

## UGEC 2861

### Law, Morality, and Society

#### Course Outline

**Mode of Teaching: Online**

**Time: Wed 1:30pm – 4:15pm**

**Teacher's name: Hon-Lam Li (李翰林)**

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#### Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

本科由哲學角度分析法律的概念，和認識香港的刑事法律和證據法。我們會討論一些備受爭議的道德課題，例如墮胎、死刑、及法律對我們自由的限制是什麼（例如：在不影響其他人的情況下，法律應否允許市民吸食大麻和可卡因等危險藥物），從而探討法律與道德的關係。

#### Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

- Critically assess major theories on the concept of law
- Learn about the criminal law, the law of evidence, and criminal proceedings
- Attend a full criminal trial in a Magistrate Court, and be able to discuss various aspects of the trial
- Learn about moral problems, e.g., abortion, the death penalty, and be able to think about them independently
- Learn about the relation between morality and law

#### Topics

- Legal system; basic of criminal law and law of evidence; criminal proceedings
- Concept of law
- Attendance of a full criminal trial in a Magistrate Court
- Abortion
- The death penalty
- Limits of liberty under the law: should people be allowed to take “dangerous drugs” (such as marijuana and cocaine) ?

#### Learning activities

- Lecture (2 hours per week)
- Tutorial (1 hour per week)
- Readings (about 10 to 25 pages per week)
- Participation in tutorial (Must pass 80% of all tutorials in order to pass the course.)
- Attendance of a full criminal trial in a Magistrate Court (circumstances permitting)

#### Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS (revise if necessary)

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Mode of Teaching #</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Paper 1	A four-page paper on abortion	take home	30%

Paper 2	A longer paper on another topic	take home	45%
Tutorial contribution	Tutorial contribution throughout the Term	Online	25%
Full trial	Attending a full criminal trial in a Magistrate Court	Must pass this in order to pass the course	Pass/Fail

# delete as appropriate

**Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is not possible due to the pandemic (no need to fill in if the class and related assessments are to be conducted online)**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>

### **Grade Descriptor**

Please refer to: [http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

### **Recommended learning resources**

To be filled in by teacher

### **Course schedule**

- Week 1: Introduction
- Week 2: Legal System: Types of law, and basics of criminal law
- Week 3: Basics of law of evidence, and criminal proceedings
- Week 4: Mary Ann Warren's view on abortion
- Week 3: Judith Thomson's defense of abortion
- Week 4: Don Marquis criticism of abortion
- Week 5: J. S. Mill on liberty
- Week 6: Hart-Devlin Debate
- Week 7: Hart-Devlin Debate
- Week 8: The Death Penalty
- Week 9: The Death Penalty
- Week 10: The Death Penalty
- Week 11: H. L. A. Hart's Concept of Law
- Week 12: Ronald Dworkin's criticism
- Week 13: Lon Fuller's Natural Law Theory

### **Contact details for teacher(s)**

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### **Academic honesty and plagiarism**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.