

**Course Proposal: University Senior Seminar
EIU 4129G Law and Technology**

1. Catalog Description

- (a) EIU 4129G
- (b) Law and Technology
- (c) 3-0-3
- (d) On demand
- (e) Law Tech
- (f) An examination of how new technology drives change in the law focusing on analysis of court cases, legislation and readings. Areas of study include patents, copyrights, trade secrets, biotechnology, bioengineered medicine, biochemistry, telecommunications, and the Internet.
- (g) Prerequisite: 75 hours; pre-law minors are excluded.
- (h) Writing intensive

2. Student learning objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will:*

- Demonstrate an understanding of how the law is shaped by technological innovations, how technology-driven changes affect individuals and organizations (critical thinking, citizenship);
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of intellectual property law and treaties that regulate technology; (citizenship)
- Provide examples of the ways in which American law has responded to and been shaped by technology since the industrial revolution (citizenship);
- Analyze court cases, legislation, treaties and other legal writings (citizenship, critical thinking);
- Identify and analyze legal and ethical issues created by emerging technology (critical thinking);
- Clearly and effectively communicate complex information and analyses orally and in writing (writing and speaking);

*Related learning goals of EIU general education are shown in parentheses after the learning objective.

3. Course outline

Week	Topics
Week 1	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• U.S. and international legal systems• Sources of law• Defining technology
Week 2	Historical perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Importance of the industrial revolution in shaping the law• Development of negligence law• Development of workers' compensation law

Week	Topics
Week 3	Historical perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The automobile as an example of technology shaping law • Development of products liability law • Growth of government regulation of business
Week 4	Modern technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The computer and related technology • Communications technology • The Genome Project • Biotechnology • Satellite technology
Week 5	U.S. intellectual property law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patents • trade secrets • copyrights
Week 6	U.S. intellectual property law: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patents, • trade secrets • copyrights
Week 7	Intellectual property in the global marketplace
Week 8	Computer software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal protection • Sales issues
Week 9	Computer crime Electronic commerce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital signatures • Encryption
Week 10	Privacy issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail privacy • Workplace privacy • Financial privacy • Medical privacy
Week 11	Telecommunications issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1996 Telecommunications Act • Wireless communications • Satellite technology • Direct broadcast
Week 12	Critical thinking assessment
Week 13	Biotechnology issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical medicine • Gene therapy • Cloning • DNA issues
Week 14	(Presentations)
Week 15	(Presentations)

4. Evaluation of student learning

- a. Achievement of student learning objectives will be evaluated as follows:

Written homework assignments (such as case analyses, article reviews, and reaction papers)*	40%
In-class assignments (such as quizzes, exams, case analyses)	25%
Written term project	20%
In-class presentation	<u>15%</u>
	100%

*At least one of the written homework assignments (case analyses or reaction papers) will be returned to the student after preliminary evaluation for further revision before final grading.

- b. Writing activities throughout the semester are designed to enhance the students' understanding of course content and strengthen students' writing skills. The quality of writing constitutes at least 60% the student's final grade.

5. Rationale

- a. Senior seminar
- b. Prerequisite: Completion of 75 semester hours
- c. This course is not substantially similar to any other course.
- d. This course will not be required in any major or minor; pre-law minors are excluded.

6. Implementation

- a. Initial instructor: Dr. A. Joyner or Dr. C. Roszkowski
- b. Text: L. Burgunder, *Legal Aspects of Managing Technology* (South-Western College Publishing, 2001)
- c. Additional costs to students: none
- d. Term first offered: Spring 2002

7. Community College Transfer: A community college course may not be judged equivalent to this course.

8. Date approved by the department curriculum committee: March 7, 2001

9. Date approved by the college curriculum committee: April 12, 2001

10. Date approved by Senior Seminar Advisory Committee: April 18, 2001

11. Date approved by Council for Academic Affairs: July 19, 2001

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