

## Course Description

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN LAW

#### LAWS8001 LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING

This course is designed to teach PhD students advanced legal research and writing skills. It is taught by a group of PhD supervisors mainly from the FLL. Depending on availability, high caliber legal academics from other law schools may also be invited to join the teaching team on a case by case basis. The course covers a wide range of topics of legal research and writing, such as jurisprudence, legal research methodologies, use of library resources, legal reasoning, preparation and writing of law journal articles, preparation and writing of PhD thesis, use of references, formality for legal writing, and critical legal thinking.

Pre-requisite: None

#### LAWS8002 RESEARCH ETHICS

This course will be conducted online and coordinated by the Graduate School starting from Academic Year 2016/2017. For PhD students who were admitted in or before Academic Year 2015/2016 and have not taken or have not passed Research Ethics, students will take the online Research Ethics course offered in or after Academic Year 2016/2017. One credit will be assigned to their online Research Ethics course for the aforementioned students to fulfill the credit requirements for graduation.

Pre-requisite: None

#### LAWS8003 COMPARATIVE LEGAL SYSTEM

This course purports to offer advanced knowledge of comparative legal studies to PhD students. The FLL is strong in comparative law studies, which is also one of special strengths the FLL will further improve as part of FLL's strategic development plan. The course is taught in the mode of group teaching. Experts of different legal systems will share their knowledge with students in a number of essential areas of legal studies, such as constitutional law, civil law, commercial law, criminal law, procedural law, tort law, administrative law and private international law. The specific legal systems to be presented may vary slightly depending on availability of experts in any given time, and the general legal systems to be covered in many countries.

Pre-requisite: None

#### LAWS8004 COMPARATIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

This seminar is designed to give the students deep understanding of judicial systems in different legal traditions of the world. The course will especially focus on Mainland China, Taiwan, and Japan as representing the civil law tradition and Canada, Australia, and the U.S as representing the common law tradition. The students can learn the similarity and difference between these two legal traditions through examinations of historical background, constitutional system, judicial review, judicial system, legal profession, interpretation and judicial process and civil and criminal procedure.

Pre-requisite: None

#### LAWS8999 DOCTORAL THESIS

The PhD candidate must present a doctoral dissertation on a topic related to his or her area of specialization that demonstrates the results of original research and shows evidence of legal scholarship. According to the current regulations, the doctoral dissertation must be approved by the supervisor and PhD advisory committee. PhD dissertation must be submitted to the faculty in conformity with the requirement of thesis format. PhD oral defence examination should strictly follow the guidelines of the Graduate School and Faculty of Law.