

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**BUSI1001E – Business Law
Course Outline
2011-2012 Semester II**

I. Information on Instructor and Tutor

Instructor: Mr. Beau Lefler
Email: BLefler@hku.hk (recommended)
Office: Room 205A, Meng Wah Complex
Phone: 2219-4218 (only recommended during office hours)
Office hours: Monday and Friday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Tutor: Mr. Thomas Ng (Rm 601B Meng Wah Complex)
Email: mail@ngthomas.org
Phone: 9695-0008

Pre-requisites: None

Textbook: Business Law in Hong Kong, by D.K. Srivastava, Sweet and Maxwell Asia

II. Course Information

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the fundamentals and general principles of the law, with particular emphasis on its relation to individuals and businesses. It seeks to equip students with a deeper understanding of the processes by which laws are made, including both formal and informal, and the influence that laws have on different stakeholders in a society.

Course objectives

- Understand the broad reach that the law has into everyday life.
- Gain an understanding of the basic structure of the Hong Kong legal system.
- Acquire the ability to critically analyze typical business scenarios in a legal context.
- Improve skills involving: problem solving, group coordination and interaction, and presentation.
- Develop more confidence in engaging in classroom participation.

III. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

1. Appreciate the interaction between business and law, analyze the effects that law has on businesses and investigate how businesses respond to legal environments.
2. Distinguish the fundamental components of legally enforceable agreements and demonstrate an understanding of contractual agreements.

3. Analyze the particular effects of a law in a social context and develop presentation skills through an oral critique.
4. Illustrate an understanding of the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance and the interaction in employment contracts between employees and employers.
5. Gain confidence in public speaking and ad hoc discussion and analysis.

IV. Alignment of Program and Course Outcomes

Program Learning Outcome	Course Intended Learning Outcomes
1. Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of major disciplines.	1, 2, 4
2. Application and integration of knowledge to solve problems	2, 4
3. Inculcating professionalism and leadership and competency	3, 5
4. Developing global outlook	3
5. Mastering communication skills	3, 5

V. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

1. *Lectures and in-class discussions* – the instructor will lecture and guide class discussion related to the Intended Learning Outcomes. Students are encouraged to participate through graded class participation. Every student will be expected to hold in-class dialogues with the instructor.
2. *Tutorials* – students must attend mandatory tutorial sessions, during which they will be further instructed and have an opportunity to ask questions in a smaller class setting.
3. *Group project and individual project* – students will have one group and one individual project to complete. These out-of-class projects will be handed in to the instructor as described below.
4. *Blog* – students will contribute to a running blog based on analyses of the interaction of law and business through current events.
5. *Book review* – students will have an opportunity to focus on a particular dimension of the law through an in-depth reading. An in-class presentation and critique of the book is expected from every student.

VI. Assessment

This class follows a continuous assessment model, which means that the student's progress is assessed throughout the course, rather than just at the end. Students will be assessed according to the following formula:

Assessment Items

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1. Blog | 20% |
| 2. Contract Project | 20% |
| 3. Book Review | 20% |
| 4. Employment Project | 20% |
| 5. Class Participation | 20% |

The table below illustrates the interaction between the ILOs, TLA, and methods of assessment.

ILO	TLA	Assessment
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1. Appreciate the interaction between business and law, analyze the effects that law has on businesses and investigate how businesses respond to legal environments.	1, 2, 4	1, 5
2. Distinguish the fundamental components of legally enforceable agreements and demonstrate an understanding of contractual agreements.	1, 2, 3	2, 4
3 Analyze the particular effects of a law in a social context and develop presentation skills through an oral critique.	1, 5	3
4. Illustrate an understanding of the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance and the interaction in employment contracts between employees and employers.	1, 2, 3	4
5. Gain confidence in public speaking and ad hoc discussion and analysis.	1, 2, 5	3, 5

VII. Standards for assessment

1. *Blog*

Students will be asked to spend time each week reading and summarizing news articles concerning law related matters and how law relates to business and society. Students will be required to (i) write at least one blog post during the semester for our course blog (hkubusinesslaw.wordpress.com), and (ii) comment at least one time every week on one of your classmate's blog posts. Additional information concerning this assessment activity will be provided.

2. *Contract Project*

This is a group assignment. Students will form groups of no more than five. Each group will read and analyze the proposed terms of an HSBC tax loan advertisement, which will be provided. The group will draft a letter to the grandparent of one group member, explaining (in non-legal, plain language) the most important things that the grandparent should understand before applying to take out this tax loan. For purposes of this project, the group should assume that the grandparent has no more than a secondary school education (which I am by no means assuming is the real case). 1000 word limit. The grading scheme will be provided.

