**Course Synopsis**

Introduction to Intellectual Property introduces students to the rules governing legal rights in ideas. Underlying the subject matter of this course is the theme that legal rights to ideas play a fundamental role in our modern society, and that the importance of understanding those rights is no longer limited to their economic role but is central to our everyday lives.

This course will cover the most common ways that the law protects ideas, ranging from the most basic forms of protection (secrecy and trade secrecy) to exclusive rights granted over inventions (patents) and creative works (copyright), and concluding with rights relating to market-based identities (trade and service marks). Along the way, we will explore the debates over intellectual property rights that permeate modern culture.

Intro to IP is also intended to provide law students interested in continuing on with advanced studies in copyright, trademarks, and patents with the fundamentals of those areas. Consequently, students should expect to be challenged by the subject matter and the demanding pace. However, there is no assumption that students will be familiar with background science, other than a basic high school education and an understanding of the modern society in which we live. Nor are any specific prior law classes required.

Students who plan to take Trademark and Unfair Competition Law (91:369), Copyrights (91:283), Patent Law (91:324), Intellectual Property Advocacy (91:508), or any intellectual property seminar are strongly urged to take this course prior to those courses or seminars.

This course is available as a first year law student spring elective and is open to both law and non-law graduate students. Law and non-law graduate students will be graded on separate curves.

**Required Texts**

This class will use three texts. Students are required to purchase a copy of *Understanding Intellectual Property Law, Second Edition*. This text will provide students with the general legal framework underlying intellectual property rights. In addition, students are required to obtain a copy of *Intellectual Property: Law & The Information Society Selected Statutes and Treaties*. Free electronic copies of this text are available from http://www.thepublicdomain.org/2014/07/26/freelow-cost-intellectual-property-statutory-supplement/. A printed copy can be purchased from Amazon.com for $10. Finally, students
will need a copy of *INTRODUCTION TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: CASES AND QUESTIONS*. This text can be downloaded free of charge from the ICON course site. Hard copies are available from the law school bookstore.

**In-Class Computing Device Use**

While a central theme of this course involves the expanding role that computers and the internet play in intellectual property law, my experience is that these tools can impede the learning process when employed during classroom sessions. The purpose of the classroom period is to actively engage with the material and discussion; in short, it is a time for thinking. Computers, and especially the internet, tend to interfere with this form of active thought.

My general policy is that laptops, tables, smartphones, and other electronic devices are not permitted during regular class sessions. There are two important exceptions to this general policy. First, one student will be designated as the “official electronic notetaker” each class and should bring his or her laptop or tablet to class. This student’s notes will be distributed to the class following the class session. Second, students should bring their laptops or tablets to the four in-class team-based exercise days.

**Grading**

Grading in this class will be based on team problems (10%) and a final exam (90%).

Team problems will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. Credit for the exercise will be contingent on participating in the exercise and producing a team work product of reasonable quality, taking into account the time constraints under which you will be operating.

The exam will be given during the scheduled examination period. Students will be permitted to bring the required texts, a dictionary, and a printout of their own personally-prepared outlines to the exam. Students may choose to write their final exams on laptop computers. Those choosing to do so must supply their own computers and use software available from the ISBA Bookstore. Information on computer specifications and on the software may be found at [www.law.uiowa.edu/students/exams-laptops.php](http://www.law.uiowa.edu/students/exams-laptops.php). Any questions relating to computers and the software should be directed to Student Computer Services. Copies of prior exams and exam memos are available on the course ICON site.

Finally, note that by taking this course you agree that any work product you submit in connection with the course may be reproduced by me for teaching purposes. This means, for example, that I may distribute all or part of your exam or other written assignments as a model answer without seeking further permission. If you wish to negotiate this provision, you may, but must do so prior to the end of the first week of classes.
**Recording Policy**
The policy is that students may request that the class be recorded but must do so in advance of the classroom session. Permission will only be given for absences for reasonable cause, following the guidance of the Curriculum Policy Committee Guidelines on recording, available at [http://www.law.uiowa.edu students/services/rulesandpractices-academic-video.php](http://www.law.uiowa.edu students/services/rulesandpractices-academic-video.php).

Please do not make personal audio or video recordings of this class.

**Course Schedule and Office Hours**
This course meets on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. in BLB Room 285. My office hours are Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. I am also available to meet at other times by appointment.

**Class Attendance and Participation**
Come to class on time every day. If you miss more than five classes, I reserve the right to drop you from the course. When you come to class, be prepared to discuss the readings and make intelligent contributions to the discussion. If exceptional circumstances cause you to be unprepared, and you let me know before the start of class, I will defer calling on you until the next class.