

**University of South Carolina  
School of Law**

**International Intellectual Property Law (LAWS 725), Fall 2025**

**Tuesdays 4:20 pm-6:30 pm, Room 133**

Instructor: Todd A. Serbin

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**SYLLABUS**

**Learning Outcomes:**

The knowledge, skills and values that students are expected to acquire during this course are as follows:

- consideration of the international intellectual property (IP) legal framework;
- examination and analysis of international bodies and treaties which control IP-related interactions between nations;
- some specific focus on the IP laws of key nations worldwide (e.g. EU-UK/Japan/China);
- comparative overview of varying national IP laws; and,
- litigation and enforcement considerations, including IP-specific procedure and legal concepts.

**Attendance Requirement:**

In accordance with the rules set forth in the Student Handbook, class attendance is expected and required. Please be mindful that students who miss more than two (2) classes in this two (2) credit course are subject to failing the course. You will be required to certify at the end of the course that you were not absent for more than the two (2) permitted missed classes, so you are responsible and on your honor for keeping track of the number of classes you have missed. It is solely the responsibility of the student to seek and obtain a waiver from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs prior to taking the Final Examination if you exceed the maximum number of allowed absences.

**Office Hours:**

I will not have regular office hours, but anyone is welcome to contact me to set up an appointment to meet in person. Otherwise, the preferred method of contact is by email if you have any questions and/or concerns.

**Required Course Materials:**

Daniel C.K. Chow and Edward Lee, *International Intellectual Property, Problems, Cases and Materials*, Fourth Edition, West Academic Publishing; ISBN: 978-1-68467-842-6

Weekly Reading Assignments:

See attached **Appendix A**, which is subject to modification throughout the course.

Final Exam:

The Final Exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at 9 am in Room 133. It will be in-person during the scheduled exam period (2hrs) and will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions (worth 40 points, 2 points each) and several or more short-answer questions (worth 60 points total, with partial credit possible). The format of the Final Exam is subject to change without notice but we will run through some practice questions, similar to what you will see on the test, the last day of class.

## Appendix A

### WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS

(Subject to Change)

Daniel C.K. Chow and Edward Lee, *International Intellectual Property, Problems, Cases and Materials*, Fourth Edition, West Academic Publishing; ISBN: 978-1-68467-842-6

#### I. Introduction to Intellectual Property (IP) and the International System of IP

For **Week 1, (8/26)**: Chapter 1 (pages 4-102\*, lots of pages but mostly overview type stuff so it should be fairly easy reading)

#### II. Copyright and Neighboring Rights

**Week 2 (9/2)**: Chapter 2, A.-C. (pages 103-194\*)

**Week 3 (9/9)**: Chapter 2, D.-F. (pages 195-259\*)

**Week 4 (9/16)**: Chapter 2, G.-I. (pages 260-324\*)

#### III. Patents

**Week 5 (9/23)**: Chapter 3, A.-B. (pages 325-389\*)

**Week 6 (9/30)**: Chapter 3, C.1.-C.3. (pages 390-458\*)

**Week 7 (10/7)**: Chapter 3, C.4.-D.1. (pages 459-512\*)

**Week 8 (10/14)**: Chapter 3, D.2-D.4. (pages 513-580\*)

#### IV. Trademarks and Geographical Indications

**Week 9 (10/21)**: Chapter 4, A.-B.3. (pages 581-655\*)

**Week 10 (10/28)**: Chapter 4, B.4.-B.5. (pages 656-754\*)

**Week 11 (11/4)**: Chapter 4, B.6.-E. (pages 755-834\*)

#### V. Unfair Competition, Trade Secrets and Design Protection

**Week 12 (11/11)**: Chapter 5, A.-D. (pages 835-900\*)

#### VI. International Litigation and Enforcement of IP Rights

**Week 13 (11/18)**: Chapter 6, A.-E. (pages 901-1026\*, a big one, but we will gloss over much of the TRIPS section since we discuss this treaty elsewhere)

### **Final Exam- Tuesday, December 9 at 9 am, Room 133**

\*You do not have to read “Problems” or “Notes and Questions” if you do not want. Although, I may ask some of the “Questions” in class to enhance our discussion. I also want to note that while there are a lot of pages in each reading assignment, we are really going to just lift out the high level ideas/topics since this is only a 2-credit course (*i.e.* a lot of the minutiae will be glossed over so we can focus on big picture ideas).