

GE1214: CITIZENS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Effective Term

Summer Term 2025

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Citizens and Criminal Justice

Subject Code

GE - Gateway Education

Course Number

1214

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

GE Area (Primary)

Area 2 - Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

LW4638 Criminal Justice

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to: arouse the curiosity of participants about the fundamental and necessary features of a fair and just system of criminal justice; encourage participants to explore and discover for themselves what are the requirements for and the features of a fundamentally ‘fair’ and ‘just’ criminal justice process in Hong Kong and other countries; provide participants with the ability to critically analyse and explain the workings of the criminal justice agencies and institutions (Department of Justice, police and the courts) in Hong Kong and how they work to protect freedoms and rights of Hong Kong citizens; raise participants’ critical awareness of the difference between the ‘theory’ and the practice of protection of basic rights of citizens caught up in the criminal justice process in Hong Kong and other jurisdictions. The treatment of vulnerable persons (children) and other persons caught up in the criminal process will be studied. provide, by case study and discussion, an understanding of what conduct ought to be labelled ‘criminal’ whilst appreciating that there are cultural differences to take into account. This adds to the student’s ability to apply his or her ethical awareness to important issues in our society. The student, by enquiry and discovery, develops an understanding of the important legal, moral, ethical and social foundations of systems of criminal justice. provide participants with skills in logical analysis and in presenting oral and written arguments.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Analytically describe and explain: the important features of a ‘fair’ and ‘just’ system of criminal justice wherever it is implemented.				x
2	Critically evaluate: · the fundamental rights and responsibilities of, and safeguards for, citizens of Hong Kong caught up in the criminal justice system. · the legal, ethical, moral and social considerations that are applied in a criminal justice system.		x		
3	Critically compare: those rights and responsibilities and safeguards in Hong Kong, and their underpinning considerations, with other jurisdictions.			x	x
4	Describe and explain: the role and value of the judge and jury in a criminal justice system.		x		
5	Describe and explain: the principles, the sentencing process and the methods of punishment of criminals in Hong Kong.		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	Students will engage in formal lectures to: - Analytically describe and explain key concepts in the Course: - relating to fundamental rights and responsibilities of, and safeguards for, citizens of Hong Kong caught up in the criminal justice system - the role of participants in the court process; and; - the sentencing process - Critically evaluate and compare, respectively, citizens' rights and responsibilities in the Hong Kong criminal justice system and their underpinning considerations	2, 4, 5
2	Guided reading	Students will engage in pre-reading and viewing of some digital-based videos before lectures and tutorials to describe and explain key concepts relating to criminal justice	4, 5

3	Tutorials	Students will engage in formative assessment, including critical evaluation and comparison and analysis and description and explanation, involving: · Class discussion, analysis and presentation individually and in teams, of case studies and problems · Team-based role playing as a jury in a trial and a judge in relation to a plea in mitigation; deciding on custodial or non-custodial sentence	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
4	Clinical exercise	Training in structured logical analysis through analysis and critical evaluation of the facts in a case study	1, 2, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class discussion	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	15	- Team and individual contributions to discussion and debate that addresses capacity for self-directed learning, critical thinking, interpreting of information and other GE PILOS. - The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed, unless specifically prescribed.	

2	Out-of-class power point presentation	1, 3, 4	5	- Students will make an out -of - class power point presentation on a media story. - The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.	
3	Court Visit Report	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	- The student discovers how 'justice' is attained in Hong Kong, as well as developing the skill needed to write a well organised assignment and develop critical thinking skills. - The use of Generative AI tools is not allowed.	

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

An aim of all the teaching and learning activities in this Course is to facilitate and motivate the students to develop an attitude of curiosity and inquiry into some of the fundamental ethical and moral issues arising in their own and other societies.

A student must obtain a minimum mark of 30% in both coursework and examination and an overall mark of 40% in order to pass the Course.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. In-class discussion (15 marks)

Criterion

Students need to obtain a minimum 30% in coursework overall (of which this assessment task is a sub-component)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize, superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of the subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues, evidence of familiarity with literature

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student is profiting from the university experience; understanding of subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter, weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature

Assessment Task

2. Out-of-class power point presentation. This comprises an out-of-class power point presentation on a media related topic relevant to the course (5 marks)

Criterion

Students need to obtain a minimum 30% in coursework overall (of which this assessment task is a sub-component)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize, superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of a strong knowledge base concerning the media item

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of the subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues, evidence of familiarity with literature concerning the media item

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student is profiting from the university experience; understanding of subject; some reference to literature concerning the media item

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter, weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature concerning the media item

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of literature concerning the media item

Assessment Task

3. Written Essay (30 marks)

Criterion

Students need to obtain a minimum 30% in coursework overall (of which this assessment task is a sub-component)

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize, superior grasp of subject matter.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of the subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student is profiting from the university experience; understanding of subject

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter, weakness in critical and analytic skills

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills

Assessment Task

4. Exam (50 marks)

Criterion

Students need to obtain a minimum 30%

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize, superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base in relation to the exam questions

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of the subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues in relation to the exam questions

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student is profiting from the university experience; understanding of subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in relation to the exam questions.

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter, weakness in critical and analytic skills in relation to the exam questions.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills in relation to the exam questions.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Criminal justice process and institutions; Human rights; Vulnerable citizens and the law; a comparative study of Hong Kong and other jurisdictions; Criminal investigation agencies; Judicial institutions; Juries; Rule of Law; What is a 'crime?'; Sentencing principles; Logical analysis;

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Wing Hong Chui and T Wing Lo (Eds) Understanding Criminal Justice in Hong Kong (Willian Publishing, 2017).
2	The Rules and Directions for the Questioning of Suspects and the Taking of Statements, issued by the Secretary for Security, 2nd Oct 1992.

3	Department of Justice, The Statement of Prosecution Policy and Practice, accessible through the Department of Justice website.
4	Department of Justice, 'The Victims of Crime Charter' , accessible through the Department of Justice website.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Cross, I.G., SC and Cheung, P S, Sentencing in Hong Kong, (Butterworths Asia, 8th Ed, 2018).
2	Chui, W.H., Social Work Model of Probation Supervision of Offenders in Hong Kong' , (2002) 49 Probation Journal 297-304.
3	Harris, R. J., and Lo. W.T., 'Community Service: Its Uses In Criminal Justice' , (2002) 46 International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology 427-444.
4	Alison Liebling, Shad Maruna and Lesley McAra (Eds) The Oxford Handbook of Criminology (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press 2017)

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 1: Demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning

1, 3, 4

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

1, 3, 4

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

1, 2, 4

PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text

1

PILO 6: Demonstrate effective oral communication skills

2, 3, 4

PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team

5

PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues

1, 2, 4

PILO 9: Value ethical and socially responsible actions

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

1, 3, 4, 5

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

Essay / Court Report – Related CILOs 1-4; Related GE PILOs 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10

Examination – Related CILOs 1-5; Related GE PILOs 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10