

SYLLABUS

LAW AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR ENGINEERS: EE 682

Fall 2020

Lecture: Wednesday 6:30 – 9:30 pm

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Office: EEB 438

Hours: Wed 4 - 6

Course Summary: The course overviews the modern legal system with a special focus on intellectual property. No reading of legal cases. Most recommended homework assignments consist of multiple-choice problems. Students will receive complete course notes. The project involve describing a simple invention with patent claims.

Course texts:

Required: Miller, A. R., and Davis, M. H., *Intellectual Property: Patents, Trademarks, and Copyright*, 6th edition, Thomson West, 2018.

Required: Finz, S. R., *The Finz Multistate Method*, 3rd edition, Aspen Publishers, 2013.

Recommended: Cheeseman, H. R., *Business Law*, 10th edition, Pearson, 2018.

Recommended: Barrett, M., *Intellectual Property*, 3rd edition, Wolters Kluwer, 2012.

COURSE OUTLINE

AUG 26	American legal system. Intellectual property.
SEP 2	Torts I. Intentional harm and negligence.
SEP 9	Torts II. Strict liability. Patent and copyright infringement.
SEP 16	Criminal law and procedure. Theft of trade secrets.
SEP 23	Contracts I. Making and breaking promises.
SEP 30	Contracts II. Third-party liability. Assignments and licenses.
OCT 7	Midterm. Law of property. Estates. Transfers.
OCT 14	Civil procedure and federal courts. Standing.
OCT 21	Constitutional law. Congressional authority. State vs. federal law.
OCT 28	Evidence. Corporations. Cyberlaw.
NOV 4	Patents. Drafting claims.
NOV 11	Copyright. Trade secrets. Trademarks.
NOV 18	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. **Midterm.** The midterm is in multiple-choice format. The 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 70 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/>.