Welcome to the Intellectual Property Colloquium! This syllabus is designed to give you guidance as to the content of the course and its policies. You are welcome to ask questions about it at any point during the semester.

If you would like to meet with me individually, please send me an email at the address listed above.

The learning objectives for this course are to analyze and better understand some of the cutting-edge questions in intellectual property law. To do so, we will read and discuss the scholarly works of some of the top thinkers in that area today and probe their claims through direct interaction with these experts. Part of the goal is also to develop stronger oral and writing skills that relate to both the content and style of arguments.

I. TWEN

I have created a TWEN page that will serve as a forum for this class. There you will find a copy of the current syllabus and access to the readings. I will upload speakers’ materials for you to read as they send them to me during the semester.

II. Grading

Your grades will be determined by the strength of one long or three short papers, as well as the quality of your bi-weekly five reading questions, service as a discussion leader (each student will serve as such a leader at least once during the semester), and oral participation in both the sessions with and without speakers. Some of the requirements for the course will vary depending on whether you plan on fulfilling a writing requirement through this course.

If you will be writing short papers, they will each be due by 11:59pm the day before the first session on a particular speaker’s work. Please hand in all papers via e-mail and in Word format, double-spaced, and using Times New Roman font size 12 and one-inch margins all around. They should be 6-7 pages in length (I will stop reading after exactly 7 pages, so do not go over).
The same formatting information applies for long research papers, and these should be 18-20 pages in length (I will stop reading after 20 pages).

Reading questions are due by the end of the day (11:59pm) the day before our first session on a given set of works.

You are expected to fulfill all course requirements in a timely and professional manner. If you encounter emergency circumstances that will prevent you from meeting a deadline, I expect you to inform me as soon as you become aware of those circumstances. **Excuses after the deadline passes will virtually never be accepted, unless you can document that you were completely unable to contact me beforehand.**

It is your responsibility to back up your computer data, and failure to do so shall not constitute an excuse for late work. If you do not currently have an online back-up system in place, please contact me and I am happy to advise you on the matter. External hard drives can fail, too, so I recommend against relying on them as your only source of backup.

III. Attendance and Class Participation

This class works best with widespread student participation. I will call on volunteers but also on students chosen at random to ensure broad contributions.

This course depends on your continued and engaged participation. We will have the honor of speaking with some of the top intellectual property scholars in the country, and you should make full use of this unique opportunity. Further, the ability to think and speak on your feet is an essential skill in virtually all forms of legal practice. You are much better off learning that skill in law school than when you are in practice. You should therefore treat our classroom time as an opportunity to practice your advocacy skills.

While positive participation is highly valued, I may also lower a grade for repeated unexcused absences from class or for disruptive behavior. **Disruptive behavior in this context includes but is not limited to disrespectful actions and words in the classroom (including toward fellow students), unauthorized use of electronics (i.e., any use not specifically initiated and directed by the instructor – see more details under “IV. Computer Policies”), repeated unexcused late arrival to class, and any other unprofessional behavior that interferes with the learning process.**

**I reserve the right to remove from the course altogether a student who misses more than 2 sessions for any reason or a student who disrupts the course.** Please let me know in advance if you know that you will not be there on a given day or if you are facing emergency circumstances of any sort that will require your absence from class.

I do not allow recordings of the courses.

IV. Computer Policies
**Electronic devices are banned from this course.** This means no laptops, no cell phones, etc. The only exceptions are if you have a disability that is documented with the school or if an urgent personal matter requires temporary use of an electronic device (e.g., a partner is about to give birth), in which case you should contact me before class and we will make arrangements. Electronic devices often serve as a distraction to students, and the latest research generally shows their lack of an educational benefit.

V. Current Events

If you see something that might be of interest to the course (a news story, lawsuit, etc.), please feel free to mention it to me and send me any relevant links or materials. I may choose to discuss them in class.

VI. Speakers

Attached to this syllabus is the schedule and list of speakers for the course. You will receive the readings in a timely fashion as the semester progresses.
SCHEDULE WITH SPEAKERS

Mon (Aug 25) - First session on Peter DiCola
Mon (Sept 1) – **Holiday: No Class**
Mon (Sept 8) – Peter DiCola talk
Mon (Sept 15) – First session on Keith Hylton
Mon (Sept 22) – Keith Hylton talk
Mon (Sept 29) – First session on Jake Linford
Mon (Oct 6) – Jake Linford talk
Mon (Oct 13) – First session on Jacob Sherkow
Mon (Oct 20) – Jacob Sherkow talk
Mon (Oct 27) – First session on Christina Mulligan
Mon (Nov 3) – Christina Mulligan talk
Mon (Nov 10) – First session on David Olson
Mon (Nov 17) – David Olson talk
Mon (Nov 24) – First session on Amy Kapczynski
Mon (Dec 1) – Amy Kapczynski talk (via Skype)