BMDE 653: Course Content/Outline
Instructor: Pierre T. Nguyen

Week 1 - Forms of Intellectual Property

• Discussion of forms of IP, including copyright, trademark, designs, secrets
• Origins of the patent and distinction over other forms of IP

Week 2 - Structure of a Patent

• Description
• Drawings
• Claims

Week 3: Patent: criteria for patentability

• Novelty
• Non-obviousness or inventiveness
• Utility

Week 4 - The Patent Description

• Notions of validity and infringement
• Construction of a claim
• Independent claims and dependent claims

Week 5 - Understanding a Patent – Practical Workshop

• Reading and understanding a patent description
• A study of the scope of claims

Week 6 - Drafting Claims – Practical Workshop

• Interactive exercises in drafting claims

Weeks 7 and 8 - The Patenting Process

• Filing timeline
• Concept of priority
• United States application
• PCT applications
• European patent

Week 9 – Examination of a Patent Application

• Filing timeline
• Concept of priority
• PCT applications
• European patent
Week 10 - Examination – Practical Workshop

- Interactive exercises in responding to Examination rejection

Week 11 - Prior Art as Scientific Literature

- What constitutes prior art
- How to read prior art
- Prior art searching
- Prior art databases

Week 12 - Commercialization and Exploitation of Patents

- Ownership
- Licensing
- Right to exclude

Week 13 - Patent Enforcement

- Further look at infringement and validity
- Steps to trial and trial
- Social implications of IP, patent trolls, counter movements to IP

**Assessment/Evaluation:**

Midterm (30%): open book format, in which objective-type questions will be asked, as well as an opinion-type question: find weaknesses in a claim

Project (30%): drafting a patent application based on prior art given by the course instructor.

Final Exam (40%): open book format, in which objective-type questions will be asked, a claim drafting question, and an opinion-type question on claim scope