MIT Sloan School of Management

Independent Activities Period (IAP) 2022

**15.620**

**Patent Law Fundamentals**

Jeffrey A. Meldman

3 units G, graded P/D/F

Listeners are welcome

(Please register for 15.620 with “Listener” status.)

Meets (in person) in room E51-376

MWF, 1 to 3 pm

on the following dates in January:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **M** |  | **W** |  | **F** |
| **10** |  | **12** |  | **14** |
|  |  | **19** |  | **21** |
| **24** |  | **26** |  |  |

Intensive introduction to the basic provisions of U.S. patent law, emphasizing the legal requirements for patentability and the legal process of applying for a patent.

**Designed for undergrads and grad students in all MIT departments.**

**May be taken for 3 units G credit (graded P/D/F) or attended as a listener.**

Reading materials include key sections of the U.S. patent statute (Title 35, U.S. Code) and related federal case law. Readings and lecture slides will be posted on the Canvas IAP 2022 website for 15.620, to which registered listeners will have access as well. There are no textbooks or course packs to purchase.

For students taking 15.620 for credit, there will be an end-of-term quiz during the final class on Wednesday, January 26. Students’ grades will be determined by performance on the quiz.

*Jeff Meldman is Senior Lecturer in the MIT Sloan School of Management. He received his SB, SM, and PhD degrees from MIT (EECS) and his JD degree from Harvard Law School. His teaching and research focus on technology-related law and on computer modeling of legal reasoning and legal procedure.*

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**15.620**

**Patent Law Fundamentals**

IAP January 2022

MWF, January 10 through 26, 1 to 3 pm

Room E51-376 (in person)

3 units G, graded P/D/F

(Registered listeners are welcome at any or all of the lectures

and will have access to reading materials and slides.)

**Schedule of Topics**

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| **Mon Jan 10** | **Introduction to Patents and Intellectual Property**  What patents and intellectual property are. Fundamental components of U.S. patent law. |
| **Wed Jan 12** | **Conditions for Patentability: “New and Useful”**  Requirements for a patentableinvention: novelty, non-obviousness, and utility. New U.S. law of inventor priority (first to invent? first to file? first to disclose? or what?) |
| **Fri Jan 14** | **Eligible Classes of Patentable Invention; Rights of Patent Ownership**  Statutory subject matter and judicially recognized exceptions. To what extent can software be protected? Business methods? Human genes? Patent rights. The right to exclude others vs. the exclusive right, especially in relation to improvement patents. |
|  | *(Mon, Jan 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—No class meeting)* |
| **Wed Jan 19** | **Obtaining a Patent**  The process of applying for a patent. Contents of the patent application, especially the specification. The role of the patent search. In-class demonstration of patent search tools available to MIT students. |
| **Fri Jan 21** | **Patent Claims; Patent Licenses and the MIT TLO**  The scope, language, and structure of patent claims. Introduction to patent licenses and to the MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO) |
| **Mon Jan 24** | **Infringement, Defenses, and Remedies; Other Intellectual Property**  Literal infringement and the doctrine of equivalents. Patent invalidity and other defenses. Legal and equitable remedies. Overview of the other forms of intellectual (copyrights, trade secrets, and trademarks) and how these differ from patents. |
| **Wed Jan 26** | **End-of-Term Quiz** (for students taking 15.620 for credit) |