

SYLLABUSES FOR THE DOUBLE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF LAWS

These syllabuses apply to students admitted to the BA&LLB curriculum in the academic year 2025-26 and thereafter.

The BA and LLB curriculum comprises 300 credits of courses as follows:

- (a) 72 credits for the Literary Studies major comprising 24 credits of introductory Literary Studies electives, 6 credits of course offered by the Faculty of Arts, 6 credits of “LALS2001 Introduction to law and literary studies”, 30 credits of advanced Literary Studies electives and 6 credits of advanced interdisciplinary electives (LALS3xxx);
- (b) 156 credits of Professional Core comprising 108 credits of law compulsory courses, 30 credits of disciplinary electives¹, 6 credits of capstone, 6 credits of advanced interdisciplinary elective (LALS3xxx) and 6 credits of advanced interdisciplinary core course (LALS5xxx);
- (c) 36 credits of Free electives (any courses from Arts/ Law/ any other disciplines);
- (d) 36 credits of University requirements, including a non-credit bearing course “CAES1001. Academic Communication in English”, 6 credits of “CDDL9001. Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students”, 6 credits in artificial intelligence literacy, and 24 credits of Common Core courses; and
- (e) any other non-credit bearing courses as required.

As a graduation requirement, students need to complete a capstone experience for the Literary Studies major viz any one of the courses from the advanced interdisciplinary elective list by the end of the fourth or fifth year, and another capstone experience for the LLB Professional Core in the fourth or fifth year.

Please refer to the Syllabus for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts for the Arts course descriptions and the Syllabus for the Degree of Bachelor of Laws for the Law course descriptions.

FIRST YEAR (57 credits)

Literary Studies (18 credits)

12 credits of introductory Literary Studies electives, which can be any introductory level courses offered by the programmes of Chinese History and Culture, Chinese Language and Literature, Comparative Literature, English Studies, and Translation; and
6 credits of any course offered in the Faculty of Arts.

[Note: Students are advised to refer to the BA syllabuses for course descriptions and course enrollment requirements.]

Law (36 credits)

- LLAW1001. Law of contract I (6 credits)
- LLAW1002. Law of contract II (6 credits)
- LLAW1008. The legal system of the Hong Kong SAR (6 credits)
- LLAW1014. Criminal law I (6 credits)
- LLAW1015. Criminal law II (6 credits)
- LLAW1016. Legal research and writing (6 credits)²

¹ Law electives listed in the syllabus for the degree of LLB.

² A pass in “LLAW1016 Legal research and writing” shall be deemed to satisfy the “English in the Discipline” requirement under UG5(a) of the Regulations for First Degree Curricula.

University Requirements (3 credits)

AILT1001. Artificial Intelligence Literacy I (3 credits)
CAES1001. Academic Communication in English (non-credit bearing)³

SECOND YEAR (63 credits)

Literary Studies (12 credits)

12 credits of introductory Literary Studies electives, which can be any introductory level courses offered by the programmes of Chinese History and Culture, Chinese Language and Literature, Comparative Literature⁴, English Studies, and Translation.

[Note: Students are advised to refer to the BA syllabuses for course descriptions and course enrollment requirements.]

Law (24 credits)

LLAW1005. Law of tort I (6 credits)
LLAW1006. Law of tort II (6 credits)
LLAW2001. Constitutional law (6 credits)
LLAW3093. Administrative law (6 credits)

Introductory Interdisciplinary Core Course (6 credits)

LALS2001. Introduction to law and literary studies (6 credits)

[Note: Successful completion of “LALS2001 Introduction to law and literary studies” will also fulfill 6 credits (List B) of the advanced ENGL course enrollment requirement for English non-majors. For details of this requirement, please refer to the syllabus of the School of English for the 4-year ‘2012 curriculum’.]

University Requirements (21 credits)

CCXXxxxx. Common Core (18 credits)
3 credits in artificial intelligence literacy

[Note: A student who in the Second Year opts not to proceed to the LLB programme will be required to complete two more 6-credit Common Core courses and “CAES9202 Academic English: Literary Studies” (6 credits) in the Third Year to fulfill the University requirements for the BA Degree as prescribed in the relevant BA Regulations for the 4-year ‘2012 curriculum’.]

THIRD YEAR (60 credits)

Literary Studies (12 credits)

12 credits of advanced Literary Studies electives, which can be any advanced level courses offered by the programmes of Chinese History and Culture, Chinese Language and Literature, Comparative Literature, English Studies, and Translation, or any advanced courses offered by the Faculty of Arts that are specified on p. 5 below.

[Note: Students are advised to refer to the BA syllabuses for course descriptions and course enrollment requirements.]

³ Candidates who have achieved Level 5 or above in English Language in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination, or equivalent, are exempted from this requirement, and CAES1001 is optional.

⁴ Subject to availability. Note that BA&LLB students are permitted to enroll in advanced CLIT courses without completing the introductory level courses, but they are encouraged to do so only in their third year or above.

