

SYLLABUS

LAW, AI, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR ENGINEERS: EE 682

Fall 2025

Lecture: Wednesday 6 – 10 pm

email: kosko@usc.edu

voicemail: (213) 740 - 6242

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

Office: EEB 438

Hours: Wed 5-6 pm & appointment

Course Summary: The course overviews the modern legal system with a special AI focus on intellectual property. Each lecture includes the analysis of a current AI lawsuit or algorithm or IP issue. No reading of legal cases. Most recommended homework assignments consist of multiple-choice problems. Students will receive complete course notes. The project involves describing a simple invention with patent claims.

Course texts:

Required: Miller, A. R., and Davis, M. H., *Intellectual Property: Patents, Trademarks, and Copyright*, 7th edition, Thomson West, 2023.

Required: Finz, S. R., *The Finz Multistate Method*, 6th edition, Aspen Publishers, 2023.

Recommended: Cheeseman, H. R., *Business Law*, 11th edition, Pearson, 2022.

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

COURSE OUTLINE

AUG 27	American law. Anatomy of a lawsuit. AI and IP overview.
SEP 3	Torts: Intentional harm and negligence. Blackbox training.
SEP 10	Torts: Strict liability. Patent and copyright infringement. Deep fakes.
SEP 17	Criminal law and procedure. Theft of trade secrets. Digital search.
SEP 24	Contracts: Making and breaking promises. Explainable AI.
OCT 1	Contracts: Third-party liability. Assignments and licenses.
OCT 6	Midterm. Real property. Estates and transfers. <u>NOTE: Monday at 6 pm.</u>
OCT 15	Civil procedure and federal courts. Standing. AI hallucinations.
OCT 22	Constitutional law. Congressional authority. State vs. federal law.
OCT 29	Evidence. Corporations. Cyberlaw. Rules of evidence and experts.
NOV 5	Copyright again. Trade secrets. Trademarks.
NOV 12	Patents. Drafting claims.
NOV 19	Patents and project preparation.
NOV 26	No class: Thanksgiving holiday.
DEC 3	Project presentations. Mandatory attendance.

GRADING PROCEDURE

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

1. **Midterm.** The midterm is worth 30 points.
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(s) 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
5. **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.
6. **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/>.

7. 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/departments/departments-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.

8. 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.

.