

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Faculty of Law

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)

Course Syllabus

1. Course Information

- **Title:** IP (Intellectual Property) Law
- **Code:** LLB10
- **ECTS:** 6
- **Hours per week:** 4
- **Academic Year:** 1st
- **Teaching Period:** Spring Semester
- **Mode of Delivery:** Face-to-Face
- **Language of Instruction/Assessment:** English
- **Course Type:** Mandatory

2. Course Description

This course introduces students to the core concepts, legal structures, and evolving challenges of Intellectual Property (IP) law in a comparative and transnational context. It focuses on the protection of intangible goods, particularly in the domains of literary, artistic, and technological creations, with a strong emphasis on European, Greek, and international frameworks. Students will examine the foundations and dual nature (moral and economic) of authors' rights, the concept of originality, and the scope of protection for works such as software, databases, and digital content. The course explores how intellectual property law responds to technological progress, especially in the digital age, addressing phenomena such as AI-generated works, blockchain innovations, and digital licensing. Special attention is given to the EU's DSM Directive, the jurisprudence of the

CJEU, and the impact of IP enforcement mechanisms online, including platform liability and notice-and-takedown procedures. Through case analysis and practical illustrations, students will engage critically with contemporary debates, such as the tension between copyright and freedom of information, and develop the analytical tools necessary to understand IP law's role in digital culture, creative industries, and transnational commerce.

3. Keywords

Intellectual Property, Industrial Property, Copyright, Authorship, Digital Rights, Originality, Exploitation, Software, Public Domain, Moral Rights

4. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Identify** the key legal concepts and distinctions within the field of intellectual and industrial property, including the nature and scope of copyright, trademarks, patents, and designs. (*Remember*)
2. **Explain** the foundational principles and dual nature (moral and economic) of authors' rights, and their application to traditional and digital works within both national and European legal frameworks. (*Understand*)
3. **Apply** relevant statutory provisions, case law (notably from the CJEU), and EU directives, such as the DSM Directive, to assess the validity, infringement, and enforcement of IP rights in practical scenarios. (*Apply*)
4. **Analyse** the interaction between IP law and technological development, including software, databases, AI-generated content, and blockchain applications, with emphasis on evolving forms of legal protection. (*Analyse*)
5. **Evaluate** the effectiveness and limitations of current legal instruments in reconciling protection of IP with fundamental rights and public interest, particularly in the context of digital exploitation, collective management, and cross-border enforcement. (*Evaluate*)

5. General Skills to Be Acquired

- Apply knowledge in practice

- Retrieve, analyse, and synthesise data and information
- Adapt to new situations
- Make decisions
- Work in an international context
- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Generate new research ideas
- Appreciate diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect the natural environment
- Be critical and self-critical
- Advance free, creative, and causative thinking

6. Course Content (Topics)

1. **Foundations of Intellectual and Industrial Property Law** – Introduction to the rationale, historical development, and legal taxonomy of intellectual property; distinctions between copyright, patents, trade marks, designs, and sui generis rights.
2. **Authorship, Originality, and the Concept of the ‘Work’** – Defining the author; works made for hire, derivative and collaborative works, and originality under national and EU law; analysis of protected subject-matter and the role of the public domain.
3. **Moral and Economic Rights: Scope, Duration, and Enforcement** – Examining the dual nature of copyright: moral integrity, paternity, and economic exploitation; distinctions between common law and civil law approaches.
4. **Digital Challenges and New Subject-Matter** – Software, databases, and computer-generated works; legal protection in the digital age and the challenges posed by artificial intelligence and algorithmic creativity.
5. **Industrial Property: Patents, Trade Marks, and Designs** – Exploring the legal protection of inventions, distinctive signs, and aesthetic creations; criteria of validity, infringement, and overlap with IP regimes.
6. **Collective Management and Licensing Practices** – Legal framework and practical operation of collective rights management; exclusive and non-exclusive licences; royalty models and digital licensing in publishing, music, film, and software.

7. **EU IP Law and the Digital Single Market** – Key EU law instruments (e.g. DSM Directive), harmonisation efforts, and the role of the CJEU in shaping the digital copyright and industrial property landscape.
8. **Limitations and Exceptions in the Public Interest** – Private use, education, libraries, quotation, parody, and exceptions for text and data mining; balance between rights-holders' interests and freedom of expression or access to knowledge.
9. **Infringement, Enforcement, and Platform Liability** – Enforcement mechanisms in the digital environment; notice and takedown, platform liability, and CJEU jurisprudence on hyperlinking, framing, and secondary liability.
10. **International Frameworks and Comparative IP Law** – Overview of WIPO treaties, the TRIPS Agreement, and the Berne and Paris Conventions; comparative approaches to enforcement and protection across major jurisdictions.
11. **Contemporary Challenges: AI, Blockchain, and NFTs** – Legal uncertainty around ownership and rights allocation in AI-generated works; blockchain authentication; NFT markets and the 'digital exhaustion' debate.
12. **Case Studies in the Digital and Creative Economy** – Practical application of IP principles through case studies involving open-source software, streaming platforms, collective licensing, e-books, and online marketplaces.

7. Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Case law workshops.
- Student presentations and structured debate.
- Guided reading and legal reasoning exercises.

8. Assessment Methods

Method	Weight	Description
Final Written Exam	70%	Essay-type and case-based questions
Mid-Term Assignment/Presentation	20%	Individual or group-based

Method	Weight	Description
Participation and Engagement	10%	Constructive attendance, preparedness, contribution

Note: A minimum final exam score of 50% is required to pass.

9. A. Ethics

Students are reminded that all submitted work must comply with the University's academic [integrity policy](#). Plagiarism or unauthorised collaboration will result in disciplinary measures.

B. Course Policies

- Attendance is strongly encouraged.
- All assignments must be submitted on time via the designated platform.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with documented learning or health needs in accordance with university policy.

10. Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Use in Teaching: (e.g. digital slides, audiovisual aids, interactive tools like Gendreau, Y. (n.d.). *Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Moral Rights* | . Elgar Online.

Retrieved November 7, 2025, from

<https://www.elgaronline.com/edcollbook/book/9781789904871/9781789904871.xml>

- Mentimeter)
- **Use in Communication:** (e.g. E-learning platform, Zoom/Google Meet for office hours)
- **Digital Resources:** (e.g. online legal databases, podcasts, video lectures)

11. Bibliography

- Books/E-Books

Bainbridge, D. I. (2010). *Intellectual property (e-book)*. Pearson

Blakely, M. R. (2024). *Technology, intellectual property law, and culture: The tangification of cultural heritage*. Routledge.

Bonadio, E., & Lucchi, N. (Eds.). (2018). *Non-conventional copyright: Do new and atypical works deserve protection?* Edward Elgar Publishing.

Caenegem, W. van. (2024). *Intellectual and industrial property law (e-book)*. LexisNexis Australia.

Dinwoodie, G. B., & Janis, M. D. (Eds.). (2021). *Research handbook on trademark law reform (Research Handbooks in Intellectual Property series)*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dutfield, G., & Suthersanen, U. (2020). *Dutfield and Suthersanen on global intellectual property law (2nd ed.)*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Former, J. C., & Sprigman, C. J. (2025). *Copyright Law: Cases and Materials (e-book)*. <https://www.copyrightbook.org/>

Gervais, D. J. (Ed.). (2021). *The future of intellectual property (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Geiger, C. (2025). *The Interface of Intellectual Property Law with other Legal Disciplines (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
<https://www.elgaronline.com/edcollbook/book/9781035340934/9781035340934.xml>

Gendreau, Y. (2025). *Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Moral Rights (e-book)*. Elgar Online.
<https://www.elgaronline.com/edcollbook/book/9781789904871/9781789904871.xml>

Grosse Ruse-Khan, H. (Ed.). (2021). *Transition and coherence in intellectual property law: Essays in honour of Annette Kur*. Cambridge University Press.

Kur, A., Dreier, T., & Luginbuehl, S. (2019). *European intellectual property law: Text, cases and materials (2nd ed.) (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Schovsbo, J. (2024). Intellectual property rights in times of crisis. In *Intellectual Property Rights in Times of Crisis (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035323579>

Senftleben, M. (2021). The copyright/trademark interface: How the expansion of trademark protection is stifling cultural creativity. Kluwer Law International.

Synodinou, T.-H. (2019). Pluralism or universalism in international copyright law. Kluwer Law International B. V.

Torremans, Paul. (2017). *Research handbook on copyright law (e-book)*. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited. <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/research-handbook-on-copyright-law-9781785361425.html>

- Databases

Westlaw UK Academic	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
HeinOnline Academic Core and Kluwer Law International Journal Library	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Beck-online PREMIUM	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Oxford Public International Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
O.U.P Max Planck Encyclopedia of Comparative Constitutional Law	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Dalloz.fr	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
JURIS Zusatzmodul Hochschulen, BGB Staudinger Online	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
Kluwer Law Online (30 journals)	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/
IAReporter. Investment Arbitration Report	https://law.auth.gr/en/subscription-to-electronic-databases-2/

Cambridge Core (Law)	https://www.cambridge.org/core/browse-subjects/law
EBSCO	https://research.ebsco.com/c/quc7ji/search/advanced/filters?autocorrect=y&isDashboardExpanded=true
ProQuest Central	https://www.proquest.com/central/topicpaths/AbiGlobal_business/0?accountid=8359#0
Springer link	https://link.springer.com/
Taylor & Francis e-books	https://www.taylorfrancis.com/search?subject=SC_LW
Taylor & Francis e-journals	https://www.tandfonline.com/subjects/law
The Making of Modern Law: Legal Treatises 1800-1926 (Gale)	https://go.gale.com/ps/start.do?p=MOML&u=arist&cookieConsent=true&analyticsOptout=false&aty=ip
Wiley online Library	https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/action/showPublications?startPage=&ConceptID=85