CSE 490 Patent Law for Engineers

Credits

2.0 (2 hrs lecture)

Lead Instructor

Ben Dugan

Textbook

None

Course Description

Lectures, discussions, and possibly labs on topics of current interest in computer science and engineering not covered by other CSE undergraduate courses.

Prerequisites

None

CE Major Status

Selected Elective

Course Objectives

Perplexed, annoyed, or interested in patents? Confused by copyright laws? This course provides a survey of intellectual property law for a technical (non-legal) audience. The purpose of the course is to assist engineers and scientists in navigating and utilizing various intellectual property regimes effectively in the business context. In the patent space, we will study the significant revisions of U.S. patent law under the America Invents Act of 2011, including the change from a first-to-invent to a first-to-file patent system and new post-grant review procedures. Additional patent-related topics will include patent preparation and prosecution, claim interpretation, and assessing patent validity and infringement. Other intellectual property areas will also be addressed, including copyright, trademark, and trade secret law. The course will balance the discussion of practical legal considerations with broader policy questions (e.g., should certain

subject matter be off limits for patenting? the relationship between innovation and intellectual property regimes, etc.).

ABET Outcomes

(f) an understanding of professional and ethical responsibility
(h) the broad education necessary to understand the impact of engineering solutions in a global, economic, environmental, and societal context
(i) a recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in life-long learning
(j) knowledge of contemporary issues

Course Topics

Week 1: Survey of IP Law
Week 2: Reading a Patent
Week 3: Patent Prosecution, Provisional Applications, Priority, Foreign Rights
Week 4: Conditions for Patentability
Week 5: Claim Drafting
Week 6: Patent Analysis
Week 7: Copyright & Open Source Licenses
Week 8: Software Patents
Week 9: Patent Reform
Week 10: Wrap-up