

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Five-year Full-time); All undergraduate Programmes
Programme QF Level	: 5
Course Title	: Legal and Ethical Issues in Business
Course Code	: IBS3147
Department	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 3
Contact Hours	: 39
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 3

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:

- CILO₁: Explain Hong Kong's legal system, constitutional framework and basic concepts in the law of contracts, torts, and employment in business contexts, and apply them to solve problems in real-life situations.
- CILO₂: Describe the ethical standards required of business entities and their executives, and the regulatory environment in which businesses operate in Hong Kong.
- CILO₃: Evaluate business practice and consumer behaviour from the perspectives of corporate social responsibility and responsible citizenship respectively.
- CILO₄: 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"> • Hong Kong legal system, including its sources of law and court hierarchy. 	CILO ₁	Lecture, in-class and online group discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential elements in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the law of contract, including contract formation, and remedies; – the law of torts, including the difference between contracts and torts, and the tort of negligence; – employment law, such as employee's rights and duties, and employment contracts. 	CILO _{1,2}	Lecture, illustrations concerning real-life scenarios, in-class and online group discussions, problem solving exercises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical theories – both normative and descriptive, including Utilitarianism, Ethics of Duty, Moral Intensity, and Moral Framing. 	CILO ₂	Lecture, in-class and online group discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	CILO _{2,4}	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"> The ideas of responsible citizenship and corporate social responsibility, including environmental protection, and responsible consumption and investment. 	<i>CILO</i> _{1,3}	Lecture, illustrations concerning real-life scenarios, in-class and online discussions
---	----------------------------	--

4. Assessment

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

5. Required Text(s)

Crane, A & Matten, D (2019). *Business Ethics: Managing Corporate Citizenship and Sustainability in the Age of Globalization* (5th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Srivastava, D. K. (ed.) (2020) *Business Law in Hong Kong* (6th ed.). Hong Kong: Sweet & Maxwell.

Intellectual Property Department. <https://www.ipd.gov.hk/eng/home.htm>

6. Recommended Readings

Business ethics:

De George, Richard T. (2010). *Business Ethics* (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, N.J.; Hong Kong: Prentice Hall.

Fisher, C., Lovell, A. and Valero-Silva, N. (2012). *Business Ethics and Values* (4th ed.). Harlow: Pearson Education Limited.

Fraedrich, J. and Ferrell, O.C. (2016). *Business Ethics: Ethical Decision Making & Cases* (11th ed.). Mason, OH: Cengage Learning, Inc.

Hosmer, L.T. (2010). *The Ethics of Management* (7th 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* (7th ed.). Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons Inc.

吳成丰 (2004) : 《企業倫理》, 北京, 中國人民大學出版社。

楊慕貞 (2014) : 《企業社會責任》, 香港, 宏豐圖書有限公司。

Hong Kong's legal system; 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* (3rd 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* (2nd ed.). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Mau, S.D. (2016). *Contract law in Hong Kong: an introductory guide* (2nd ed.). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Mau, S.D. (2015). *Tort law in Hong Kong: an introductory guide* (2nd 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。

7. Related Web Resources

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

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

Consumer Council: 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. Others

Nil

Dec 2023