Course Description: Intellectual Property for the Sciences (CHEM 4712.600; CRN 16525)
Learn about trademarks, patents, and copyrights and how they relate to the STEM disciplines. A one-hour elective course. There are no specific course prerequisites; students need to be classified as a junior, senior, or graduate student.

Modality: This course is a face-to-face and livestream format so students are expected to be present during the scheduled time. Discussions and other activities will occur during the scheduled time and cannot be made up if missed. The midterm and final will be given face-to-face.

Number of Credit Hours: This course is for 1 credit hour. The course is a seminar type course and lasts the entire semester (15 weeks). It is designed to develop an understanding of the concepts and applications of intellectual property for undergraduates. Students are expected to read and understand material, spend time learning to search for patents and other literature, and spend time reading about careers in intellectual property so they can effectively learn and participate in the classroom time. There are short assignments, writing assignments, quizzes and exams that students need to prepare for. In addition to the 50 minutes of class each week, student should spend approximately of 2 hours per week outside of class preparing for assignments, quizzes, and exams.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites: Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Must be a junior or senior in good academic standing.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives: There are no specific general education core curriculum objectives in this course. This course is not a general education core curriculum course.

Course Objective: Students will be exposed to the topic of intellectual property as it pertains to STEM majors

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. understand basic intellectual property concepts and terminology
2. gain knowledge about careers in intellectual property
3. read a patent document
4. search for patents and other related technical publications

Outline of Topics (approximate course time): Variable: dependent on instructor and selected course content.
Text and Materials: No text required. Materials provided via D2L as well USPTO website and other open educational resources.

COURSE CALENDAR: SEE LAST PAGE OF SYLLABUS

GRADING POLICY:

Method of Evaluation: The point total for the semester is 300 points.

The grading scale is: ≥270 = A, ≥240 = B, ≥210 = C, ≥180 = D, <180 = F

- Assignments: 70 points. Assignments and their point values are shown in the calendar.
- Project: 70 points - Sample invention and development of items to a file patent. (Specific directions will be given separately. This is a group assignment so students will work outside of class time and have at least one meeting with the instructor which will serve as asynchronous instruction minutes.)
- Participation: 10 points – attendance, preparedness, participating in discussion
- Midterm and Final Exam 150 points (75 points each)

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance of class is mandatory. For an excused absence, contact professor. Attendance is a part of the participation grade. Three absences or more will result in an ‘F’ in the class.

STUDENTS SUCCESS: Your academic achievement naturally depends on your level of involvement in this course. You improve your chances of success if you: complete readings and assignments, attend all lectures and labs, take advantage of office hours, participate in activities and discussions, study regularly, make use of available resources, and ask questions. Do not hesitate to ask for help. I am invested in your education and academic success, and will provide appropriate assistance as requested. I guarantee my availability during office hours, but feel free to drop by or make an appointment. There will be no extra credit opportunities for this course – focus your attention on the tasks at hand

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Any student found cheating will be subject to the penalties as stated in the Student Code of Conduct handbook; including but not limited to a score of zero on exam, expulsion from the class or expulsion from the University. Please read the Student Academic Dishonesty policy.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
Any student found cheating will be subject to the penalties as stated in the policy noted above. Using work from students in the class or those who previously took this class is not acceptable and is considered cheating in the class. The consequence of cheating on anything in the course is a zero on the item. Depending on the severity of the cheating, a student may receive an F in the course, and when I turn in the Report of Academic Dishonesty to the dean’s office, I will recommend suspension from the university. I will also notify the department chair/unit head of a student’s major and/or attribute.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:** At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work by the deadline set by the instructor of record, not to exceed one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Military Service Activation (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

If a student has been found guilty of academic dishonesty, a grade of “WP” or “WH” may be changed to “WF” at the discretion of the faculty member. In the case of a grade change to “WF”, the course will not count towards the six course drop limit since the student is incurring an academic penalty.

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Classroom Behavior Policy:** *Acceptable Student Behavior:* Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:**

- Professional behavior is expected at all times and includes coming to class prepared and on time. Bring a copy of slides posted on D2L or an electronic device to view slides. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted.
- Contribute to class discussions and group assignments/discussions.
- Silence phones and put away unless we are using them as a part of class.
- Be courteous and respectful of other students and instructor.
- No make-up quizzes will be given if a student comes in late and misses the quiz.
Students who violate these rules will be asked to leave. Repeat offenders will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with University policies as described in the Code of Student Conduct.

**SFA Mental Health Statement:** SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

*On-campus Resources:*

SFASU Counseling Services  
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)  
3rd Floor Rusk Building  
936-468-1041

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic  
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)  
Human Services Room 202  
936-468-2401

*Disclaimer:* Introduction to Intellectual Property is a course designed to inform STEM students about the concepts of intellectual property. The material presented in this course is not intended nor should be construed as legal advice. Any individual seeking to pursue a patent or other protections accorded under law is encouraged to seek the advice of an attorney with expertise in such matters.

