SYLLABUS

LAW AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR ENGINEERS: EE 682

Spring 2015

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

Lecture: Wednesday 6:30 – 9:20 pm
Office: EEB 438

Email: kosko@usc.edu
Hours: Wed 4 - 6

Voicemail: (213) 740 - 6242
Fri 5 – 6

Course Summary: The course presents an introduction to the modern legal system with a special focus on intellectual property. The midterm 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:


COURSE OUTLINE

JAN 14 American legal system. Intellectual property.
JAN 21 Torts I.
JAN 28 Torts II.
FEB 4 Criminal law and procedure.
FEB 11 Contracts I.
FEB 18 Contracts II.
FEB 25 MIDTERM. Real property.
MAR 4 Civil procedure and federal courts.
MAR 11 Constitutional law.
MAR 18 No class: Spring Break.
MAR 25 Evidence.
APR 1 Corporations. Cyberlaw.
APR 15 Copyright. Trade secrets. Trademarks.
APR 22 Patent projects. Mandatory attendance.
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.


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/.
8. Academic Conduct
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage http://sarc.usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

9. Support Systems
A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.