

## SYLLABUS

# LAW AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR ENGINEERS: EE 682

Spring 2013

Lecture: Wednesday 6:30 – 9:20 pm

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Professor Kosko, Ph.D., J.D.

Office: EEB 438

Hours: Wed 4 - 6

Fri 5 – 6

**Course Summary:** The course presents an introduction to the modern legal system with a special focus on intellectual property. Exams and most homework assignments consist of multiple-choice problems. Attendance is mandatory. Students will receive complete course notes. The final project involves patent claim drafting.

### Course texts:

*Required:* Miller, A. R., and Davis, M. H., *Intellectual Property: Patents, Trademarks, and Copyright*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Thomson West, 2007.

*Required:* Finz, S. R., *The Finz Multistate Method*, Aspen Publishers, 2004.

*Recommended:* Cheeseman, H. R., *Business Law*, 7th edition, Prentice Hall, 2010.

*Recommended:* Barrett, M., *Intellectual Property*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Aspen Publishers, 2005.

## COURSE OUTLINE

JAN 16	American legal system. Intellectual property.
JAN 23	Torts I.
JAN 30	Torts II.
FEB 6	Criminal law and procedure.
FEB 13	Contracts I.
FEB 20	Contracts II.
FEB 27	MIDTERM I. Property.
MAR 6	Civil procedure and federal courts.
MAR 13	Constitutional law.
MAR 20	No class: Spring Break.
MAR 27	Evidence.
APR 3	Corporations. Cyberlaw.
APR 10	MIDTERM II. Patents again.
APR 17	Copyright. Trade secrets. Trademarks.
APR 24	Patent projects. <i>Mandatory attendance.</i>
MAY 1	Patent projects. <i>Mandatory attendance.</i>

## GRADING PROCEDURE

**Summary:** Class grade depends on two midterm exams and a final project. Homework problems are optional extra credit. Cheating warrants a course grade of F.

1. **Midterms.** Two midterms in multiple-choice format. Each midterm is worth 30 points. Closed book.
2. **Homework.** Checked and recorded. Not graded. A perfect set of worked homework problems can earn 10 points. Lesser homework sets earn fewer points. Grade stays as is if only some homework turned in. How much homework counts for how many points lies at the discretion of the instructor and teaching assistant. Students may discuss the homework among themselves but each student must work his or her own problems.
3. **Project.** Well prepared and presented *approved* project that demonstrates the ability to draft patent claims on an approved innovation—but only after performing satisfactorily on both midterms. The project counts as the final exam and is worth 40 points. Exceptional projects can earn an automatic course grade of A. Hence: *Project excellence trumps all else*. Projects must have the instructor's written approval. Failure to present a project on schedule results in automatic course grade of F. Attendance *and participation* during the project-presentation session are *mandatory*.
4. **Course Grade Scale.** 100 points possible in course:

A	if	90 - 100
B	if	80 - 89
C	if	70 - 79
D	if	60 - 69
F	if	0 - 59
6. **Statement for Students with Disabilities.** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.
7. **Statement on Academic Integrity.** USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:  
<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.