

## THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

### Course Outline

#### Part I

<b>Programme Title</b>	<b>: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Personal Finance and Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Business, Accounting and Financial Studies); all undergraduate programmes</b>
<b>Programme QF Level</b>	<b>: 5</b>
<b>Course Title</b>	<b>: Legal and Ethical Issues in Business</b>
<b>Course Code</b>	<b>: IBS3147</b>
<b>Department</b>	<b>: Social Sciences and Policy Studies</b>
<b>Credit Points</b>	<b>: 3</b>
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>: 39</b>
<b>Pre-requisite(s)</b>	<b>: Nil</b>
<b>Medium of Instruction</b>	<b>: English</b>
<b>Course Level</b>	<b>: 3</b>

#### Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

## 1. Course Synopsis

This course aims at laying a foundation of legal and ethical principles in business. By discussing fundamental legal and ethical norms and applying them in empirical cases, students will reflect upon and critically assess various business practices from legal and ethical perspectives. Such awareness is vital for them to become responsible citizens, educators, consumers, investors, and future business entrepreneurs in a globalized and interconnected world community.

## 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- CILO<sub>1</sub>: Explain the legal system and constitutional framework of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, along with the basic concepts of contract law, tort law, and employment law in business contexts, and apply this knowledge to solve real-life problems.
- CILO<sub>2</sub>: Describe the ethical standards required of business entities and their executives, and the regulatory environment in which businesses operate in the HKSAR.
- CILO<sub>3</sub>: Evaluate business practice and consumer behaviour from the perspectives of corporate social responsibility and responsible citizenship respectively.
- CILO<sub>4</sub>: Identify the legal dimensions in business decision making and illegal practices in the business context.

## 3. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The legal system of the HKSAR, including its sources of law and court hierarchy.</li></ul>	CILO <sub>1</sub>	Lecture, in-class and online group discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Essential elements in:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the law of contract, including contract formation, and remedies;</li><li>the law of torts, including the difference between contracts and torts, and the tort of negligence;</li><li>employment law, such as employee's rights and duties, and employment contracts.</li></ul></li></ul>	CILO <sub>1,2</sub>	Lecture, illustrations concerning real-life scenarios, in-class and online group discussions, problem solving exercises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ethical theories – both normative and descriptive, including Utilitarianism, Ethics of Duty, Moral Intensity, and Moral Framing.</li></ul>	CILO <sub>2</sub>	Lecture, in-class and online group discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The regulatory regime; theoretical and practical issues in business ethics including fraud, equal opportunities, and anti-competitive behaviour, and circumstances in which conflict of interest arises.</li></ul>	CILO <sub>2,4</sub>	Lecture, in-class and online group discussions, visit to a government regulatory body for first-hand knowledge, guest lecture.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ideas of responsible citizenship and corporate social responsibility, including environmental protection, and responsible consumption and investment.</li> </ul>	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1,3</sub>	Lecture, illustrations concerning real-life scenarios, in-class and online discussions
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#### 4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
a. Individual Research Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An individual research paper (1,500 words) that examines any ethical and/or legal issues commonly encountered by business entities. (30%)</li> <li>A Portfolio of Reflections on the Use of AI Tools (10%)</li> </ul>	40%	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1, 2,3,4</sub>
b. Participation in class activities which consist of two items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class presentation</li> <li>Online lesson</li> </ul>	30%	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1, 2,3,4</sub>
c. An in-class quiz focusing on testing students' knowledge of the legal concepts relating to business.	30%	<i>CILO</i> <sub>1,2,4</sub>

#### 5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments

Please select one option only that applies to this course:

☐ Not Permitted: In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.

☒ Permitted: In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgment, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

#### 6. Required Text(s)

Crane, A & Matten, D (2019). *Business Ethics: Managing Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability in the Age of Globalization* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
 Srivastava, D. K. (ed.) (2020) *Business Law in Hong Kong* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hong Kong: Sweet & Maxwell.  
 Intellectual Property Department. <https://www.ipd.gov.hk/eng/home.htm>

## 7. Recommended Readings

### Business ethics:

- Fisher, C., Lovell, A. and Valero-Silva, N. (2012). *Business Ethics and Values* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.
- Fraedrich, J. and Ferrell, O.C. (2021). *Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Making & Cases* (13<sup>th</sup> ed.). Mason, OH: Cengage Learning, Inc.
- Hartman, L. P., DesJardins, J., & MacDonald, C. (2020). *Business ethics: Decision making for personal integrity & social responsibility* (5th ed., paperback). McGraw-Hill Education.
- Hosmer, L.T. (2010). *The Ethics of Management* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.
- McDonald, G. (2015). *Business Ethics: A Contemporary Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Trevino, L.K. and Nelson, K.A. (2017). *Managing Business Ethics: Straight Talk About How to Do It Right* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- 高勇强 (2021) : 《企業倫理與社會責任》。清華大學出版社。
- 楊慕貞 (2014) : 《企業社會責任》，香港，宏豐圖書有限公司。

### The legal system of the HKSAR; business law:

- Fisher, M. (2010). *The legal system of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Blue Dragon.
- Krishnan, A. and Baksh, A. (2018). *Business law in Hong Kong* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Hong Kong: LexisNexi.
- Lo, S.H.C and Chui, W.H. (2012). *The Hong Kong legal system*. Singapore: McGraw-Hill.
- Mau, S.D. (2013). *Hong Kong legal principles: important topics for students and professionals* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Mau, S.D. (2016). *Contract law in Hong Kong: an introductory guide* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Mau, S.D. (2015). *Tort law in Hong Kong: an introductory guide* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- 陳弘毅 (2010) : 《一國兩制下香港的法治探索》，香港：中華書局。
- 陳弘毅、張增平、陳文敏、李雪菁 (2015) : 《香港法概論》，第三版，香港，三聯書店(香港) 有限公司。

## 8. Related Web Resources

Community Business: <http://www.communitybusiness.org/>

Community Legal Information Centre (CLIC): <http://www.clc.org.hk/en/>

Consumer Council: [http://www.consumer.org.hk/website/ws\\_en/](http://www.consumer.org.hk/website/ws_en/)

Equal Opportunities Commission:  
<http://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/GraphicsFolder/default.aspx>

Hong Kong e-Legislation: <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/>

Hong Kong Law Society: <http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk>

Hong Kong Trade Development Council: <http://www.hktdc.com>

Securities and Futures Commission: <http://www.sfc.hk/web/EN/index.html>

The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong <http://www.hkreform.gov.hk>

Latest newspaper and journal articles will be used.

## **9. Related Journals**

*Business Ethics: A European Review*

*Business Ethics Quarterly*

*International Journal of Business Governance and Ethics*

*Journal of Business Ethics*

*Hong Kong Law Digest*

*Hong Kong Law Journal*

*Hong Kong Law Reports & Digest*

*Hong Kong Lawyer*

## **10. Academic Honesty**

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity*

(<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

## **11. Others**

Nil

*Dec 2025*