ENT 599: Intellectual Property and the Digital Arts
Spring 2012

Credits: 3 semester credits (3, 0)
Instructor: Alexander Sigman
Lectures: Wed 7:00-9:30 PM, on campus or remote live viewing over the internet by arrangement
Discussion Sections: To be determined with instructor
Email: asigman@cogswell.edu lx.sigman@gmail.com
Website: www.lxsigman.com
Office Hours: By appointment
Prerequisites: Permission of Instructor or Program Head

Catalog Description:
A hands-on introduction to digital intellectual property law, covering copyright, patents, licenses, trademarks, and trade secrets. Geared towards providing the essential knowledge and experience in the legal aspects of digital technology to students of all majors, guest speakers representing a broad range of industries, backgrounds, and legal areas of specialization will present throughout the course. Topics include US vs. international copyright law, patents and the America Invents Act, Creative Commons licenses, and relationships between technology, copyright law, and the public.

Program Learning Outcomes addressed by Course:
L3: Identify and explain the growth phases of a business
L5: Identify and respond to the ethical issues of a potential strategic partnership

Course Format:
Weekly guest lecture series and discussion section. Class activities will include class discussions, case study role-playing exercises, and student presentations.

Course Objectives:
Upon completing this course, students will have a clear and broad understanding of current US and international digital intellectual property laws and policies, the legal issues surrounding technological innovation in the twenty-first century, and the technical process of submitting
patent applications to the Patent and Trademark Office. In addition, students will gain experience in interpreting legal documents, develop critical thinking skills, and be capable of constructing informed case study-based arguments.

**Required text (on reserve at Cogswell Library):**


**Recommended text:**


Additional readings and case studies will be distributed in class and/or via the ETUDES course site (online section).

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Attendance and participation:** Regular attendance and active participation constitute a significant part of your grade. Up to 2 unexcused absences will be permitted. Each of you will prepare one final project presentation (see below).

**Reading:** Chapters from the text as well as supplementary articles and case studies will be assigned.

**Assignments:** Periodic case study and written assignments on lecture and reading content will be distributed.

**Final Project:** Students are encouraged to do final projects concerning real-world intellectual property issues. Recommended projects are as follows:

- Prepare and submit a Patent and Trademark Office (PTO)-ready provisional patent application, together with a summary of your patenting strategy.
- Prepare a nonprovisional patent application (in conjunction with a designated expert).
- Put together an in-depth intellectual property plan for a specific product or service, covering patents, trademarks, copyrights and/or trade secrets.
- Write a research paper pertaining to intellectual property protection options in your field.

**Grade Breakdown:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project and Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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**Information Literacy and Library Usage:** Students will need to engage in research throughout the semester. The College Librarian is available to assist with research and can provide access to both physical and off-site resources.

**Course Schedule:**

1. **March 7:** SPECIAL EVENT:
   
   Copyright vs. Community in the Age of Computer Networks
   Richard Stallman

2. --- SPRING BREAK ---

3. **March 21:** US Constitutional Law, the Court System and Your Work
4. **March 28:** How to Protect Your Work
5. **April 4:** Software Patents and Infringement Detection
6. **April 11:** Copyright Law and Fair Use
7. **April 18:** Creative Commons Licenses
8. **April 25:** Legal Resources for Entrepreneurs
9. **May 2:** Student Presentations