

City University of Hong Kong

Course Syllabus

offered by School of Law
with effect from Semester B 2023/24

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Advanced Legal Research Methodology
Course Code:	LW6100E
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P6
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Precursors: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	Nil
Equivalent Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	LW6700/LW8700D/LW8709D Advanced Legal Research Methodology LW6700 and LW8700D are the old course codes for LW8709D
Exclusive Courses: <i>(Course Code and Title)</i>	LW6703 Globalisation and Legal Research Methodology

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to develop the students' ability to conduct research at an advanced level. The skills taught will have a wide application to both scholarly inquiry and problem solving generally.

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.	Understand and demonstrate various kinds of research skills which are essential for conducting legal research at an advanced level.		✓	✓	✓
		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 self-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. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	
Lectures	Weekly lectures on key topics in the field of Legal Research Methodology. The Course Leader will also lecture on "literature search" and illustrate it with examples.	✓	
Group Discussion	Students are required to prepare for the lectures and to participate in group discussions in class.	✓	
Research Proposal	Students are required to conduct independent research and write a research proposal.	✓	
Class Presentation	Students are required to give one class presentation on their research project/proposal, and specifically the methodology of their project.	✓	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

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

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.	Weighting	Remarks
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	1		
Continuous Assessment: 100%			
1. A research proposal of 6,000 words	✓	60%	<p>While generally students are not encouraged to rely on AI, they are permitted to use GenAI for assignment completion. The pedagogical objectives limit the use of AI to three specific purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizing AI instead of traditional search engines to gather sources; 2. Developing the skills to pose questions to AI that effectively prompt useful answers; 3. Garnering inspiration from the points of knowledge/ideas/thoughts generated by AI. <p>Students are strictly prohibited from directly incorporating sentences or expressions produced by Gen AI into their assignments. This would be viewed as plagiarism. When AI has been utilized in their work, it is crucial that students acknowledge this fact.</p>
2. Class participation and presentation	✓	40%	
		100%	

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

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 50% in both research proposal, class participation and presentation, and an overall mark of 50% in order to pass the course.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

Students must obtain a minimum mark of 40% in both research proposal, class participation and presentation, and an overall mark of 40% in order 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 in Semester A 2022/23 and thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1. Class participation and presentation	Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes (lectures, seminars, presentations). If a student does not meet this requirement, he/she may be disqualified for assessment.	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate
2. A research proposal of 6,000 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of topic - Formulation of aims and objectives of research including reasons for the selection of topic, why it is worthy of study, research question(s) etc. - Procedure including design of proposed research and literature review - Data collection and methods of analysis - Literature review and bibliography - Timetable 	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Class participation and presentation	Students are required to attend at least 70% of the classes (lectures,	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organisation,	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of	Student who is profiting from the university	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter;

	seminars, presentations). If a student does not meet this requirement, he/she may be disqualified for assessment.	capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.	critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.	experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.	enable the student to progress without repeating the course.	weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature.
2. A research proposal of 6,000 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of topic - Formulation of aims and objectives of research including reasons for the selection of topic, why it is worthy of study, research question(s) etc. - Procedure including design of proposed research and literature review - Data collection and methods of analysis - Literature review and bibliography - Timetable 	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organisation, 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 analytical 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 analytical 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.)

Introduction to advanced legal research skills
Formulating research questions
Literature review
The research design
Doctrinal Research
Socio-legal Studies / Law and Society
Empirical Legal Studies
Law and Economics
Legal Research in the Humanities
Legal History
Comparative Law and Methodology
Critical Legal Studies

2. Reading List

2.1 Selected Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Booth, Wane C., Colomb Gregory G & Williams Joseph M. <i>The craft of research</i> 3 rd Edition (2008) Chicago: University of Chicago Press
2.	Cresswell, John W. <i>Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approaches</i> 4 th Edition (2014) Thousand Oaks: SAGE
3.	Watkins, Dawn and Burton, Mandy <i>Research Methods in Law</i> (2013) Oxford: Routledge
4.	Bell, Judith <i>Doing your research project: A guide for first-time researchers in education and social sciences</i> 5 th Edition (2010) Buckingham: Open University Press
5.	Chatterjee, Charles <i>Methods of research in law</i> (2000) London: Old Bailey Press
6.	Cottrel, Jill <i>Legal research: A guide for Hong Kong students</i> (2009) Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press
7.	Hoffman, Marci & Rumsey <i>International and Foreign Legal Research: A coursebook</i> (2008) Leiden: Mirtinus Nijhoff Publishers
8.	Knowles, John & Thomas Philip <i>Effective Legal Research</i> 2 nd Edition (2009) London: Sweet & Maxwell
9.	Watt, Robert <i>Concise legal research</i> 4 th Edition (2001) Sydney: Federation Press