Law (30 credits)

- LLAW2009. Introduction to Chinese legal system (6 credits)
- LLAW2012. Commercial law (6 credits)
- LLAW2018. Land law I (6 credits)
- LLAW2019. Land law II (6 credits)
- LLAW3010. Business associations (6 credits)

Advanced Interdisciplinary Electives (6 credits)

- LALS3001. Law and literature (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2118 and LLAW3128)
- LALS3002. Law, meaning, and interpretation (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2126 and LLAW3161)
- LALS3003. Language and the law (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2127 and LLAW3190)
- LALS3004. Law and film (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3141)
- LALS3005. Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2165 and LLAW3226)
- LALS3006. Advanced legal theory (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3205)
- LALS3007. Sovereignty in law, theory and culture (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2160 and LLAW3225)
- LALS3008. Law, history and culture (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3233)
- LALS3009. Language rights and linguistic justice (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2161 and LLAW3249)
- LALS3010. The beginnings of English law and literature (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2164 and LLAW3251)
- LALS3011. The law of signs: Interpretative controversies in legal semiotics (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2168 and LLAW3264)
- LALS3012. Law and Social Theory (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3172)
- LALS3013. Art and law (6 credits) (cross-listed as GLAS2102)
- LALS3014. Shakespeare and the Law (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2174 and LLAW3274)
- LALS3015. Art and crime (6 credits) (cross-listed as GLAS2134)
- LALS3016. Legal language in Hong Kong: issues and directions (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3275)
- LALS3017. Law and Colonialism (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3285)

University Requirements (12 credits)

- CDDL9001. Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students (6 credits)⁵
- CCXXxxxx. Common Core (6 credits)

FOURTH AND FIFTH YEARS (120 credits, 60 credits per year)

Literary Studies (18 credits)

18 credits of advanced Literary Studies electives, which can be any advanced level courses offered by the programmes of Chinese History and Culture, Chinese Language and Literature, Comparative Literature, English Studies, and Translation, or any advanced courses offered by the Faculty of Arts that are specified on p.5 below.

[Note: Students are advised to refer to the BA syllabuses for course descriptions and course enrollment requirements.]

Law (54 credits)

- LLAW3001. Introduction to legal theory (6 credits)

⁵ Candidates who did not study Chinese language during their secondary education and have not reached the required proficiency for CDDL9001 may take a course in either Chinese language or Chinese culture in lieu.

- LLAW3094. Equity & trusts I (6 credits)
- LLAW3095. Equity & trusts II (6 credits)
- LLAWxxxx. Disciplinary electives (30 credits)[†]

Choose at least one of the following courses to fulfil the requirement of “Capstone course”⁶ (6 credits):

- LLAW3148. Clinical legal education
- LLAW3187. Mooting and dispute resolution⁷
- LLAW3198. Clinical legal education (China)
- LLAW3230. Business of justice clinic
- LLAW3246. Disability rights clinic
- LLAW3252. The global migration legal clinic
- LLAW3256. Clinical legal education (special needs financial planning)
- LLAW3280. Clinical legal education – refugee and human trafficking stream
- LLAW3281. Human rights in practice clinic

Advanced Interdisciplinary Electives (6 credits)

- LALS3001. Law and literature (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2118 and LLAW3128)
- LALS3002. Law, meaning, and interpretation (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2126 and LLAW3161)
- LALS3003. Language and the law (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2127 and LLAW3190)
- LALS3004. Law and film (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3141)
- LALS3005. Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2165 and LLAW3226)
- LALS3006. Advanced legal theory (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3205)
- LALS3007. Sovereignty in law, theory and culture (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2160 and LLAW3225)
- LALS3008. Law, history and culture (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3233)
- LALS3009. Language rights and linguistic justice (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2161 and LLAW3249)
- LALS3010. The beginnings of English law and literature (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2164 and LLAW3251)
- LALS3011. The law of signs: Interpretative controversies in legal semiotics (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2168 and LLAW3264)
- LALS3012. Law and Social Theory (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3172)
- LALS3013. Art and law (6 credits) (cross-listed as GLAS2102)
- LALS3014. Shakespeare and the Law (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2174 and LLAW3274)
- LALS3015. Art and crime (6 credits) (cross-listed as GLAS2134)
- LALS3016. Legal language in Hong Kong: issues and directions (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3275)
- LALS3017. Law and Colonialism (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3285)

Advanced Interdisciplinary Core Course (6 credits)

Select one course from below:

- LALS5001. Research project in law and literary studies (6 credits)
- LALS5002. Internship in law and literary studies (6 credits)

Free electives (36 credits)*[†]

⁶ Any of the listed capstone courses that fulfil the requirement of AL6(b)(v) and AL6(c)(ii) of the regulations for the Double Degree of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws shall be graded with a pass/fail and shall not be counted in the calculation of the GPA.

⁷ This may be substituted by participation in Jessup mooting or any other international moot competition approved by the Head of the Department of Law.

[†]For the purpose of PCLL admission, a candidate must satisfactorily complete Evidence I (or Evidence II), and comply with any other requirements as may be specified in the PCLL regulations from time to time.

* Free electives are courses offered within the same curriculum (both Law and Arts) or another curriculum offered by other faculties/departments/centres.

Course List of Advanced Literary Studies Electives Offered by the Faculty of Arts

All courses listed below carry 6 credits each.

ARTH2027.	The formation of modernity: Art in Europe, 1840-1900
ARTH2028.	Vision in crisis
ARTH3012.	Cross-cultural interactions in the 19th century
BSTC2021.	Buddhist ethics
BSTC2023.	History of Buddhism in India
BSTC2024.	The Buddhist conquest of China
BSTC2025.	Early Buddhist philosophy
BSTC2026.	Mahāyāna Buddhist philosophy
BSTC2027.	Tibetan Buddhism
BSTC2028.	Making sense of Chan Buddhism
BSTC2029.	Reading Chinese Buddhist texts
BSTC2030.	Chinese Buddhist calligraphy
FREN3021.	Francophone literatures and identities
FREN3022.	French and Francophone cinema
FREN3024.	Modern French literature
FREN3026.	Conveying otherness: French imaginings of Asia
FREN3035.	Painters and writers in modern France
FREN3036.	Portraits of the French language
FREN3037.	France and the World
GCIN2026.	Applied law to creative industries and laws: An introduction
GCIN2027.	Intellectual property, knowledge and creativity: Mapping out the legal issues
GCIN2033.	Gender and creative industries: An introduction
GCIN2034.	Political communication, cultural policy and creative industries
GCIN2035.	Digital economy, media and entertainment
GCIN2038.	Entertainment markets and digital audiences in Asia
GCIN2039.	New media and global popular culture industry
GCIN2051.	Understanding cultural politics
GEND2003.	Gender generation and leadership
GEND2004.	Gender in visual and material culture
GEND2005.	Religion, gender, and sexuality
GEND2007.	Sexuality and culture
GEND2008.	Queer Theory and women's perspectives
GEND2009.	Feminist and queer literature in Asian contexts
GEND2010.	Feminist science and technology studies
GEND2011.	Feminism in popular culture
GEND2014.	Gender and sports
GEND2015.	Performing the body through film
GLAS2104.	Global connections in world cinema: Networks that facilitate independent filmmaking
GLAS2105.	Film beyond the mainstream: global art cinema
GLAS2106.	Africa in cinema: Citizenship, ethnicity, religion and class in past and present
GLAS2107.	From cinema to society: Understanding Europe in a global context
GLAS2108.	U.S. film in a global context from Golden-Age Hollywood to new Hollywood and beyond
GLAS2115.	Latin America/US cultural relations
GLAS2122.	World War I

