

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

[Course Title] **Construction Law and Contract Administration**

[Course Code] **CIVL4270**

[No. of Credits] **3**

[pre-requisites] None

[Instructor(s) Name] Professor Arthur McInnis, PhD

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Course Description

The classes will be held as per the schedule and teaching timetable for the second semester. This course could change your life. It is essentially only in the area of construction that non-lawyers can 'practice law'. How? Engineers and others in the built environment routinely draft contracts, prepare and defend claims, and appear as counsel, expert witnesses, arbitrators and now adjudicators in arbitrations and adjudications of construction cases. Hong Kong has just enacted legislation mandating adjudication of certain construction disputes after already stipulating it in the Hong Kong Government General Conditions of Contract (HKGCC). The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers is now an Adjudicator Nominating Body in Hong Kong and can appoint qualified engineers as adjudicators to decide certain construction disputes. These changes will significantly impact the practice of engineers on site and the career directions open to you and other engineers in Hong Kong. This course provides a timely and effective introduction to these recent changes as well as the ongoing move from the use of the HKGCC to the new Hong Kong version of the NEC4 standard form of contract.

AIMS:

This comprehensive course in Construction Law and Practice 2025-2026 offers students a robust understanding of legal principles and their application in the construction industry as divided into four key areas:

- 1 Construction Law and Practice: Covers fundamentals, focusing on contracts and NEC4 and one case study.
- 2 Law in Context: Explores construction claims, including time and cost considerations under Hong Kong Government and NEC4 standard forms of contract and X29 Climate Change Option.
- 3 Public Private Partnerships (PPPs): Examines PPP structures in construction projects, including a Beijing Metro case study.
- 4 Dispute Resolution: Introduces all Alternative Dispute Resolution techniques, emphasising the new Adjudication and Security of Payment legislation in Hong Kong.

The course aims to equip students with practical knowledge and skills essential for navigating the complex landscape of construction law, preparing them for real-world challenges and further qualifications in the field.

Assessments:

[List specific assessed tasks, exams, quizzes, their weightage]

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)
Participation	10%
One Short Answer Test	10%
Mid-Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	50%

Required Texts and Materials

All Readings, References and Powerpoint slides will be available on the Canvas course website.