LW2604B: LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING II

Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Legal Research and Writing II

Subject Code

LW - Law

Course Number

2604B

Academic Unit

School of Law (FL)

College/School

School of Law (FL)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

LW2604A Legal Research and Writing I

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

LW2600B Legal Method II, LW3666 Legal Research and Writing I, LW2604 Legal Methods, Research and Writing

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

enhances students' legal research and writing skills based on the knowledge they have learned from LW2604A. introduces students to various types of legal writing and familiarizes them with both basic writing skills and writing strategies for

specific types of legal communications and documents. builds upon and develops students' legal reasoning skills, including analogical reasoning. builds upon and develops students' skills of statutory and Constitutional interpretation. introduces students to the citation system and ways to avoid plagiarism. introduces students to the methodology of comparative law. builds and develops students' ability to research the law; reflect upon their knowledge and understanding of the law; and identify, analyse, evaluate, critically discuss, and provide solutions to relevant legal issues.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Learn basic legal writing principles, and how to apply them when drafting various types of legal documents/communications, by learning the meaning and principles of plain English; learning different citation systems and rules; and learning to identify and avoid plagiarism.	20		X	
2	Learn to draft different legal documents/ communications byidentifying different types of client letters, and drafting advice and demand letters according to different fact situations; learning the nuts and bolts of professional email drafting; andlearning basic legal drafting skills	30		X	
3	Master different legal research skills and tools bysearching cases and statutes on Westlaw and LexisNexis; searching journal articles and other secondary sources on Westlaw and LexisNexis; andsearching sources of law in other jurisdictions on Westlaw and LexisNexis.	10		X	
4	Complete an essay question/research assignment byapplying basic legal research skills; learning to structure a research paper; andcritically evaluating a legal claim or devising a legal argument.	20	x	X	x
5	Know different tools of legal reasoning and legal methodologies by describing and explaining from a comparative perspective –the particular characteristics of a system and families of law;the manner in which laws relate to each other;finding and using correctly in a comparative context the relevant sources of law; evaluating legal arguments and solving legal problems by means of statutory interpretation and analogical legal reasoning; andappreciating commonalities and differences between approaches in common law and non-common law legal systems.	20	X	X	

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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Explain principles with examplesConduct library sessions for instruction in citation systemsDiscuss real life examples of plagiarismPromote learning by raising questions during lecture	1	
2	Lectures	Examine real life examples to help students develop drafting skills for different kinds of legal documents and correspondence	2	
3	Lectures	Demonstrate research skills and techniques in using modern legal databases	3	
4	Lectures	Examine real student assignments to facilitate student discovery of the nuts and bolts of writing a good essay/assignment Critically evaluate published works and identify useful structures and techniques which students may choose to adopt	4	
5	Lectures	Introduce comparative law scholarship by reading and reviewing relevant scholarly worksDiscuss the importance of comparative legal methods in modern Hong Kong legal scholarshipIntroduce analogical legal reasoningLearn and practice statutory interpretation	5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Written assignments:Students' ability to conduct legal research, collect data, and decipher primary and secondary materials in order to analyse problems will be tested. Students will be tested on their ability to appreciate the limits of law, evaluate arguments, and use a wide range of legal terms. Students will be tested on their mastery of legal writing techniques and ability to write coherent, cogent, and persuasive pieces.		80	
2	Class participation: Students will be called on to participate in group projects and presentations. Students are expected to participate in tutorial discussions.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	20	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

Note: Continuous assessment includes Written assignments (80%) and Class Participation (20%)

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1. Written assignments

Criterion

- Demonstrated ability to conduct legal research, collect data, and decipher primary and secondary materials in order to analyse legal problems; demonstrated ability to appreciate the limits of law, evaluate arguments, use different kinds of legal reasoning, interpret legislation, and use a wide range of legal terms; demonstrated mastery of legal writing techniques, including the ability to write coherent, cogent, and persuasive pieces.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Marginal (D)

Marginal student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Failure (F)

Student failed to achieve the applicable CILOs.

Assessment Task

2. Class participation

Criterion

- Participate in group projects, presentations, and tutorial discussions.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Fair student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Marginal (D)

Marginal student performance with respect to the achievement of the applicable CILOs.

Failure (F)

Student failed to achieve the applicable CILOs.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Nil

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title			
1	Veda R Charrow, Myra K. Erhardt, Robert P. Charrow, Clear and Effective Legal Writing, Wolters Kluwer (most recent edition).			
2	Bryan A. Garner, Legal Writing in Plain English, The University of Chicago Press (most recent edition).			
3	James Holland, Julian Webb, and Sydney William Templeman, Learning Legal Rules: A Students' Guide to Legal Method and Reasoning (Oxford: Oxford University Press) (most recent edition).			
4	Richard C. Wydick, Plain English for Lawyers, Carolina Academic Press, 2005.			
5	Charles R. Calleros, Legal Method and Writing, 6th ed, Wolters Kluwer, 2011.			
6	Richard K. Neumann, Jr., Legal Reasoning and Legal Writing: Structure, Strategy, and Style, 7th ed, Wolters Kluwer, 2013.			
7	Nancy L. Schultz and Louis J. Sirico, Jr., Legal Writing and Other Lawyering Skills, 4th ed, LexisNexis, 2004.			

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8	Christine Coughlin, Joan Malmud Rocklin, and Sandy Patrick, A Lawyer Writes: A Practical Guide to Legal Analysis, 2nd ed, Carolina Academic Press, 2013.
9	Pete Greasley, Doing Essays and Assignments: Essential Tips for Students, Sage Publication, 2011.
10	Eugene Volokh, Academic Legal Writing, Foundation Press, 2003.
11	Peter de Cruz, Comparative Law in a Changing World, 3rd ed. Routledge-Cavendish 2007
12	Mary Ann Glendon, Michel W. Gordon, Christopher Osakwe, Comparative Legal Traditions, West Publishing 1982
13	Patrick Glenn, Legal Traditions of the World, 2nd ed. Oxford University Press 2004
14	Esin Orucu, David Nelken, Comparative Law, a Handbook, Hart Publishing 2007
15	Birks and Pretto, Themes in Comparative Law, Oxford University Press 2002

Additional Readings

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