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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">IGME-583 Legal and Business Aspects of FOSS</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">R·I·T</p> |
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Course Goals

The free and open source software (FOSS) model of software development and the free culture approach to open intellectual property (open IP) continue to grow in use internationally across domains. The goal of this course is to provide an advanced perspective for students interested in the legal and business ramifications of open IP, patents, licenses, digital distribution, innovation economies and business models.

Course Description

The entertainment and software industries are grappling with the impacts of “free software,” Creative Commons Licensing, digital distribution and more. The Internet and other technologies are changing the face of how business is done, as well as what business can charge for and hold onto. Bitcoin and other currencies are even threatening to shake up economics as we know it. Real-time, on-demand product creation and distribution are transforming our entertainment, telecommunications and manufacturing landscapes. Class 3, Credit 3, Prerequisite: IGME 582 Humanitarian Free and Open Source Software Development, or Permission of Instructor.

Course Text and Materials

Fogel, Karl, *Producing Open Source Software*, O'Reilly Media, Inc. ISBN: 0596007590 or <http://producingoss.com/index.html>.

Amadeu Albós Raya, Lluís Bru Martínez and Irene Fernández Monsalve, *Economic aspects and business models of Free Software*, Free Technology Academy, 2013.
<http://ftacademy.org/materials/fsm/5#1>.

Hendrickson, Mike, Margoulas, Roger, O'Reilly, Tim, *Economic Impact of Open Source on Small Business: A Case Study*, O'Reilly Media, **ASIN**: B00IG2UVSU,
<http://www.oreilly.com/programming/free/economic-impact-of-open-source.csp>

Lindberg, Van *Intellectual Property and Open Source: A Practical Guide to Protecting Code*, 2008 O'Reilly Media, ISBN-10: 0596517963

Fontana, Richard, Kuhn, Bradley, M., Moglen, Eben, Norwood, Matthew, Ravicher, Daniel, B., Sandler, Karen, Vasile, James, Williamson, Aaron. (2008). *A Legal Issues Primer for Open Source and Free Software Projects*. Software Freedom Law Center: Manhattan.
<https://www.softwarefreedom.org/resources/2008/foss-primer.pdf>

In addition to the required texts, there will be an assortment of handouts and online readings that you will receive over the course of the quarter. They will be uploaded to (or linked from) the course website and Github Repository, and the content section in myCourses.

Individual Assignments

Weekly Blog:

Depending on the week these could be responses to class readings and discussions, your role and progress in group assignments or as otherwise assigned.

Community Arch Assignment for a FOSS/FC Business

You've done one for a dev community of your choice in a previous class. Now, informed by what you've learned from our FOSS Business readings, take a look at a FOSS business through the same lens.

Bibliography Additions

Found an interesting article related to the class? Send it to me. If I add it to the class bibliography, you'll get extra credit points.

Group Activities

FOSS/FC Business Case Studies

Based on the individual community arch assignments the members of the class do, we will chose roughly five (dependent on class size, etc) to do business case studies of, similar to your "Economic Impact" reading.

FOSS/FC Product Concept

Patents can be used not only to lock down an invention from other developers, they can be used to ensure an invention remains open. Each class member will pitch a concept and the class will vote on roughly five to work on and create a preliminary patent document for it. They will also identify a license to use with it and explain specifically why that license was chosen.