

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LEGL-125
(REVISED)

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: LEGL 125 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2021
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2021
- E. Sponsoring Department: Business & Public Service
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3.0
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3.0
Laboratory: 0.0
Out of class student work per week: 6.0
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: None
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Tracy Rimple, Chair Tracy.Rimple@raritanval.edu
Patrice Marks, Dean Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

This course will provide students with an overview and practical understanding of the various Intellectual Property disciplines including copyright, trade secret, trademark and patent laws. Students will develop an understanding of the terminology associated with, and the searching approaches to trademarks, patents and copyrights. Practical assignments will familiarize students with researching, applying for, acquiring and protecting Intellectual Property rights.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. This class is an elective course for both the Paralegal Studies A.A.S. Degree and the Paralegal Studies Certificate. Due to the abundance of pharmaceutical and technology companies in the immediate vicinity of RVCC and their expressed demand for paralegals trained in the IP area, this course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary for entry-level positions in this field.
- B. This course has no lab component.
- C. This course will transfer into any school with a Paralegal Studies four-year degree, which includes Montclair, Thomas Edison, and St. Elizabeth College in New Jersey. It will also transfer to any four-year institution offering an ABA approved paralegal program of study.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective.
- B. This course serves as an elective for both the Paralegal Studies AAS Degree and the Paralegal Studies Certificate.
- C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

I. **Intellectual Property Rights & Methods of Acquisition**

- A. **Introduction & Overview**
 - 1. Preview of law
 - 2. Paralegal Role in IP
 - 3. Ethical Obligations of IP Paralegal
- B. **Copyright Law**
 - 1. Sources
 - 2. What is Protectable & What is Not
 - 3. Copyright Ownership
 - 4. Copyright Formalities & Registration
 - a. Notice & omission of notice
 - b. Registration
 - c. Preparing & filing applications
 - d. Special Situation applications
 - e. International copyright law
 - f. Access to/Utilization of US Copyright website
- C. **Trademarks**
 - 1. Principles of Trademarks
 - a. Unfair competition issues
 - b. Types of marks
 - c. What is not protectible & why
 - 2. Selection, Evaluation & Registration
 - a. Registration process
 - b. International trademark laws
 - c. Access to/Utilization of US Trademark website
 - d. Access to/Utilization of Five World WIPO website
- D. **Patents**
 - 1. Patent Rights & Limitations
 - 2. Patent Search & Application Process
 - 3. International Patent Law
 - 4. Access to/Utilization of US Patent website
 - 5. Access to/Utilization of European Patent Office

II. **Protection & Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights**

- A. **Trade Secrets**
 - 1. What is Protectable
 - 2. Maintaining Trade Secrets
 - 3. Protecting a Submission
- B. **Protection of Trademark Rights**
 - 1. Protection & Maintenance
 - 2. Ownership Rights & Limitations
- C. **Infringement**
 - 1. Copyright Infringement
 - 2. Trademark Infringement
 - 3. Patent Infringement

D. Litigation

1. Copyright Litigation
2. Trade Secret Litigation
3. Trademark Litigation
4. Patent Litigation

III. Nuts & Bolts of Managing an IP Portfolio

A. Docketing

B. Managing Licenses & Co-existence Agreements

VI. **General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

A. **General Education Learning Outcomes:**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Produce written work that reflects critical and creative thought using fact pattern scenarios. (GE NJ 1)
2. Develop the ability to communicate clearly and logically, both in the writing of IP applications and in the presentation of group projects. (GE NJ 1)
3. Apply technological tools to research trade names, analyze information found and retrieved from governmental IP sources to solve client IP problems, assist in IP decision-making to create IP applications and produce IP portfolio management systems. (GE NJ 4, GE-NJ IL)
4. Analyze and evaluate ethical issues in trademark, copyright and patent practice. (GE-NJ ER*)

*Embedded Critical Thinking

B. **Course Learning Outcomes:**

At completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Converse in and understand the terminology associated with IP law and practice.
2. Research IP issues using conventional and web-based resources.
3. Assist attorneys in the application for and protection of client IP rights.
4. Process a US patent application.
5. Draft a trademark application from a fact pattern.
6. Apply for copyright protection for a fictitious work.
7. Analyze fact situations relating to international IP protection.
8. Utilize government and organizational websites for information input and retrieval.

C. **Assessment Instruments**

1. Examinations
2. IP Research Assignments
3. Homework Assignments

4. Document Preparation based on fact patterns
5. Small Group Work and Student Collaboration
6. Oral Presentations

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. Examinations
- B. IP Research Assignments
- C. Homework Assignments
- D. Preparation of Intellectual Property documents
- E. Teamwork and group assignments
- F. Oral Presentations
- G. Participation

Methods for teaching and learning:

- A. lecture/discussions
- B. web-based legal resource instruction
- C. group assignments/student collaboration
- D. simulations

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Textbook: Bouchoux, *Intellectual Property* (Current Edition); Cengage Publishing Company.
- B. Internet and Web-based Governmental and International IP resources

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

This course will require access to the internet.