GLAS2126.	Cultural approaches to dictatorships in Chile and Argentina
GLAS2128.	Magical realism in Latin American literature and film
GLAS2130.	Empire writes back: Introduction to African literature
GLAS2131.	Language policies in Europe
GLAS2137.	The Americans on stage: Theatre, family and society
GLAS2138.	Tales of the North – Analyzing, contextualizing and writing the genres that defines Scandinavian literature
GLAS2142.	Monsters, Nightmares and Dystopian Imagination
GRMN3028.	Kino! Studies in German cinema
GRMN3032.	From Goethe to Grönemeyer – Reading German texts
HIST2031.	History through film
HIST2063.	Europe and modernity: Cultures and identities, 1890-1940
HIST2069.	History of American popular culture
HIST2070.	Stories of self: History through autobiography
HIST2081.	Gender and history: Beauty, fashion and sex
HIST2082.	Europe and its others
HIST2083.	Gender, sexuality and empire
HIST2085.	The history of modern sexual identity and discourse
HIST2113.	New worlds: Exploring the history of Latin America
HIST2119.	Changing lives: Women's history from Fin-de-Siècle to the interwar years
HIST2126.	The American family: Histories, myths, and realities
HIST2130.	The civilizing mission and modern European imperialism
HIST2131.	Growing up 'girl': Histories, novels, and American culture
HIST2139.	Greek religion, society and culture in the Classical Age
HIST2158.	Women in Hong Kong history: Private lives and public voices
HIST2160.	Visualizing history
HIST2161.	Making race
HIST2162.	Saving the world: A history of global humanitarianism
HIST2165.	Protest and politics in modern U.S. history
HIST2166.	Gender and sexuality on trial: A global history of sex and scandal, 1690-1990
HIST2167.	Anarchism, radicalism, utopianism: Actors, communes and movements in the modern world
HIST2170.	The making of the Islamic world: The Middle East, 500-1500
HIST2171.	American legal history
HIST2172.	Revolutionizing health in modern China
HIST2173.	American antistatism
HIST2174.	Hell in the pacific: The Japan-America War and its legacies today
HIST2175.	Medicine, propaganda and colonialism in Asia: 1895-1945
HIST2177.	The economic history of modern China, 1800 to the present
HIST2178.	Trials of history: The courtroom from historical perspective
HIST2179.	Law, empire and world history: From pirates to human rights?
HIST2180.	The origins of scientific thought
HIST2181.	A sea of stuff: Commerce and colonialism in the Indian Ocean, 1500-2000
HIST2182.	Seascapes and skylines: Environment and infrastructure in Asia
HIST2184.	China and Japan since the 19 th century
HIST2185.	A history of propaganda in East Asia
HIST2188.	The making of modern South Asia
HIST2189.	Terrorism: A global history from anarchists to ISIS
HIST2191.	History of Chinese Christianity
HIST2196.	Race, gender, and sexuality in American Empire since 1898
HIST2197.	The Chinese Revolution, 1921-1949: A documentary approach
HIST2205.	Digital history: From concordances to big data
HIST2207.	Printer, typesetter, reader, scribe: A global history of books
HIST2216.	History of European Socialism, 1850-2000
HIST3025.	Hitler and the National Socialist ideology

HIST3027.	Natural disasters in history, 1700 to present
HIST3077.	Gandhi: A global history
HIST3078.	Cold War science fiction
HIST3080.	Historical gaming
HIST3083.	Intellectual history of early modern East Asia
HKGS2001.	Speaking of Hong Kong: Global voices
HKGS2002.	Hong Kong identities in local, national and global contexts
HKGS2008.	Introduction to Hong Kong Cantopop lyrics
HKGS2015.	Understanding Hong Kong through mass media
ITAL3021.	Contemporary Italian literature
JAPN2050.	Creative industries in East Asia (Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and Japan)
JAPN2071.	Introduction to modern Japanese literature
JAPN2074.	China in the Japanese Literary Imagination
JAPN2075.	Introduction to postwar and contemporary Japanese literature
JAPN2081.	Japanese literature
JAPN2082.	Japanese film and society
JAPN2084.	Studies in Japanese culture
JAPN2087.	Introduction to Japanese literature: Beginnings to 1900
JAPN2095.	Gender and sexuality in modern Japanese literature
JAPN2098.	Of courtesans, samurai, and vengeful ghosts: Japanese literature of the early modern period
JAPN3027.	Comparative study of phonetics in Japanese and Cantonese
JAPN3041.	Creative writing and speaking skills in Japanese
JAPN3067.	Japanese pragmatics: Understanding the hidden meaning
KORE2032.	Korean literature in translation: sentiments and human relationships in modern Korean fiction
KORE2033.	Modern and contemporary Korea: Modernity and social change
KORE2034.	Gender, sexuality, and family in Korea
KORE2038.	Global Korean pop culture
KORE2044.	The Korean War: Origins, aftermath, reconstruction, and remembrance
KORE3026.	Special topics in modern Korean literature
KORE3041.	Chinese-Korean translation
KORE3043.	Border-crossing literature from Korea and beyond
LING2003.	Semantics: Meaning and grammar
LING2013.	Language typology: The study of linguistic diversity
LING2022.	Pragmatics
LING2023.	Discourse analysis
LING2040.	Languages in contact
LING2059.	Writing systems
LING2065.	Endangered languages: Issues and methods
LING2066.	Variation analysis
LING2067.	Natural language processing
LING2068.	Computational approaches to language
LING2069.	Origins of language
LING2070.	Historical linguistics: Languages, genes and human migrations
LING2072	Advanced statistics for the humanities
LING2073	Advanced topics in syntax
LING2074	Introduction to second language research
LING2075	Issues in language documentation
LING2076.	Mind and body: A holistic approach to the sounds of language
MUSI2044.	Film music
PHIL2027.	Political philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau
PHIL2030.	Kant's critical philosophy
PHIL2075.	The semantics/pragmatics distinction
PHIL2077.	Habermas

