BL2205 – PRINCIPLES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Module Number: BL2205

Module Title: Principles of Intellectual Property Law

Number of Aston Credits: 10

Total Number of ECTS Credits: 5
(European Credit Transfer)

Staff Member Responsible for the Module:

Professor Ruth Soetendorp
Aston Law

Availability: please see group administrator, Basia Nowakowska, ABS Building Room 428, Extension 3185

Other Staff Contributing to the Module:

Pre-Requisite(s) for the Module: BL1104 English Legal Method and Contract Law

Module Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the module students will be able to:

1. **Knowledge and Understanding**
   Demonstrate both knowledge and a practical understanding of the legal environment controlling and affecting the development, protection, acquisition, infringement and commercial exploitation of intellectual property in an international context.

2. **Cognitive and Analytical skills**
   Identify and research new and emerging legal issues resulting from the protection and use of intellectual property and the implications of technology transfer.

3. **Key/Transferable skills**

Indentify legal issues and relevant facts. By written communication they will be able to apply legal knowledge and rules to factual legal problems. These skills are practiced during tutorials and assessed in the examination.

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Module Content:

Week 1
Introduction to IP; Know How and Trade Secrets (lectures)

Week 2
Patent Law (lectures)

Week 3
Patent Law (Lecture, + discussions)

Week 4
Design Law and IP overlaps (lectures)

Week 5
Copyright Law

Week 6 Reading week

Week 7
Copyright Law (lecture, + discussions

Week 8
Passing off & Trade Mark law (lectures)

Week 9
Trade mark law (lecture + discussions)

Week 10
IP Ownership and Commercial Exploitation (lectures)

Week 11
Putting it all together (discussions)

International Dimensions:

A proportion of the module addresses comparative issues such as developments in the United States (in the field of software copyright and software patents, for example) and in Europe (for example, legislative initiatives in the field of software patents).

Corporate Connections:

Claire Howell is a Barrister of the Middle Temple (np). Having worked in Law Schools in England and Wales she has many connections in the legal world. She has worked with the European Patent Office to promote the teaching of Intellectual Property Law throughout the curricula of European Universities.

Specialists in the area of intellectual property law may be invited to give guest lectures.

Learning and Teaching Rationale and Methods:

a) Method of Teaching - Lectures, tutorials and practical exercises. The materials for the module will be made available on Blackboard as will additional materials and links to websites having relevant and supplementary information.

Lectures are designed to provide students with the basic understanding of the subject area whilst tutorials and practical exercises are designed to allow and encourage students to develop an ability to apply their knowledge in practical situations so as to identify issues, carry out appropriate research an apply relevant legal rules.

b) Duration

Lectures, exercises and seminars	22 hours
Directed learning	26 hours
Private study/group work	50 hours
Assessment (closed book examination)	2 hours

Total	100 hours

c) Emphasis will be placed on the practical aspects and Implications of the relevant areas of law. The module will be taught in plain English without undue reliance obscure legal and technical concepts and will be appropriate for business school students.

Assessment and Feedback Rationale and Methods:

The assessment is via a two hour closed book examination.

The assessment is designed to demonstrate that students have achieved the learning outcomes and show their understanding of the subject area and ability to identify issues, analyse situations and their legal effects and to plan and propose appropriate and effective strategies and solutions.

Feedback will be given via tutorials and the use of FAQ on Blackboard.