

CE 404
FUNDAMENTALS OF LAW FOR ENGINEERS
(BUSINESS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW FOR ENGINEERS)

FALL 2006

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Location: KAP 145 6:30 p.m. to 9:10 p.m. (one 10 minute break)

Office hours: After class, by e-mail, by appointment, or telephone any time. The adjunct faculty office is in KAP 230D.

Prerequisites: None

Materials: Gideon's Trumpet, by Anthony Lewis (paperback)
Make No Law, by Anthony Lewis (paperback)
Handout materials distributed by instructor (copy fee \$TBD)

Course Assistant: _____

Course Objectives:

The course is intended to provide an introduction to the field of law and to serve as a basis for more advanced courses in business law, intellectual property, and legal aspects of technology commercialization. The knowledge and information gained will be useful to professional engineers as employees, managers, entrepreneurs and in their personal lives. It will better enable the professional engineer to work as part of a project team. The class is not limited to engineering or science majors, but will also be useful for social science and liberal arts majors with an interest in engineering management and technology commercialization. This class is specifically intended to satisfy the SITEC legal course requirement.

Method of Instruction:

Lecture and class discussion will occupy the entire class period. Students are expected to participate in class and participation will count toward the course grade. This means that students are expected to come to class prepared and having already read the course material for that evening. There will be no separate discussion or problem sections. The material is presented in a sequential fashion and if a student falls behind or does not attend class, the student grades will quickly reflect this.

Grading:	First Midterm	15%
	Second Midterm	15
	Quiz/Assign.	30
	Final	40 (cumulative)
	Participation	+

There will be 1000 points possible during the course. There is no “forced curve”... that is everyone can get an “A” (or an “F”). Cooperative learning is encouraged on homework assignments (this does NOT mean simply copying another student’s work). Thus, it is to your benefit to help each other study as much as possible. I assure you that if you do not attend class or do the work, you will quickly fall behind in both points and material. Quiz scores and cumulative class scores will be sent to each student on a weekly basis.

You are also encouraged to contact the instructor if you are having problems. You should do so as early as possible and not the week before the final exam.

Extra Credit:

There will be an occasional opportunity to obtain “extra credit” points, up to a maximum of 5% of the possible course grade. These points are added after the grade levels are established. Two of these opportunities include the visit to the LA County Fair (suggested) and the LA Courthouse Tour (strongly recommended). Other events may arise during the semester.

Assignments:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments are accepted with a penalty of fifty percent of the actual score. Grading is done anonymously. Do NOT put your name on your homework assignment papers, only your STUDENT NUMBER. You should turn in the original assignment but retain a copy for yourself. If you have a question regarding the grading of a homework problem, you should bring it to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Unclaimed papers will be discarded after four weeks.

While cooperative learning is encouraged, plagiarism or the copying of the work of another student is not allowed. If this is determined to occur, the grade for a particular assignment will be negative the number of possible points for that assignment.

Quizzes and Examinations:

There will be a quiz and/or assignment due at almost every class. There is **no** make-up of missed quizzes after the quiz is given and all quiz scores will count. Quiz and examination exercises are not cooperative. Examinations are closed book, closed note and closed mouth. This is a law class so you won’t need a calculator. Quizzes and exams are objective in format using scan-tron forms. There are no essays. You should bring a soft-lead number 2 pencil to class each week. The final examination will be cumulative.

Attendance:

Attendance is not mandatory and is not taken but your failure to attend class may result in a missed quiz. However, participation is considered and is part of the grade. I understand that students often have personal, family or employment obligations that may result in a class being missed. After over 25 years of teaching, I will advise you that the best grades uniformly go to my students who attend each class and do the homework assignments timely. This is not the course for you take if you cannot devote the time necessary to learn the material.

Miscellaneous:

Taping of lectures and class presentations or discussions is not allowed.

There is no term project or paper due either as a requirement or as “extra credit.”

Additional Important Information: (The “legal” stuff...what else would you expect)

The Viterbi School of Engineering adheres to the University’s policies and procedures governing academic integrity as described in *Scampus*. Students are expected to be aware of and to observe the academic integrity standards applicable to all students and will be enforced in this course.

Any student requesting academic accommodations based upon a disability is required to register with the Disability Services and Programs Office (DSPO) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSPO and should be delivered to the instructor as soon as possible. DSPO is located in STU 301 and the telephone number is 213-740-0776.

Occasionally, a student will have a personal, family, medical or other emergency, will have the necessity to travel for work related business, or will be compelled to miss a class due to a significant university sponsored event in which the student will participate including intercollegiate athletics (note: this does not include primarily social events....even if you are a business student). Contact the instructor as soon as the possible conflict is known and arrangements will be made to the extent possible to allow the student to timely turn in homework assignments or take a quiz in advance of the due date.

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THE ENGINEER IN THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

- Aug 21 Course introduction; nature of the legal system; origins of laws; functions and limitations of the law (Handout Materials)
- Aug 28 Structure of the legal system; state and federal jurisdiction; codes, statutes and regulations
(Handout Materials and Gideon's Trumpet Chapters 1 and 2)
- Sep 04 No Class—Labor Day
- Sep 09 (Sat) Extra Credit (LA County Fair- optional and a no football Saturday)
- Sep 11 Courts, arbitration, and dispute resolution processes
(Handout Materials and Gideon Chap 3, 4, 5)

THE ENGINEER AND CONTRACTS

- Sep 18 Introduction to Contracts; principles of offer and acceptance
(Contracts Handout 3.1 to 3.4; Gideon 6, 7, 8)
- Sep 25 Contracts continued: consideration, parties and forms of contracts
(Contracts Handout 3.5 to 3.8; Gideon 9, 10, 11)
- Oct 02 Illegality; contract performance and remedies for breach
(Contracts Handout 3.9 to 3.12; Gideon 12, 13, 14, Epilog)
- Oct 09 Midterm #1 (Legal System and Contracts)
Introduction to Intentional Torts 5.1 to 5.3)
(Torts

THE ENGINEER IN A RISK ENVIRONMENT

- Oct 16 Intentional Torts and Negligence
(Torts 5.4 to 5.9) Make No Law Chaps 1, 2, 3)
- Oct 20 Courthouse Tour (noon to 3:30 p.m. +/-)
- Oct 23 Negligence, strict liability and risk management
(Torts 5.10 to 5.11) Make No Law Chaps 4, 5, 6, 7)

THE ENGINEER IN BUSINESS

- Oct 30 Employers and employees, independent contractors, agency and vicarious liability
(Handout-Employment and Agency; Make No Law Chaps. 8, 9, 10)
- Nov 06 Forming a business; sole proprietorship, partnerships and corporations
(Handout- Business Forms; Make No Law Chaps 11, 12, 13, 14)
- Nov 13 Raising capital, borrowing and lending, stocks and bonds
(Handout-Capital Markets- Make No Law Chaps. 15, 16, 17)

THE ENGINEER AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

- Nov 20 Midterm #2 (on Torts and Business):
Intellectual Property... Copyrights and Trademarks
(Handout-Make No Law Chaps 18, 19, 20)
- Nov 23-25 Thanksgiving
- Nov 27 Intellectual Property Continued: Patents
(Guest Lecturer-Course Evaluation)

FINAL MATTERS and FINALS MATTER

- Dec 04 No Class-Study Day
- Dec 09 Saturday/Sunday Review Session (optional)
- Dec 11 Final Exam

The Final Exam will be cumulative and will be evenly divided among Legal System, Contracts, Torts, Business Law, and Intellectual Property. In addition, the final exam will evaluate how well the students can integrate the five course areas.