PHIL2095.	Truth and propaganda
PHIL2100.	Paradoxes of decision
PHIL2101.	Paradoxes of cooperation
PHIL2105.	Vagueness, indeterminacy, and uncertainty
PHIL2260.	Seminar in mind and language
PHIL2310.	Theories of morality
PHIL2312.	Probability, epistemology, and ethics
PHIL2315.	Value theory
PHIL2324.	Philosophy of humor
PHIL2340.	Moral problems
PHIL2341.	Bioethics
PHIL2345.	Social contract theories
PHIL2355.	Theories of justice
PHIL2360.	Political philosophy
PHIL2362.	Liberal democracy
PHIL2365.	Philosophical problems of modernity
PHIL2375.	Philosophy of art
PHIL2380.	Philosophy and literature
PHIL2430.	Chinese philosophy: ethics
PHIL2435.	Traditional Chinese political thought
PHIL2443.	Xunzi
PHIL2445.	Mohism
PHIL2470.	Moral psychology in the Chinese tradition
PHIL2610.	Philosophy of language
PHIL2651.	Bad language: the philosophy of non-ideal language use
PHIL2652.	Language of the internet
PHIL2900.	Formal epistemology
SPAN3023.	Hispanic visual and literary cultures
SWED3003.	Swedish reading course

A. Interdisciplinary Courses

i. Introductory Interdisciplinary Core Course

LALS2001. Introduction to law and literary studies (6 credits)

This course introduces students to the different ways in which literary and legal texts can interact. Topics include literature as a humanizing supplement to the law, the history of ‘discipline’ as a concept, legal versus literary interpretation, linguistic dimensions of court judgments, confessions, and psychological processes implicit in legal reasoning. The course is deliberately designed as a team-taught course so that students enrolled in the double degree will be exposed to the approaches of different faculty members involved in the programme from an early stage in their academic careers.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

ii. Advanced Interdisciplinary Electives

The successful completion of any of the advanced interdisciplinary courses below by the end of the Fourth or Fifth Year will fulfill the capstone experience for the Literary Studies major.

LALS3001. Law and literature (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2118 and LLAW3128)

This course explores the complex interactions between literature and the law. Even though the two disciplines may seem distinct, both law and literature are products of language and have overlapped in

significant and interesting ways in history. Why do legal themes recur in fiction, and what kinds of literary structures underpin legal argumentation? How do novelists and playwrights imagine the law, and how do lawyers and judges interpret literary works? Could literature have legal subtexts, and could legal documents be re-interpreted as literary texts? We will think through these questions by juxtaposing novels, plays, court cases, and critical theory.

Pre-requisite: a previous course in legal and/or literary subject.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3002. Law, meaning, and interpretation (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2126 and LLAW3161)

This course is concerned with meaning in verbal discourse. What makes the course distinctive, however, is that its interest in interpretation will be comparative, not between different languages but as regards how verbal discourse is interpreted in settings that bring different interpretive norms to bear on linguistic data: e.g. in literary and film interpretation, in religious interpretation, and in legal interpretation. The course begins with an introductory review of topics and approaches in semantics and pragmatics, then traces how meanings are ascribed differently in a selection of disciplinary and institutional settings. A final stage of the course is concerned with how approaches to interpretation engage with one another and the controversies and debates that arise when they do. No specialized knowledge of linguistics, law, or religious interpretation is needed; the course will provide a multidisciplinary introduction to the fields under discussion. In doing so, it will draw extensively on contributions made by students who are taking or have taken relevant courses in linguistics, literary criticism, and other cognate fields.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3003. Language and the law (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2127 and LLAW3190)

Language plays an essential role both in creating law (e.g. in how specific laws are drafted) as well as in the implementation of law (e.g. in how language is deployed but also contested - in court). This course examines how language plays these important social roles, and addresses topics, including: different linguistic registers and genres which shape our concept of what legal language is; communicative strategies, adopted in the courtroom by speakers occupying different roles (judge, barrister, defendant, witness, etc.); how language is used and understood in legal drafting and interpretation; submission of language data as evidence in some court cases; and linguistic and legal issues that arise in bilingual and multilingual jurisdictions (i.e. in systems that formulate and apply their law in two or more different languages). Together, such aspects of language use form the subject matter of an increasingly researched and studied interdisciplinary field, known as 'language and law' or 'forensic linguistics', to which this course provides an accessible introduction.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3004. Law and film (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3141)

