

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: International and Comparative Law of Trade Marks and Patents

Course Code: LW6196E

Course Duration: One semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P6

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) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) LW4642, LW5642

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course seeks to:

- Examine the law of trade marks and patents in the Hong Kong SAR, including the *Trade Marks Ordinance*, the *Patents Ordinance* and relevant case law
- Apply the law of trade marks and patents of Hong Kong to fact-based problems
- Understand the trade mark and patent regime of Hong Kong from an international and comparative perspective
- Discuss, at an introductory level, important developments in selected jurisdictions, such as the United States of America, Canada, the People’s Republic of China, the United Kingdom and the European Union (where appropriate)

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.	Identify current legal issues in the trade mark and patent laws of Hong Kong.		✓		
2.	Identify and analyse the sources and key features of the trade mark and patent laws of Hong Kong.		✓	✓	
3.	Critically evaluate the significance of Hong Kong’s trade mark and patent laws from an industry perspective and to compare these laws with those of other jurisdictions (where appropriate).			✓	✓
4.	Apply the knowledge to hypothetical fact situations and / or in further research.			✓	✓
		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	2	3	4	
Lectures/ seminars	Lectures/seminars—Students are required to pursue intensive, self-directed learning and research. The	✓	✓	✓	✓	3

	<p>goal of the teaching approach is to provide essential information as well as to further develop students' analytical and research skills. Student participation will be emphasized and problem solving exercises will be used to provide opportunities for analysis.</p> <p>The class discussions will be based on specified / assigned reading materials. Students shall prepare for the seminars by studying the relevant materials as directed by the course leader. Students may be asked to set out and explain the legal decisions of various cases. Existing and proposed legislation may be studied. Students may be asked to discuss the policy rationales underlying selected legislative provisions. The purpose of such an exercise is to develop students' skills in analysis, critical thinking, writing and oral presentation.</p>					
Coursework	<p>On the framework of dynamics between copyright, technology, and fundamental right protection, write a critical copyright essay assessing a particular subject matter of copyright significance. Students are expected to write an academic essay with their own topic on a specific practical/theoretical issue within the topic framework given. A comparative study that offers a comparison across jurisdictions is an asset, and is highly encouraged.</p>	√	√	√	√	

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

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

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.				Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4		
Continuous Assessment: 50%						
Participation	√	√	√	√	20%	The use of GenAI tools to assist students in finishing their homework assignments is permitted, only if the benefit and support from the GenAI tools are clearly indicated and acknowledged. This permission is intended to allow access to benefits of new technological development that will assist and facilitate the improvement of students' academic research quality, rather than a green light for dishonest free riding. The onus of clearly indicating and acknowledging the use of GenAI tools is on students themselves by assignment submission should they choose to use GenAI to assist their assessment, and the failure of doing so will be treated as academic dishonesty accordingly.
Coursework	√	√	√	√	30%	

Examination: 50% (duration: 2 hours)	√	√	√	√	50%	The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.
					100%	

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

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. Coursework for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed other than by the final examination.

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

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. Coursework for this purpose means those ways in which students are assessed other than by the final examination.

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)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration of oral presentation skills and willingness / ability to answer questions in class. 	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate
Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration of understanding of principles, theories and concepts. ▪ Demonstration of ability to identify issues. ▪ Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions. ▪ Application of research, writing and / or communication skills. ▪ Ability to engage in argument-based analysis. ▪ Aptitude for formulating innovative solutions to designated fact-based questions. 	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration of understanding of principles, theories and concepts. 	High	Significant	Moderate	Inadequate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration of ability to identify issues. ▪ Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions. ▪ Ability to engage in argument-based analysis. ▪ Aptitude for formulating innovative solutions to designated fact-based questions. 				
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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)
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration of oral presentation skills and willingness / ability to answer questions in class. 	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.
Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstration of understanding of principles, theories and concepts. ▪ Demonstration of ability to identify issues. 	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems	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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions. • Application of research, writing and / or communication skills. • Ability to engage in argument-based analysis. • Aptitude for formulating innovative solutions to designated fact-based questions. 	extensive knowledge base.	familiarity with literature.	in the material.		
Examination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of understanding of principles, theories and concepts. • Demonstration of ability to identify issues. • Application of knowledge to specific problems and discussion questions. • Ability to engage in 	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.

	<p>argument-based analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aptitude for formulating innovative solutions to designated fact-based questions.					
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Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Syllabus

1.1 Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

- Introduction to trademarks
- Common Law tort of passing off
- Types of registered trademarks
- Criteria for, and procedures, examination of trademark registration
- Classification, refusal, and revocation of trademarks
- Rectification of the Register
- Ownership and licences of registered trademarks
- Infringement, exceptions, and remedies
- Protection of domain names in Hong Kong
- Introduction to patents
- Applications, examination, registration, and revocation of patents
- Validity: novelty, inventive step, patentable subject matter, disclosure and claims
- Scope of Monopoly: infringement and specification
- Property Rights and Exploitation: ownership, licences, compulsory licences, and government use
- Infringement and remedies
- Patent reform in Hong Kong
- Regional and international trading frameworks and trademark and patent reforms
- International trademark and patent protection in practice

1.2 Detailed Syllabus

With a comparative reference to the trademark and patent regimes in the EU, US, and the PRC, this course provides an overview of the law of trademarks and patents in the Hong Kong SAR from a practice-oriented and / or industry perspective. Keeping in mind the regional and international trademark and patent frameworks, specific legislation on trade mark and patent law, such as the *Trade Marks Ordinance* and the *Patents Ordinance*, will be examined and analysed. Strategies for the enforcement and protection of trade mark and patent rights in Hong Kong may be considered and discussed. Recent policy and industry developments relating to patent amendment in Hong Kong, trademark and patent reform in the PRC, EU and the development of regional and international trading negotiations and implications for trademark and patent protection etc., will be explored, where appropriate.

An Introduction to Intellectual Property Law

What is intellectual property law? Its legal and economic importance. The theoretical basis for intellectual property and intellectual property law. Protectability of intellectual property. Sources of intellectual property law in Hong Kong. International treaties and conventions on intellectual property law.

Trademarks

Subject matter of trade and service marks. Registration systems. What marks may be

registered. Restrictions on registration. Who may apply. Duration. Dealings with registered marks. Infringement. Remedies for infringement. International treaties. Unregistered marks. Related rights (trade names, passing off, dilution, domain name disputes in cyberspace, cybersquatting, etc).

Patents

Subject matter of patents. Filing systems. What may be patented. Restrictions on patentability. First ownership. Duration. Dealing with patents. Infringement. Remedies for infringement. International treaties. Compulsory licences. Revocation. Emerging Issues in Patent Law (biotechnology, microbiorobotics, business method patents, access to generic drugs and essential medicines, etc).

2. Reading List

2.1 Recommended Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

Selected Texts

William Cornish, David Llewelyn, and Tanya Aplin, *Intellectual Property: Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks & Allied Rights* (Sweet & Maxwell 2013/2019).

Kenny Wong and Alice Lee, *Intellectual Property Law and Practice in Hong Kong* (2nd ed., Sweet & Maxwell, 2017).

2.2 Online Resources

- WIPO Lex
<https://wipolex.wipo.int/en/main/legislation>
- Government of Hong Kong: Intellectual Property Protection
<http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/communication/infosec/intproperty.htm>
- Intellectual Property Department, Hong Kong
<http://www.ipd.gov.hk/eng/copyright.htm>
- Hong Kong Legal Information Institute
<http://www.hklii.hk/eng/>
- Department of Justice Bilingual Laws Information System
<http://www.legislation.gov.hk/eng/home.htm>