3. *Book Review*

Students will choose one book from a list of books provided by the instructor that are connected to the law and its relationship to society. Each student will read the book and be prepared to present the book to the class in a five (5) minute oral presentation. The list of books and a grading scheme will be provided. Upon choosing a book to read and report upon, each student is affirming to the instructor that the student has not previously read the book.

4. *Employment Project*

This is a 48 hour, take-home, individual assignment that will be completed near the end of the semester. Each student will be given a hypothetical employment contract to review. The student will review the employment contract and respond to it with appropriate revisions. The revisions should correct or revise anything not in compliance with the Hong Kong labor law, as well point out and make revisions to terms that are objectively unfair to the employee. The revisions should be done using Microsoft Word, utilizing the "track changes" feature. The project will be based on (1) spotting each issue and (2)

providing alternative wording to make the contract either (a) comply with the HK employment ordinance or (b) present a fair compromise.

5. Class Participation

Students will be expected to contribute to class discussion. Students will be given reading assignments for each week and will be expected to have read the assignments and be prepared to discuss with the instructor. The instructor will call on students in a more-or-less random fashion to engage in dialogue with the instructor. Rather than a merely test of whether or not the student has read the assignment, the dialogue will focus on the students' reactions to the readings, as well as follow-on questions and discussion. The purpose of class participation is not to produce a "right answer" but instead provoke critical reasoning and enable students to practice "thinking on their feet." An explanation of the grading scheme for class participation will be provided.

Final Course Grade

The final course grade will be given by aggregating the points earned by each student in each of the above categories. The final grade will be determined by the following chart.

A+ A A-	B+ B B-	C+ C C-	D+ D	F
An aggregate score of 90% to 100%	An aggregate score of 80%-90%	An aggregate score of 60%-80%	An aggregate score of 50%-60%	An aggregate score of less than 50%

VIII. Academic Conduct

The University Regulations on academic dishonesty will be strictly enforced! Please check the University Statement on plagiarism on the web: <http://www.hku.hk/plagiarism/>.

Academic dishonesty is behavior in which a deliberately fraudulent misrepresentation is employed in an attempt to gain undeserved intellectual credit, either for oneself or for another. It includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following types of cases:

- **Plagiarism** - The representation of someone else's ideas as if they are one's own. Where the arguments, data, designs, etc., of someone else are being used in a paper, report, oral presentation, or similar academic project, this fact must be made explicitly clear by citing the appropriate references. The references must fully indicate the extent to which any parts of the project are not one's own work. **Paraphrasing** of someone else's ideas is still using someone else's ideas, and must be **acknowledged**.
- **Unauthorized Collaboration on Out-of-Class Projects** - The representation of work as **solely** one's own when in fact it is the result of a joint effort.
- **Cheating on In-Class Exams** - The covert gathering of information from other students, the use of unauthorized notes, unauthorized aids, etc.
- **Unauthorized Advance Access to an Exam** - The representation of materials prepared at leisure, as a result of unauthorized advance access (however obtained), as if it were prepared under the rigors of the exam setting. This misrepresentation is dishonest in itself even if there are not compounding factors, such as unauthorized uses of books or notes.

BUS11001 Business Law**COURSE SCHEDULE*** (Term 2 - 2011/2012)

Instructor: Beau Lefler

* Additional Readings are available on the course Moodle.

WEEK	LECTURING TOPICS	READING BEFORE TUTORIAL	READING BEFORE LECTURE	PROJECTS DUE
1 16 Jan	Course Overview Legal History / Legal System	Ch. 1, 2	Reading 1	
2 23 Jan	LUNAR NEW YEAR			
3 30 Jan	Legal History / Legal System (cont)	Ch. 1, 2	Reading 2	Blog – January birthdays
4 6 Feb	Legal History / Legal System (cont)	Ch. 1, 2	Reading 3 (Separate document – chapter 9 of Functional	Blog – February birthdays
5 13 Feb	Contracts	Ch. 4	Readings 4, 5 and 6	Blog – March birthdays
6 20 Feb	Contracts		Readings 7 and 8	Blog – April birthdays
7 27 Feb	Business Organizations Agency	Ch. 5, 7	Readings 9 and 10	Contracts project due Blog – May birthdays
8 5 Mar	READING WEEK			Blog – June birthdays
9 12 Mar	Book Presentations			Blog - July birthdays
10 19 Mar	Book Presentations			Blog – August birthdays
11 26 Mar	Torts	Ch. 9	Readings 11, 12, 13 and 14	Blog – September birthdays
12 2 Apr	Employment	Ch. 10	Readings 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19	Blog – October birthdays
13 9 Apr	Employment	Ch. 10	Reading 20	Blog – November birthdays
14 16 Apr	Ethics			Employment Project Blog – December birthdays
15 23 Apr	Ethics / Employment			