Legal actors, institutions and problems have fascinated filmmakers since the early days of cinema. This course examines the ways in which the law and the legal system have been represented in a variety of films, and also considers the ways in which films engage with legal debates and controversies. This course is cross-listed between the Department of Law and the Department of Comparative Literature; it aims to encourage reflection on the cultural lives of the law and also on a central theme in film studies. No prior background in film studies or the law will be assumed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3005. Legal fictions: United States citizenship and the right to write in America (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2165 and LLAW3226)

In 1776, the idea of self-evidence grounded the philosophical assertion that “all men are created equal.” And yet, political, economic and social equality in the democratic republic of the United States has often proven less of a guarantee and more of a promise. Beginning with Thomas Jefferson’s writing of the “Declaration of Independence,” the recognition of a person as fully human in the United States has depended on assumptions regarding race, class and gender. The course examines the changing definition of United States citizenship by putting legal texts (the U.S. Constitution, federal and state laws, Executive Orders, Supreme Court decisions) in dialogue with literary writings and film. In this course we will read stories by people whom federal and or state law barred from full citizenship. Through autobiographies, fiction, poetry and speeches, we will examine the cultural legacy of legal terms such as “domestic dependent nation,” “illegal alien” and “unlawful enemy combatant.” The course themes may include: property and democracy, slavery, westward expansion and Indian Removal, immigration (with particular focus on China and Asia), the right of women to vote, and the wartime powers of the Executive Office. Our goal will be to pay careful attention to the language and genres of the American legislative and judicial system, and conversely to contextualize literature in relation to the legal history through which the U.S. Constitution has been reinterpreted and amended to broaden its terms of equality. We will read writers who used words to protest against and revise the historical circumstances in which they had to fight for legal standing. We will also consider how different kinds of writing -- legal, scientific, autobiographical and fictional -- employ different rhetorical strategies to reach audiences, affect readers and influence the world.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3006. Advanced legal theory (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3205)

This course provides an in-depth analysis of a number of key themes and texts in legal theory. Each year a core theme is introduced to provide a coherence to the study of several perennial problems in legal theory. This year the theme will be ‘Liberty and Obligation’. It has been chosen to allow students to engage with certain key claims and demands that are made by or on behalf of contemporary law and legal institutions, exploring the more or less paradoxical relationship between the binding qualities of law and the promise of liberty it holds out.

The course will work in a sustained way through a range of questions and perspectives so that students gain a deeper knowledge of legal theoretical issues and how they bear on contemporary problems of law in society. These will be explored through a series of engagements with texts, contexts, representations and contestations.

The course is seminar-based and will be taught through a range of materials and disciplinary approaches. These will include conventional scholarly texts in law, politics and philosophy, but may also draw on non-standard resources. The classes will be discussion-based.

Students are expected to pursue their own interests and insights on the issues raised in the course in a 5,000 word research essay. The subject of the essay will be devised by each student individually in consultation with the course convenor. An oral presentation will allow students to articulate their understanding of the ideas being analysed, as well as to answer questions on it.

As this is an advanced level course it is expected that students will normally have already studied some aspect of legal theory or a cognate subject. However, this is not a prerequisite.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3007. Sovereignty in law, theory and culture (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2160 and LLAW3225)

Sovereignty is a centrally important concept for both law and politics, to which recent debates in Hong Kong testify. In this course we will assess the meaning and significance of sovereignty by drawing on resources from across the arts, humanities and social sciences. We will read and discuss materials from law, political theory, philosophy, urban studies, literature and the visual arts in order to answer the following questions: What is sovereignty and how is it related to the history of the state? How is our

understanding of sovereignty changing in the context of contemporary challenges like globalization, climate change and international terrorism? And what would law and politics look like without sovereignty? The course takes a broad historical sweep, from early-modern conceptions to the present day. We will look at key theorists of sovereignty like (the authoritarian) Thomas Hobbes, (the Nazi-sympathizing) Carl Schmitt and (the anarchist philosopher) Giorgio Agamben as well as explore thinkers who are trying to imagine law and politics ‘without’ or ‘beyond’ sovereignty. Throughout the course, we supplement theoretical and legal debates with insights from literature and the visual arts. The plays of William Shakespeare; poetry written by inmates within the Guantanamo detention centers; 17th century emblems and images; and an early-twentieth century novel will all help us understand the meaning of sovereignty and explore possibilities for its critique.

The course will be of particular interest to students who have enjoyed classes in legal theory, law and literature, law and film, or constitutional law. But the course is open to all who are excited to explore the possibilities of interdisciplinary scholarship and want to find out more about the elusive but crucially important notion of sovereignty. This course hopes to broaden the scholarly horizons of students by bringing students together from different disciplinary backgrounds. The course will provide participants with valuable cross-disciplinary reading, rhetorical and evaluative skills.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3008. Law, history and culture (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3233)

This course will enable students to research and examine the history of law and its connection with social, political and economic development of Hong Kong and China in the 19th and 20th centuries through students’ first-hand exploration of archival documents and images stored in libraries and the Public Records Office. Students, through a close reading of archival materials, will be asked to reflect critically on their conventional basic ideas about the legal system, social customs and culture of Hong Kong and China. These ideas include, among others: ‘Imperial China lacks the rule of law’; ‘Hong Kong’s rule of law is a British colonial legacy’; and ‘Chinese traditionally preferred settling disputes through mediation than resorting to the law’. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, this course will explore how the notion of law functions as a site of discourse in the expression of identity as well as the articulation of ethnic, cultural and socio-economic differences.

Assessment: 10% class participation, 90% research essay.

