PILOs:

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs)		CILOs
1	Explain and assess specified areas of the law and the legal system of Hong Kong, with particular emphasis on the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena.	1
2	Assess the common law system and its values, and its interaction with the law and legal system of mainland China, the East Asian region and the wider world.	2
3	Explain, interpret and apply main principles of ethics, civil duty, and social and professional responsibility.	2
4	Critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of law as a means of regulating society in the context of competing and conflicting interests.	3
5	Demonstrate and apply skills of legal analysis and reasoning, of legal research, or problem solving, and of oral and written communication to a level appropriate to a graduate-entry degree in law.	2,3

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	
The work placement	Students will work full-time or part-time in a law-related working environment for a minimum of 160 contact hours in any one to three semesters of a given academic year. The student must also be allocated an appropriate supervisor in the workplace by their placement employer.	✓			Minimum 160 hours in total
The reflection paper	The Course Leader will act as the student's academic supervisor.		✓		
	The student would be required to discuss and deal with ethical dilemmas and real life challenges in the context of real clients in the legal placement environment.			✓	

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:				100%	
The work placement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students must obtain a reference from their supervisor in the office where the placement is carried out to show they were able to discover ways to solve legal problems in a practical legal environment and were able to professionally and ethically accomplish their tasks. ● This reference must be received by the Course Leader before the coursework may be assessed 	✓		✓		
The reflective paper: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided that the satisfactory reference is obtained, students must then submit an insightful reflective paper on the learning and discovery process of student to professional, ● The paper must be of a high scholarly standard where the students challenged the problems in practice , and legal questions and to show gains of practical problems solved and the standard of professional and ethical responsibilities. 		✓			
				100%	

Grading of Student Achievement:

Students will be assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Percentage of coursework, examination, etc.: 100% coursework plus receipt of a satisfactory reference.

This course will be assessed by coursework. The student will complete a paper, with a maximum word limit of 2500 words, to be submitted to the General Office, SLW. The submission deadline will be notified by the Course Leader in due course. The subject of the paper must be agreed in advance with the student's academic supervisor and workplace supervisor and must relate to a substantive aspect of the legal work undertaken by the student during the placement. Before the coursework can be assessed the Course Leader must receive a satisfactory reference from the student's workplace supervisor. Therefore, in order to pass this course the student must achieve a satisfactory reference from the workplace supervisor and must gain a minimum of 40% for the coursework.

5. Assessment Rubrics

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

Assessment Rubrics not applicable.

The course is graded on a pass-fail basis.

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.)

Law-related work experience, written reflection upon that work experience.

2. Reading List

N/A

3. Placement type

- a. SLW allocated.
- b. Join-in (Self-Solicited).

4. Application procedure

a. SLW allocated placement

The SLW will invite applications for the Legal Placement for the Summer Term and the application will be arranged in March/April every year or other times as necessary or appropriate.

SLW allocated placements may be available (subject to availability) during Semester A and/or Semester B. Application times will be announced by email.

b. Join-in

The student should submit the application two weeks (or in special cases and subject to approval, as soon as possible, but must be) before the start of the “join-in” internship. No application of “join-in” will be considered for past experiences or placement that had already begun.

The student must include the following in the application (which could be a letter and/or email from the placement organisation that clearly states):

- i. The name of the organisation;
- ii. The length of the agreed work time;
- iii. A written confirmation from the organisation stating the name and Hong Kong ID card number of the student, and the agreed work time;
- iv. A written confirmation from the organisation stating that they will participate in the assessment of the student;
- v. A written consent from the organisation allowing the student to be enrolled in a credit-bearing Legal Placement programme during the time at which the student is working with them; and
- vi. A separate declaration letter from the student that they will comply with the requirements (e.g. assignments, cost, etc.) of the Legal Placement course and the syllabus thereof.