**Crisis Resources**

Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)  
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Important Links:**


The Leahy Smith America Invents Act  

# Introduction to Intellectual Property

## Tentative Course Calendar

<table>
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<tr>
<th>date</th>
<th>Class topic, activity, assignment</th>
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| Aug. 23    | **Welcome to class, introduction/expectations/syllabus**  
*Topic:* What is Intellectual Property  
**Assignment 1:** (10 pts) – Find a poplar news report concerning intellectual property and briefly explain what you found interesting about the report. (Due: Aug. 28 in dropbox by 5:00 pm. Include a link to the report or upload a copy along with your brief explanation.) |
| Aug. 30    | **Discuss results of Assignment 1**  
*Topic:* Introduction to Intellectual Property part 1 (SLO1) |
| Sept. 06   | **Assignment 1:** Find a poplar news report concerning intellectual property and briefly explain what you found interesting about the report. (Due: Aug. 28 in dropbox by 5:00 pm. Include a link to the report or upload a copy along with your brief explanation.)  
*Topic:* Introduction to Intellectual Property part 1 (SLO1) |
| Sept. 13   | **Assignment 2:** (20 pts): Find a patent of interest to you. Answers 5 questions about it. Questions in D2L. (Due: Sept. 13 in dropbox by 5:00 pm. Upload both the PDF of the patent and the questions.)  
*Topic:* Overview/anatomy of a patent (SLO3)  
*Topic:* How to Search for a patent |
| Sept. 20   | **Assignment 3:** (10 pts) Find a current advertisement for a job in IP (patent agent, patent attorney, technical support, etc., and write a short paragraph explaining what skills you would need to acquire if you wanted to apply. (Due Sept. 24 in dropbox by 5:00 pm)  
*Topic:* Patent Agent/Attorney as a career – guest lecturer (SLO2) |
| Sept. 27   | **Midterm Exam (75 pts)**  
*Assignment 4:** (10 pts) Find a current article/report that discusses the economics of a patent. Explain why you selected the article and how/if it relates to your major. (Due: Oct. 1 in dropbox by 5 pm. – both the article and the discussion.)  
*Topic:* Patent Agent/Attorney as a career – guest lecturer (SLO2) |
| Oct. 04    | **Assignment 5:** (20 pts) Choose one of the guest lecturers to write a short paper about. Find an article, journal, or news item about that topic that was not used for a prior assignment that is related to the topic of the guest speaker. Write a two-page paper (double spaced, 12 pt font, 1 in. margins) that summarizes the talk and clearly explains how the article relates to the talk.)  
**Topic:** Intellectual Property and Economics – guest panel (SLO2) Discussion guest panel about articles.  
- Justin Blount – SFA College of Business  
- Jamie Humphries – SFA College of Business  
*Topic:* A Brief History of Intellectual Property.  
| Oct. 11    | Careers in IP – guest lecturer (SLO2)  
- Mary-Olga Lovett, Senior Vice President Greenberg Traurig)  
*Topic:* Importance of Claims |
| Oct. 18    |  
*Topic:* A Brief History of Intellectual Property.  
| Oct. 22    |  
*Assignment 5:** (20 pts) Choose one of the guest lecturers to write a short paper about. Find an article, journal, or news item about that topic that was not used for a prior assignment that is related to the topic of the guest speaker. Write a two-page paper (double spaced, 12 pt font, 1 in. margins) that summarizes the talk and clearly explains how the article relates to the talk.)  
*Topic:* Intellectual Property and Economics – guest panel (SLO2) Discussion guest panel about articles.  
- Justin Blount – SFA College of Business  
- Jamie Humphries – SFA College of Business  
*Topic:* A Brief History of Intellectual Property.  
| Nov. 01    | **Project** |
| Nov. 18    | **Project** |
| Nov. 15    | **Project** |
| Nov. 22    | **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** |
| Nov. 29    | Guest Lecturer (SLO2);  
*Assignment 5:** (20 pts) Choose one of the guest lecturers to write a short paper about. Find an article, journal, or news item about that topic that was not used for a prior assignment that is related to the topic of the guest speaker. Write a two-page paper (double spaced, 12 pt font, 1 in. margins) that summarizes the talk and clearly explains how the article relates to the talk.)  
*Topic:* Intellectual Property and Economics – guest panel (SLO2) Discussion guest panel about articles.  
- Justin Blount – SFA College of Business  
- Jamie Humphries – SFA College of Business  
*Topic:* A Brief History of Intellectual Property.  
| Dec. 06    | **Final Exam (75pts)** |

*Note: The instructor maintains the right to change the syllabus when necessary; the instructor will notify students of any necessary changes in writing.*