LALS3009. Language rights and linguistic justice (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2161 and LLAW3249)

The first part of the course offers a broad picture of linguistic diversity and cultural preservation, traces the evolution of language rights and explores the historical connections of such evolution with nation states, warfare, and globalization. The second part of the course surveys international and national legal regimes in the protection of language rights, covering both minority language rights and official language rights, and their manifestations as negative and positive rights. We will examine how some of these rights are realized in the domains of education, legal processes and public services across jurisdictions, as well as the limitations of their reach. The third part of the course focuses on the philosophical and moral basis of language rights, addresses sources of contention, and queries the concept of ‘linguistic justice’. Such discussions provide a lens through which tensions between liberalism and diversity may be probed.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3010. The beginnings of English law and literature (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2164 and LLAW3251)

Students completing the course will have a strong sense of the history and development of English

statute and common law, familiarity with many of the canonical literary texts and authors of the medieval and renaissance periods, and a critical understanding of the interactions of pre-modern law and literature, as well as the ability to undertake legal and literary research using primary texts and documentary artefacts from manuscript libraries and archives. The course focuses on developing students' skills in developing arguments about a range of canonical literary texts, but also on the ways in which literary approaches can be the basis for understanding text traditionally considered to be 'non-literary': legal and archival materials. An innovation of this course is its centralization of the material archive of books and documents. As part of its training in legal and literary history, the course introduces students to the history of the book as an academic discipline, and to the skills of pre-modern archival research – paleography, codicology, diplomatic, and textual scholarship, among others. In this way, the course (while reinforcing the general skills of legal and literary research and argument necessary for the successful completion of the LLB or BA) should also prepare students to take on postgraduate work in a new range of disciplines focusing on the pre-modern period, and thus open to them a greater number of career paths after their time at HKU.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3011. The law of signs: Interpretative controversies in legal semiotics (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2168 and LLAW3264)

This course investigates the way that law treats verbal and visual signs. The study of signs is termed semiotics. By sign is meant here the visual and verbal bearer of contentious meanings and/or of disputed cultural significance. Through the study of decided cases, the courses analyzes how verbal and visual signs encounter law's definitions, registration regimes, prohibition, censorship, or protection. Among the legal domains involved are: trademark and copyright law; employment and discrimination law; censorship, free speech and obscenity law; blasphemy; public order law; human rights law. The course will be divided into sections by topic (not all of which will be taught for each iteration): (i) names and marks (legal limits on the right to choose, registration regimes in relation to personal and corporate names, marks, titles, licence plates, domain names); (ii) art (art works and customs regulations, legal definitions of art; art works and forgery, e.g. artistic images of currency; art works and parody; art and taboo; song lyrics and taboo meanings); (iii) flags, insignia and symbols (laws against flag desecration; banned political symbols; triad society symbols; gang insignia); (iv) speech versus conduct (gestures; public order offences involving swearing, insulting language or behaviour; contempt of court; the definition of speech under the First Amendment); (v) clothing and hair-styles (e.g. employment law; sumptuary laws; contempt of court); (vi) cultural appropriation and identity (the commercial use of indigenous linguistic materials and cultural symbols); (vii) language in public spaces (regulations on signage; noise and nuisance; the definition of public). The course focuses on the underlying legal, socio-political, and semiotic doctrines that are at play, but also the implicit or explicit theory of the sign, the understanding of how signs communicate, how the ownership of signs and images is understood, and how law assigns authorial and interpretative responsibility for meanings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3012. Law and Social Theory (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3172)

Amongst the most powerful of contemporary analyses of law and legal institutions are those which draw on the tradition of social theory. These trends now constitute a discrete area of academic enquiry that is of growing importance and relevance. This course offers a series of readings which draw on that tradition and think them through in relation to contemporary legal problems.

This course will develop students' knowledge of the basic paradigms of social theory as it relates to law and place the development of law in social theoretical and historical context. By developing a critical understanding of the relationship between law and social theory students will assess the differences between diverse theoretical approaches and be able to develop and articulate their own understanding of the appropriate paradigms for analysis in legal and social theory. The aim is therefore to enhance

students' understanding of contemporary law and legal institutions.

Topics to be covered may include: competing theories of law and modernity; analyses of alternative approaches to power and security; the role and consequences of processes of juridification; and theories of globalization.

Assessment: 20% presentation, 80% research essay.

LALS3013. Art and law (cross-listed as GLAS2102)

Art and law (Art + Law) is distinct from the practice of art law. While the latter occupies the field of art business, the former considers how art and law might be mutual endeavors, one informing the other. This class focuses on the former, considering how artists have provoked, represented, wielded, refined, tested, expanded, and unconventionally complied with private and public law. This intersection of art and law invites questions: Who or what authorizes or bestows the label of art? What is the basis for this authority and how are artworks influenced by, and/or function in opposition to, such authorizing forces? Can and how has the law been represented in art? How have artworks and artists disrupted legal regimes through civil disobedience (the breaking of a law); and how has dissent been expressed through uncivil obedience (the following of a law in a hyperbolic, literalistic, and unanticipated manner)? Although global in outlook, the cases under discussion are largely (although certainly not exclusively) Western in focus. Yet, the topics considered in this class might be applied to any number of geographic and cultural arenas. This course is not a history of art law, and neither is it a history of art symbolically looking at law; rather, this class examines the mutually influencing spheres wherein art activates, images, provokes, interacts with, and even interferes with the law.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3014. Shakespeare and the law (6 credits) (cross-listed as ENGL2174 and LLAW3274)

Shakespeare made extensive use of legal terms, ideas, and procedures in his drama. In this course, we will examine the connections between Shakespeare and the law in two broad ways. First, we will look at how law, and legal reasoning, contributed to Shakespeare's construction of drama, including his famed creation of vivid, life-like characters. We will explore how legal notions of intention, suspicion, and inference informed the "inwardness" or "interiority" of Shakespeare's characters. Students will be asked to bring early modern legal cases (such as *Hales v Petit*) and land law (*Domesday Book*) to bear on their analysis of Hamlet's much discussed "delay". We will consider both how early modern legal training – including forensic rhetoric and evidentiary reasoning – informed Shakespeare's dramatic technique, and how literary, narratological, and affective strategies informed the development of English law.

