1. **The Drafting History of the Hong Kong Basic Law and Hand-over**


2. **The Framework of the Basic Law**


3. **The Political and Administrative System**


4. **Constitutional Jurisdiction of the Courts of the HKSAR**


5. **Interpretation and Amendment of the Basic Law**

   The importance of Interpretation and the Mode of Interpretation - The Scheme for Interpretation under Art 158 - Judicial Referral, Classification Test and Necessity Test - The Interpretation Powers of the NPCSC and the HKSAR Courts - Problems arising under Art 158 - Legislative Interpretation versus Judicial Interpretation - Role of the Basic Law Committee - Principles of and Approach to Constitutional Interpretation - The Scheme of Amendments to the Basic Law;

6. **Rights and Freedoms**

7. **International Aspects of the HKSAR**

Chinese View of International Law - External Affairs Powers of the HKSAR - Role and Problems of HKSAR in International Legal Regime - Succession of Rights and Obligations in International Treaties Applicable to Hong Kong before 1997 - Capacity to Participate in International Treaties, Conferences and Organizations - Conflicts of Law and Recognition of Judgments of Taiwan Courts;

8. **The Constitutional System of the People’s Republic of China**

Theory of Socialist Constitution - A Brief History of Chinese Constitutional System - The PRC Constitution and its Amendments – The Central Authorities of the PRC (NPC, NPCSC, State Council, Central Military Commission) - The Role and Organization of the Communist Party - Special Administrative Regions under Art 31 - Rights and Obligations of the Citizen - Sources of Law (Legislative Interpretation, Judicial Interpretation and Executive Interpretation) - The Judiciary, the Procuratorate and the Public Security - Review of the Judiciary - A Developing Constitution.
Recommended Reading List for Hong Kong Constitutional Law

**Major Readings**

**Johannes M. M. Chan & C.L. Lim (eds), The Law of the Hong Kong Constitution** (Sweet & Maxwell, 2nd edn. 2015).


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Carole Peterson, “Hong Kong’s Spring of Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the National Security Bill in 2003” in Fu, Peterson and Yong (eds.) *National Security and Fundamental Freedoms: Hong Kong’s Article 23 Under Scrutiny* (Hong Kong, Hong Kong University Press, 2005).


Benny Y. T. Tai, “Chapter One of Hong Kong’s New Constitution: Constitutional Positioning and Repositioning” in Ming Chan and Alvin Y. So (ed.) *Crisis and Transformation in China’s Hong Kong* (M.E. Sharpe, 2002)


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The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (1990)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

Hong Kong Bill OF Rights Ordinance (Cap. 383, 1991)
The Interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of Articles 22(4) and 24(2)(3) of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Adopted at the Tenth Session of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress on 26 June 1999)

The Interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of Article 7 of Annex I and Article III of Annex II to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (Adopted at the Eighth Session of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress on 6 April 2004)

Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2007 and for Forming the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2008 (Adopted at the Ninth Session of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress on 26 April 2004)

Interpretation of Paragraph 2, Article 53 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (Adopted at the Fifteenth Session of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress on 27 April 2005)

Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Issues Relating to the Methods for Selecting the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and for Forming the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in the Year 2012 and on Issues Relating to Universal Suffrage (Adopted at the Thirty First Session of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress on 29 December 2007)

Amendment to Annex I to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China Concerning the Method for the Selection of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Approved at the Sixteenth Session of the Standing Committee of the Eleventh National People's Congress on 28 August 2010)

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