The following is a supplement to the PowerPoint presentation for the course.

I. General Introduction to Intellectual Property – The economical importance of IP – Presentation of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and its Role – the TRIPS Agreement

(Estimated time: Monday, June 29, 09.00 - 12.00)

Intellectual Property (IP) Law is one of the fastest growing fields of law worldwide. Its growing popularity is due, in part, to the increasing recognition that IP is an indispensable tool for economic development and national growth. The particular links with information and communications technology, and with international trade and investment have also served to highlight the increasing importance of IP in today’s knowledge-based economy.

We will take a look at the basics of the various fields of Intellectual property (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indication and copyright), before going through the presentation and role of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), along with the TRIPS Agreement.

Recommended Reading:

The World Intellectual Property Organization, “What is Intellectual Property?” (copies to be distributed in class on day one).

At Home with Inventions (copies to be distributed in class on day one).

Veronika Hrbata, “No International Organization is an Island … the WTO’s Relationship with the WIPO: A Model for the Governance of Trade Linkage Areas?” 44 Journal of World Trade 1-47 (2010).
II. Industrial Property (Patents, Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications); Substantive Conditions for protection – Duration of Protection – International Registration Systems

(Estimated Time: Tuesday, June 30, 09.00-12.00)

How to obtain protection over patents, trademarks, industrial designs and geographical indications? How to obtain such a protection at the domestic level and outside the national territory? What are the substantive conditions for protection and what are the formal requirements? How long can protection last? At what price? All these issues will be addressed with respect to each type of industrial property.

Recommended Reading:

Protecting your Marks Abroad - The Madrid System" (copies to be distributed in class on day one);

Inventing the Future - An Introduction to Patents for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (copies to be distributed in class on day one).

Industrial Designs and The Hague Agreement: An Introduction (copies to be distributed in class on day one).

III. Copyright at the national and international levels

(Estimated time: Wednesday, July 1, 09.00 – 12.00)

The field of copyright has expanded enormously during the last several decades with the spectacular progress of technological development that has, in turn, yielded new ways of disseminating creations by such forms of communication as satellite broadcasting, compact discs and DVDs. Widespread dissemination of works via the Internet raises difficult questions concerning copyright and related rights in this global medium. Works Protected by Copyright, Rights granted, Limitations on Rights, Duration, all these questions will be analyzed in the context in particular of the spectacular rise of the Internet.

Recommended Reading:

Understanding Copyright and Related Rights (copies to be distributed in class on day one).

(Estimated time: Thursday, July 2, 09.00 – 12.00)

While IP disputes are unavoidable, there is a growing need for quick and inexpensive ways of settling commercial disputes involving IP rights, and providing private parties with an alternative to often lengthy and costly court proceedings. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is widely perceived to be one of the most appropriate means of resolving IP disputes. We will look at the scope of protection offered by IP, as well as the types of infringements and dispute resolution of IP disputes.

Recommended Reading:


World Intellectual Property Organization, “Guide to WIPO Domain Name Dispute Resolution” (copies to be distributed in class on day one).

Dispute Resolution for the 21st Century (copies to be distributed in class on day one).