Second, the course will explore the interrelationships between language, law, and power. The relationship between the crown and the law (*rex v lex*) was much debated in early modern England and was a central focus of Shakespeare's history plays. We will examine the intersection of law and power politics in *2 Henry VI*, a play famous for the rebel cry: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers". The line speaks to deep social grievances concerning the role and nature of law, the place of the commons, and the nature of authority. Students will examine important texts in the early modern understanding of kingship and authority, including case law (*Calvin's Case*, *Case of the Duchy of Lancaster*, *Willion v Berkley*), legal theory (Edward Coke's foundational writings on the common law and Ernst Kantorowicz's *The King's Two Bodies*), and Elizabethan political theology (*Homily on Obedience*, *Homily Against Disobedience*). *2 Henry VI* also offers an opportunity to examine Shakespeare's treatment of the legal trial, the criteria for interpretation and judgement, and the connection between trial jury and theatre audience.

Pre-requisite: a previous course in legal and/or literary subject.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3015. Art and crime (6 credits) (cross-listed as GLAS2134)

Art and crime (Art + Crime) is a gripping intersection. It overlaps with but also remains distinct from art crime. This class will consider key issues in art and crime such as: the valuing mechanisms of the art market, financial regulation, cultural property and repatriation, art heists, speculative crime, looting and illicit trade, true crime, forensic architecture, vandalism, and the world of counterfeits and forgeries. We will discuss the events surrounding The Gardner Museum heist (1990) and its afterlife in various narratives (*Hacking the Heist, Empty Frames*) and artworks (Sophie Calle, *Last Seen...*), and creative projects by Janice Kerbel, Barton Lidice Beneš, J.S.G. Boggs, Tom Sachs, Maurizio Cattelan, Dennis Oppenheim, Ulay, Richard Prince, Ann Messner, Ricardo Dominguez, Kathryn Clark, Núria Güell and Levi Orta, Robert Rauschenberg, Banksy, and Gordon Parks, among others. We will analyze how art is caught up in criminal activities as well as how it re-enacts, visualizes, and/or participates in such activities. In other words, this class considers not only art crime, but also those artworks for which crime is subject, content, and/or medium of expression.

Prerequisite: Nil

Assessment: 100% coursework.

LALS3016. Legal language in Hong Kong: issues and directions (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3275)

This course aims to introduce law students to language issues arising out of the legal context in Hong Kong (for example, the Hong Kong legal system and legal practice), as a unique jurisdiction which practises the common law and uses both Chinese and English as official languages. The course looks at how law affects the use and development of legal language in Hong Kong, and vice versa. It consists of both general seminars on the legal and linguistic theories pertinent to the analysis, and special sessions devoted to discussing topical issues or other areas of interest. Typical issues include bilingual legislative texts, courtroom interpretation, and the translation of court judgments and legal texts in Hong Kong. Guest lecturers (including judges and legal practitioners) are invited to provide practical perspectives. Texts and sources from other jurisdictions, including Mainland China and Taiwan are also studied to provide comparative perspectives. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to apply newly acquired knowledge and multidisciplinary perspectives, in order to critically analyse and propose the way forward on the use of language in the Hong Kong legal context.

Students taking the course will be assumed to be reasonably proficient in traditional Chinese (written) and Cantonese (oral).

Assessment: 10% class participation, 30% group project and presentation, 60% research essay.

LALS3017. Law and Colonialism (6 credits) (cross-listed as LLAW3285)

The course critically examines the relationships between law and colonialism, drawing on disciplinary knowledge and methods in law, anthropology, history, cultural studies, and political and social theory. The focus is on modern European colonisation, particularly the British Empire in the nineteenth century and its continuations into the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics will include how law has been used as an *instrument* of colonial and anti-colonial processes; how law has been the *product* of colonisation, as well as *productive* of colonial forms of authority and subjectivity; how law has been a *site* of colonial struggles, transformations and movements; how law has been part of a social *imaginary* implicated in ‘Orientalisms’ old and new; and how law has been treated as a *gift* of colonisation as well as a measure of its ‘achievements’. These topics will be taught across the following modules:

- Origins of the field: anthropological and historical studies from the “North”.
- Origins of the field: political and literary studies from the “South”.
- Law as an instrument of colonial power: “the cutting edge of colonialism”.
- Law as an instrument of resistance, self-determination, and repair.

- Law as a product of colonisation: the making of “customary law”.
- Law as productive of colonisation: authority, subjectivity, territory, order.
- Law as a site of colonisation: from courts to trade routes.
- Law as part of a colonial imaginary: “Orientalisms” old and new.
- Law as a “gift” of colonisation and as a measure of its “achievements”.
- Extensions of the field: international law and development into the 21st Century.

Students of all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

iii. Advanced Interdisciplinary Core Courses

LALS5001. Research project in law and literary studies (6 credits)

The final-year research project enables students to pursue their individual interests in any aspect of the intersection between literary and legal discourses under the supervision of a faculty member. The project will culminate in an extended essay of approximately 5,000 words. Students are expected to meet with their supervisors regularly and to present their work-in-progress to their supervisors in the course of the semester.

Assessment: 100% research paper.

LALS5002. Internship in law and literary studies (6 credits)

This internship course encourages students to contribute to socially impactful projects using the skills and knowledge they have acquired in their interdisciplinary undergraduate studies, and provides them with an opportunity to broaden their undergraduate education through experiential learning. Students will acquire invaluable work experience, hone transferrable skills for a wide range of careers, and develop sharper awareness of social issues and legal challenges.

