

EECS 495: Patent Fundamentals For Engineers

Instructor: Professor Mohammed N. Islam

Class: Wednesday, 6-9pm, room to be announced

Grading: Take home Exam # 1 25%
In-class timed Exam # 2 35%
Patent Final Project 40%

Textbook:
Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP)

Summary of Course

This course covers the fundamentals of patents or intellectual property and is geared for undergraduate and graduate students in Engineering. The first part of the course focuses on the rules and codes that govern patent prosecution in the U.S. For example, we cover in summary form most parts of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), with a special emphasis on Examination of Patents and Patentability of Applications. The second part of the course focuses on the strategies and methodology for claim drafting and patent prosecution. Since it is important to write a patent with the opponent in mind, some lectures also examine litigation issues and common techniques used to overturn patents. Finally, the ethics codes and licensing agreements are covered briefly. As a final project, the students have an opportunity to write their own patent on an invention of their choosing, which includes the specification, drawings and claims. The best applications *may* even be filed in the Patent and Trademark Office.

Note: A follow-on course will be offered on Entrepreneurial Fundamentals for Engineers in the near future.

Lectures (rough guideline)

Lecture 1	Introduction, Motivation, Patent Generals Access, Secrecy, and Foreign Filing (MPEP 100) Inventorship, Priority, Cross-noting (MPEP 200)
Lecture 2	Ownership and Assignments (MPEP 300) 35 USC 102: Anticipation, Prior Art
Lecture 3	Representative of Inventor or Owner, Ethics (MPEP 400) Receipt and Handling of Mail and Papers (MPEP 500) Parts, Form, and Content of Application (MPEP 600)
Lecture 4	Examination, 35 USC 103, Periods of Response (MPEP 700) Final Rejections and Interviews (MPEP 700) Abandonment & Revival and Swearing Back (MPEP 700)
Lecture 5	Restriction and Double Patenting (MPEP 800) Appeal & Issue (MPEP 1200, 1300) Correction of Patents, Design & Plant Patents (MPEP 1400-1600)
Lecture 6	PCT (MPEP 1800) Patentability (MPEP 2100)
Lecture 7	Patentability Continued (MPEP 2100) Citation of Prior Art (MPEP 2200) Maintenance Fees (2500), Patent Terms (2700)
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Lecture 8	Claim Drafting Concepts, Jargon, Rules & Methodology
Lecture 9	Amendment & Response Methodology
Lecture 10	Claim Drafting II
Lecture 11	Patent Prosecution
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Lecture 12	Litigation Issues
Lecture 13	Ethics, Licensing Agreements
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