SUBJECT DESCRIPTION FORM

Subject title: Construction Law Project

Subject code: BRE547

Credit value: 3

Responsible staff and department:
Prof. Edwin Chan, Dr. Martyn Hills and Mr. Anthony Wong (BRE)

Pre-requisite: Nil

Recommended background knowledge:
Students are expected to possess background knowledge of the construction industry and of the law related to construction practices and dispute resolution.

Mutual exclusions: Nil

Learning approach:
A team of tutors is responsible for the Project, which spans one 14-week semester. During Week 1 of the semester, students are briefed on the requirements of the Project. They will then be required to orally present their proposals during a half-day workshop on Week 4 and, based on the research interest of the students, they will be required to form themselves into teams of three to which one of the tutors will be assigned. A one-day seminar is held at the end of the semester for presentation and discussion of each teams completed project, at which time each project will be assessed by all the tutors. Small group tutorials will be held with the assigned team tutor throughout the duration of the project.

The pedagogical philosophy for this subject is student centered learning. For the most part, students are required to work using their own initiative to find out information and discover ways in which to apply it to their project. The project tutors act principally as mentors, facilitators, and assessors.

Contact hours:
- Workshops (4 hrs x 2) 8 hours
- Small group tutorials (2 hrs x 5) 10 hours
- One day seminar for presentations (8 hrs x 1) 8 hours

Independent study:
- Individual and group projects 84 hours
- Self study 30 hours

Assessment:
Assessment is based on 100% coursework. Students will be assessed, individually and as a team, on their ability to analyse, critically evaluate, and synthesis knowledge gained from a variety of sources into their chosen project. The Project is divided into two distinct phases; Phase A and Phase B. Phase A will be carried out individually, whilst Phase B will be carried out in teams with a maximum of three members. Each component (Phase A and Phase B) must receive at least a passing grade in order to gain the 3 credits associated with the subject (it is not possible to pass one component and fail the other and still gain an overall pass). To ensure
equitability, each project will be assessed by all of the tutors, not just the tutor assigned to a particular team. The assessment of each phase, based on a presentation to peers and tutors, and a written report, will be in accordance with PolyU’s prevailing grading scheme.

Phase A, Project Proposal, is an individual piece of work which requires each student to identify a real-life construction law problem and present it to the class. The students, with advice from tutors, will evaluate the feasibility of the proposals and, based upon their research interest, form themselves into teams of three. Within each team, members will then select one of the proposals that their team members have put forward for further development. Phase B, Project Development, requires the team to explore all the issues associated with the chosen proposal and suggests possible solutions the problem. Although this phase is developed and presented as a team, each member will also be assessed on his or her individual contribution. The following shows the assessment weighting for the Project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase A - Project Proposal</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase B - Project Development</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Weighting</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objectives:
On completion of this subject students should be able to:

1. Clearly communicate key concepts, principles and findings related to construction law issues.
2. Apply knowledge, reasoning and research skills to deal with construction law issues arising in a real-life context.
3. Propose solutions to complex construction law problems associated with the construction and real estate industries.

Outline syllabus:
The Project requires candidates to identify a real-life construction law related problem and then, as part of a team, formulate a number of alternative arguments. This will involve exploring the whole range of construction law issues involved in the problem. The intention is to improve students’ comprehension of construction law and provide them with an opportunity of applying the principles and practice of construction law to practical situations.

Indicative reading list and references:
Chan E.H. and (Mok P.) (2002) e-Base Knowledge on Statutory Requirements for Property and Construction Professionals in Hong Kong, Hong Kong: Pace publishing Ltd. (Web-based publication http://www.pacebase.com/e-base/)
Hong Kong Construction Law (Periodical). Hong Kong: Butterworths Asia.