

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

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

Part I Course Overview

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| Course Title: | International Mooting & Advocacy |
| Course Code: | LW5649 |
| Course Duration: | Either one semester or two semesters depending upon the mooting competition(s) entered. |
| Credit Units: | 3 credits (3 hours per week in Sem A and/or B and/or Summer. Total contact hours: 39) |
| Level: | P5 |
| Medium of Instruction: | English |
| Medium of Assessment: | English |
| Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i> | LW5601 Hong Kong Legal System, and LW5622 Legal Methods, Research and Writing, and LW5602A Law of Contract I |
| Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i> | Nil |
| Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i> | LW4649/ LW4649B International Mooting & Advocacy |
| Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i> | Nil |

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to provide opportunities for students to engage in competitive mooting competitions with other universities and institutions both within Hong Kong and outside Hong Kong. The focus will be upon synthesizing the knowledge and skills already acquired on substantive law courses and to apply that knowledge and skills in a courtroom context. The course aims to develop research, analytical, organisational and advocacy skills by confronting students with complex issues of both fact and law in a courtroom situation. Within the structured setting provided by the course students can prepare for, and participate in, such international mooting competitions as the Philip C. Jessup International law Moot, the Willem C. Vis Commercial Arbitration Moot, the Red Cross International Humanitarian law Moot, the Manfred Lachs International Space Law Moot, Human Rights Law Moots, Foreign Direct Investment Moot, WTO Law Moots, the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot and other moots in which the School participates.

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 | Weigh ting | Alignme nt with PILOs | DEC related learning outcomes | | |
|-----|---|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----|----|
| | | | | A1 | A2 | A3 |
| 1. | Select, evaluate, analysis and process relevant resources and information | | 1 | | ✓ | |
| 2. | Develop and express in writing coherent, cogent and relevant arguments | | 2, 3, 5 | ✓ | | |
| 3. | Demonstrate critical and original thinking | | 2, 3, 4 | ✓ | | |
| 4. | Select, analyse, use and cite relevant sources effectively | | 1, 2, 4 | | ✓ | |
| 5. | Select and use appropriate content and language for the particular mooting competition and the issue to be mooted | | 1, 3, 5 | ✓ | | |
| 6. | Communicate ideas and arguments clearly, coherently and accurately in own words and plain English | | 2, 3, 4, 5 | | ✓ | |
| 7. | Work as part of team | | 2, 3, 4, 5 | | | ✓ |
| 8. | Confidently present and respond to arguments and questions | | 3, 4, 5 | | ✓ | |
| | | 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.)

Contact hours will be divided between lectures, tutorials and such other inter-active and integrated teaching exercises as shall be deemed appropriate for the particular moot competition. A number of teaching staff will be engaged depending upon the expertise required for participation in particular moot competitions. In view of such variations, the following list of LTAs is indicative and some of them may not be adopted in some sections. The combination and duration of the LTAs will be determined by the needs of the particular moot competition. The concentration will be upon understanding the moot problem posed by the particular moot and upon small group activities in which legal, policy, institutional and regulatory issues relating to the particular moot problem will be discussed and developed. Practical exercises will introduce students to, and improve, their performance in, all aspects of moot and in particular address working both as a team and as individuals to carry out defined responsibilities and objectives. As the participation of students is compulsory in the moot for which they are selected, it is expected that they will acquire advanced analytical and oratory skills, presentation skills, question and answer technique, time management and other skills that are crucial for moot.

| LTA | Brief Description | CILO No. | | | | | | | | Hours/week (if applicable) |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | |
| Lecture | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Reading | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Video showing | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Small group activities | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Group and/or individual presentations | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

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

There is no examination: the course is totally assessed by coursework. For the reasons already stated at the beginning of section 3, the following list of assessment tasks (ATs) is indicative only. The combination and weighting of the ATs in each section will be determined by the particular instructor/coach according to the demand of the particular mooted competition in which the students is enrolled. Full details of the assessment approach will be provided at the outset of the course. Students may opt to be assessed upon their performance in the particular mooted competition in which they are enrolled whether this is an internal round within City University or an external round. Students who progress beyond the first round of the competition upon which they are enrolled may designate the round of the competition upon which they wish to be assessed for this purpose.

The coursework assessment may take one or more of the following forms:

Participation in a mooted competition, which is compulsory, will be used as the coursework assessment. The performance in such competitions (whether an internal round within City University or an external round) may be assessed in lieu of any other coursework. Students who progress beyond the first round of any such competition (whether internal or external) may designate the round of the competition upon which they wish to be assessed for this purpose.

The portion of the overall mark allocated to performance/participation in inter-active in class activities will be assessed on the quality of the participation. Assessment criteria for those activities, their nature and their timing will be set out in the study guide/course manual and will be further expanded upon by the course leader and by instructors assigned to that particular mooted competition.

| Assessment Tasks/Activities | CILO No. | | | | | | | | Weighting | Remarks |
|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|---------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | |
| Continuous Assessment: | | | | | | | | | 100% | |
| Coursework | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Mooting presentations | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Attendance and participation in small group/skills activities | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| A written presentation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| An oral presentation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Participation in Moot Competitions | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| | | | | | | | | | 100% | |

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) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Continuous Assessment | Research Drafting Advocacy | 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) |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Continuous Assessment | Research Drafting Advocacy | <p>The work meets the client's needs in all respects, evidenced by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a superior grasp of the issues and subject matter • good organization • a capacity to analyze and synthesize • possession of an extensive knowledge base • a superior use of lawyer skills. | <p>The work meets the client's needs in most respects, evidenced by –</p> <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. | <p>The work meets the client's main needs, evidenced by –</p> <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. | <p>The work meets the client's marginal needs, evidenced by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grasp of the issues and subject matter • critical and analytical ability • understanding of the applicable law and procedures. | <p>The work does not meet the client's needs, evidenced by little or an insufficient –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grasp of the issues and subject matter • critical and analytical ability • understanding of the applicable law and procedures. |

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.)

Background to mooting, characteristics of mooting, analysing and researching the moot problem, collection and analysis of mooting materials, preparation of a written memorandum or memorials, formulating and presenting the argument, meeting the other side's case, responding to questions, proper modes of address and the ethics of mooting

2. Reading List

The following books provide useful information about mooting and about advocacy skills:

Kee, Christopher; *The Art of Argument: A Guide to Mooting*; Cambridge University Press, Australia, 2006, ISBN, 13 978-0-52168-513-9

Evans, Keith. *The Golden Rules of Advocacy*, Oxford University Press ISBN 9781854312594.

Gygar, T; Cassamitis, A. *Mooting Manual* (Butterworths skills series) Butterworths (now LexisNexis Australia), Sydney, 1997. ISBN 0409308269. (www.lexisnexis.com.au)

Kaye, T; Townley, L. *Blackstone's Book of Moots*, Oxford University Press, 1996, ISBN 9781854315168. (www.oup.co.uk)

Lauchland, K.A; Le Brun, M.J. *Legal interviewing: Theory: Theory, Tactics and Techniques*, LexisNexis Australia, ISBN 9780409308099.

Hyams, Ross; Campbell, Susan; Evans, Adrian *Practical Legal Skills*, (3rd Ed) Oxford University Press, 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0-19-555137-2

Snape, John; Watt, Gary. *How to Moot: A Student Guide to Mooting* Oxford University Press ISBN No 9780406979513.

Online Resources

Video tapes on Advocacy and Mooting are available in the Non-print section of the City University library.

The MootingNet web-site www.mootingnet.org.uk contains useful information on mooting and enables links to other mooting web-sites.