We will offer both internships with external partners (including but not limited to PEN International Hong Kong) and in-house internships. An example of in-house internships is Digital Manuscript Studies Research Network - Research Assistant Internship in Law and Literature, led by Dr. Anya Adair, a partnership with University of Sydney on digital humanities and legal manuscripts. Students enrolled into the course might work on legal and archival research, fact checking, interviewing people, grant-writing and fund-raising, event management, writing legal documents, reports or copy for publication, translation and communication, interpersonal speaking and writing, networking and outreach.

Under the guidance of the course supervisor, students must write an application (consisting of a statement of intent and a resume) to the organization of their choice before the beginning of the semester in which they plan to enroll into the internship course. They must pass an interview with the organization before being allowed to register with the course. The duration of the internship will depend on the arrangement between the student and the organization, but should involve at least 40 hours of service for the organization (approximately 3 hours per week). Students will be assessed by the organization contact and will receive a letter of reference from the organization at the end of the internship.

At the end of the internship, students need to submit a written report (approximately 2000 words) on work/project(s) conducted during the internship and a critical reflection on the internship experience, signed by the organization contact. The report should reflect on how their interdisciplinary training integrates with the workplace experience, and how the experience enhances their personal development and growth, including whether the experience has helped them identify their strengths and areas in need of improvement.

During the semester, students will meet with the course supervisor at least twice to discuss the internship progress and the written report.

The assessment of their performance is not based on specific assignments but their ongoing workplace experience, the evaluation provided by the host organization, as well as the written report. This course

is credit-bearing but will not be counted in the calculation of the GPA as it is graded on a pass/fail basis. Assessment: 100% coursework (graded on a pass/fail basis).

B. Law Electives

Please refer to the courses listed as “disciplinary electives” in the syllabus for the degree of LLB.

C. Chinese Language Enhancement Course

Students are required to successfully complete the 6-credit Chinese language enhancement course (CDDL9001) for graduation, except for

- (a) Non-local Putonghua/Mandarin-speaking candidates who should take “CUND9001 Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers”, “CUND9002 Practical Chinese and Hong Kong Society”, “CUND9003 Cantonese for Non-Cantonese Speaking Students” or “CUND9004 Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students”; and
- (b) Students who did not study Chinese language during their secondary education and have not reached the required proficiency level for CDDL9001 should seek approval from the Board of Studies for exemption from the Chinese language enhancement requirement, and take a course in either Chinese language or Chinese culture (CHIN95xx) offered by the Chinese Language Centre of the School of Chinese in lieu.

CDDL9001. Practical Chinese for Double Degree Law Students (6 credits)

The course aims to introduce students to the features of Chinese under the HKSAR legal system and to the use of oral and written legal Chinese, in order to equip students with the basic knowledge and skills needed for the increasingly important legal practice in Chinese in the HKSAR. Specifically, students will learn about traditional and simplified Chinese characters, modern Chinese grammar and rhetoric (both generally and in the legal context), searching for and using legal resources in Chinese (both in print and online), and practical legal writing and oral presentation skills using Chinese.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

CUND9001. Basic Spoken and Written Cantonese for Mandarin Speakers (6 credits)

This intensive Cantonese language course is designed for Mandarin (Putonghua) speakers who have no prior knowledge of Cantonese. The course aims to assist students in mastering Jyutping, the Cantonese romanization system, while simultaneously cultivating students' ability to communicate effectively in Cantonese, both orally and in written form, across a variety of situational conversations. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to practical sentence structures and a wide range of useful vocabulary related to various aspects of daily life. Furthermore, the curriculum allows students to gain insight into Hong Kong culture.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.

CUND9002. Practical Chinese and Hong Kong society (6 credits)

This course is specifically designed for the students from the Mainland. With Putonghua as the medium of instruction, it aims to underscore the characteristic styles and formats of practical Chinese writings in the workplace context in Hong Kong. Topics addressing the rhetorical strategies for reader-oriented professional writings are included to strengthen the students' command of the language. The evolution of Cantonese and the lexical and phonetic systems of this dialect will be explored. The local history and

culture of Hong Kong will also be considered. On-site visits are organized to deepen the students' understanding of local traditions and, more importantly, to enhance their ability to appreciate and accept cultural and regional differences. Students will be able to apply the concepts and skills to accomplish different tasks effectively and persuasively in diverse and complex issues in oral and written forms as well as to produce good-quality practical writing.

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination.

CUND9003. Cantonese for non-Cantonese speaking students (6 credits)

This course is designed specifically for Putonghua speaking students that are proficient in the use of the Chinese language. It aimed at enabling students to learn the characteristics of Hong Kong written and spoken Chinese language, to discover the differences in vocabulary and expression between the Cantonese dialect and Putonghua. Through a comparative analysis of Putonghua and Cantonese, this course will familiarize students with traditional and simplified Chinese characters, strengthening their communication skills in everyday life, and to have a proper understanding of the culture, traditions and people in Hong Kong. This course is essential to students who must adapt to lifestyle in Hong Kong within a short period of time.

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination.

CUND9004. Practical Applied Chinese Writing and Effective Presentation Skills for Non-local Mandarin Speaking Students (6 credits)

The course aims to cultivate non-local Mandarin-speaking students' logical thinking and critical thinking skills. Through the exploration of various interdisciplinary knowledge topics, students are encouraged to analyze and evaluate information, such as a variety of the essays mainly focusing on the important social and economic issues, as well as the movies released between 1995 and the present. The students will also be provided with opportunities to engage in writing, group discussions and presentation, allowing them to practice their critical thinking skills and develop their ability to express their thoughts effectively using Mandarin. CUND9004 will construct a coherent, sustainable, and in-depth content to help students build strong arguments, enhance their lexical and syntactic knowledge, as well as enhance their ability to analyze information, construct well-reasoned arguments, and make informed decisions.

Assessment: 70% coursework, 30% examination.
