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: Animal Law and Welfare

Course Code: LW5673

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) LW4673 Animal Law and Welfare

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II   Course Details

1.   **Abstract**

The aims of this course are to provide students with an introduction to those principles, rules, and regulations - as developed by common law and from legislation that affect animals with a further view to encourage and motive students in the developments of this area. The course will provide a summary of historical origins and examine the current laws in their philosophical and practical aspects underpinning a variety of differing perspectives with a focus on comparing the laws relating to animals across different jurisdictions.   The course will further implement on the practical aspects of the laws relating to animals and welfare
by providing a motived and innovative environment for a possibility of putting in practice interactions and experience in animal related work.

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.	Understand the legal status and welfare of animals, including the historical evolution of their status and be familiar with the ways in which different categories of animals are regulated by laws.		✓		
2.	Identify the law and welfare principles relating to animals and apply them to determine the affects they have on issues of human-animal interaction.			✓	✓
3.	Analyse the evolution, interpretation, and enforcement of laws relating to the treatment and its welfare and use of animals. Focusing on the far-reaching and diverse nature of animal law issues, such as in the context of property law (animals as personal property), tort law (veterinary malpractice, nature of damages for animal loss), criminal law (anti-cruelty laws, animal fighting laws), and welfare.			✓	✓
4.	Display knowledge and examine laws and welfare relating to animals in other jurisdiction as compared to in Hong Kong.			✓	✓
5.	Examine the law relating to animals as a burgeoning and dynamic field of law applicable in current sociality and legal systems and to discover and innovate proposal plans for possible implementation in Hong Kong for the betterance of animal issues.			✓	✓
		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
		1	2	3	4	5	
Lecture	Explain basic rationale of current legal status of animals and animal welfare which include the historical evolution of the status	✓					
	Explain basic legal and welfare principles that affect animals and the issues of human-animal interaction.		✓				
	Analyse and explain the evolution, interpretation, and enforcement of laws and welfare relating to the treatment and use of animals.			✓			
	Introduce animal law and welfare in different jurisdictions and compare them with Hong Kong animal law.				✓		
	Introduce the concept of development of animal law and welfare and the development of an animal based project.					✓	
Case-studies/ discussion	Case-studies/discussion familiar with the ways in which different categories of animals are regulated by laws and welfare principles.	✓					
	Case-studies/discussion on the laws and welfare relating to animals and focus on the issue of animal welfare and human-animal interactions.		✓				
	Case-studies/discussion on the far-reaching and diverse nature of animal law and welfare issues, such as in the context of property law (animals as personal property), tort law (veterinary malpractice, nature of damages for animal loss), criminal law (anti-cruelty laws, animal fighting laws), and other various laws.			✓			

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)
(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weigh ting	Rem arks
	1	2	3	4	5		
Continuous Assessment: 100%							
Discover the animal law and welfare topic by an essay type paper on how the current Hong Kong legislation can be improved by comparing with statutes of other jurisdictions.	✓			✓		30%	
Discover and innovate a project in relation to animal welfare, including the possibility of implementation.			✓	✓	✓	30%	
A reflective paper on application of animal welfare and its laws in the real world.	✓	✓	✓	✓		20%	
Presentation of project in relation to animal welfare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20%	
						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 an aggregate mark of 50% and a minimum of 50% in each of the Assessment Tasks to pass the course.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 and thereafter
Students must obtain an aggregate mark of 40% and a minimum of 40% in each of the Assessment Tasks to pass the course.

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	Demonstration of ability to articulate argument in an effective and clear way. Ability to apply the law with effective communication skills. Ability to complete examination questions and show ability of team work. Require good articulation in written form of arguments and in depth opinions with proper research for evidences and authority.	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	Demonstration of ability to articulate argument in an effective and clear way. Ability to apply the law with effective communication skills. Ability to complete examination questions and show ability of team work. Require good articulation in written form of arguments and in depth opinions with proper research for evidences and authority.	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.)
Animals, Animal Law, Animal Responsibility, Animal Welfare, Property, theoretical, ethical, and socio-political perspectives on human-animal dynamics, Policy, anti-cruelty laws.

Detailed Syllabus

The students are provided with an overview of the course and resources in support of the study of the subject and encouraged to discover the comparative aspect between the laws in Hong Kong and other jurisdictions.

Therefore, the course will deal with the following:

1.   A summary of historical origins of the legal concept applicable to animals, animal welfare etc.

2.   The principles, rules, and regulations as developed by common law and from statute that affect animals.

3.   It will examine such laws in their philosophical, scientific, and practical underpinnings, and from a variety of differing perspectives, exploring how the law has treated animals in the past and may treat them in the future both locally and internationally.

4.   It will discuss the foundational of defining animals to the pragmatic aspects of cases involving animals and discuss the substantive constraints that might occur in prosecuting an animal cruelty case in Hong Kong and will address diverse questions and answers in such areas as contract, tort and criminal in a comparative manner.

5.   It will allow students to appreciate the current status of the social, economical, political and legal status of animals and allow them to use a pragmatic approach to deal with the issues that had or may arise.

2.   Reading List

Text(s)

There is no required textbook for this course. A detailed reading list will be provided in the course manual to be distributed during the first lecture.

Following textbooks may give overview of the subject:

●   An introduction to animals and the law/ Joan E. Schaffner.
      Schaffner, Joan. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire ; New York, NY : Palgrave
      Macmillan, 2011.
●   The autonomous animal : self-governance and the modern subject / Claire E. Rasmussen
      Rasmussen, Claire Elaine.

Online Resources

LexisNexis
Westlaw
EU Protocol on animal welfare
http://www.voiceless.org.au/Law