

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