

Course Outline

Course Code : RE3804
Course Title : Real Estate Development Law
Semester : Semester 1, Academic Year 2024/2025
Faculty : A/P Alice Christudason
Department : Real Estate
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Overview

This course deals with the legal framework and legal issues that affect real estate development. Topics covered include the different bundles of rights in land and how these may be of concern to real estate developers, the acquisition of land for public and private development, the regulatory framework for land use planning and zoning, control of development, statutory regulation of developers, liability of developers in contract and in tort, the concept of betterment value/unearned increment, and the land betterment charge.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Understand the implications of rights and interests in land, in particular from the perspective of real estate development.
- Appreciate the legal framework for land acquisition for public development in Singapore and the compensation provisions.
- Understand the importance of the legal framework for planning and control over development of land in land-scarce Singapore.
- Understand the ways in which land may be acquired for private development, and the process of transfer of title to the developer.
- Understand the implications of the Land Titles (Strata) Act and the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act in relation to strata property and collective sales.
- Understand how developers are strictly regulated for uncompleted properties.
- Understand the various types of taxes involved in the development of real estate.
- Understand the liability of developers for building defects in both contract and tort.
- Identify the legal issue/s in disputes without being distracted by irrelevant/immaterial information.
- Apply legal principles correctly to case-studies.
- Use legal reasoning to support the stance taken by different parties in legal disputes.
- Make better use of the English language through the appropriate choice of words and articulate more effectively and succinctly.

Course Prerequisite(s)

RE2702 Land Law

Course Preclusion(s)

Nil

General Guide & Reading

- Tan Sook Yee's Principles of Singapore Land Law Tang Hang Wu et al. (2014) (Lexis Nexis) 4th Edition.
- Relevant material from <https://www.clc.gov.sg/research-publications/publications/urban-systems-studies>
- Other readings as prescribed.

Tentative Schedule & Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Activity
1	12 – 16 Aug	Introduction and sources of law relating to Real Estate (RE) Development.	Consultation
2	19 – 23 Aug	Rights and Interests in land and applicability to RE Development.	Consultation
3	26 – 30 Aug	Planning Law – Planning Framework, and control over Development of Real Estate	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussions on Topics 1 and 2.
4	2 – 6 Sep	Land Acquisition for Public Development (1) Acquisition and Challenges	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussions/ Presentations on Topic 3.
5	9 – 13 Sep	Land Acquisition for Public Development (2) (Compensation)	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussions/ Presentations on Topic 4
6	16 – 20 Sep	Real Estate Development Vehicles	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussions/ Presentations on Topic 5.
	21 – 29 Sep	RECESS WEEK	
7	30 Sep – 5 Oct	TEST WEEK (Test during Lecture slot)	Mid-Sem Test and Consultation
8	7 – 11 Oct	Land Acquisition for Private Development	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussions
9	14 – 18 Oct	Strata Title and Private Redevelopment via Collective Sale	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussion/ Presentations on Topics 6 and 8.
10	21 – 25 Oct	Statutory Regn of Dev and Taxation of Dev	Lecture followed by Case Study Discussions.
11	28 Oct – 1 Nov *Deepavali 31/10 (Thu) *NUS Well-Being day 1/11 (Fri)	NUS Well-Being Day no F2F Lecture L11/ Developers Liability in Contract and Tort (Part 1) (recorded lecture due to *).	Self-Study and Quiz on Topics 9/10.
12	4 – 8 Nov	L12/ Developers Liability in Contract and Tort (Part 2)	Discussion/Presentations on Topics 11 and 12.
13		Course review (wrap-up)	
		READING WEEK	
		EXAMINATION (2 WEEKS)	

Assessment

Assessment Components	Weightage (%)
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• Tutorial and Discussion Forum participation and contribution	15%
• Group Work	20%
• Mid-Term Test (MCQ & Essay/Case Study)	15%
• Final Examination (E-Exam; Open Book)	50%
	100%

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism

Academic integrity and honesty are essential for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. The University and School expect every student to uphold academic integrity & honesty at all times. Academic dishonesty is any misrepresentation with the intent to deceive, or failure to acknowledge the source, or falsification of information, or inaccuracy of statements, or cheating at examinations/tests, or inappropriate use of resources.

Plagiarism is “the practice of taking someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as one’s own” (The New Oxford Dictionary of English). The University and School will not condone plagiarism. Students should adopt this rule - You have the obligation to make clear to the assessor which is your own work, and which is the work of others. Otherwise, your assessor is entitled to assume that everything being presented for assessment is being presented as entirely your own work. This is a minimum standard. In case of any doubt, you should consult your instructor.

Additional guidance is available at:

- <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/administrative-policies-procedures/acceptance-record#NUSCodeofStudentConduct>
- <http://nus.edu.sg/osa/resources/code-of-student-conduct>

About me

I am Associate Professor (Dr) Alice CHRISTUDASON. I teach most of the Law Modules at the Department of Real Estate at the School of Business, National University of Singapore.

On a Commonwealth Universities Scholarship, I obtained my PhD in Law from King’s College London, from where I also obtained my LLM (Master of Laws). I obtained my LLB (Hons.) from the University of Singapore. I am also an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore. After several years in practice doing both corporate and litigation work, I joined NUS to pursue a teaching career.

I have acquired several decades of teaching experience over a wide range of Core and Elective Law Modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. I am a highly sought-after trainer for Real Estate Law on Executive programs for private organisations as well as Statutory Boards. I have taught law-related modules to various entities including the Singapore Land Authority, Jurong Town Corporation, and the Singapore Tourism Board.

I was formerly the Vice-Chair of the NUS Teaching Academy Executive Council, Fellow of the NUS Teaching Academy, Associate Director of the NUS Centre for Development of Teaching and Learning (CDTL) and member

of the Valuation Review Board. Presently I am a Member of the School of Business Teaching Excellence Council.

My research areas/interests include land law, strata law, landlord and tenant law, land acquisition and planning law. I have authored and co-authored texts on real estate law and published in international journals and presented at international conferences on real estate related, and educational pedagogical issues.

Teaching is my passion. I have won numerous teaching awards including the NUS Annual Teaching Excellence Awards (ATEA), been on the Honour Roll of the NUS ATEA, School of Design & Environment Teaching Excellence Awards as well as GEM (General Education Module) and SS (Singapore Studies) Incentive Scheme Awards.

I maintain the rigour of my Modules by engaging my students through the use of a combination of Case-studies, inquiry-based learning, the Socratic method, and a measured dose of humour.

Attend my lessons, and I assure you that there will never be a dull moment. You will remember my lessons long after they are over as I will ignite in you a deep and lasting interest in the Law and law-related issues. Generations of students who have been taught by me refer to me as the "GOAT".