



RHODES UNIVERSITY

**THE LAW OF  
COPYRIGHT ©  
AND  
TRADE MARKS ®™  
2024**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Overview of the course**

The law of copyright and trade marks is an elective LLB semester course. This course examines the monopolies conferred on these branches of intellectual property and the legal implications at a national and international level.

The course aims to familiarise students with the basic principles of copyright and trade mark law. The law of copyright and trade marks is a vast area of law, and due to time constraints, some aspects cannot be considered in this course. Allied rights and duties arising within this field such as performer's protection, copyright registration in cinematograph films and geographical indications, will not be dealt with.

### **1.2. Credit value**

10 credits which constitutes 100 notional hours of work. These notional hours include lectures, researching for the assignment and preparation for the test and examination.

### **1.3. Assumptions of prior learning**

Students would need to know and be able to do the following to benefit from this course:

- Be capable of communicating in written and spoken English;
- Be capable of critically analysing and extracting relevant legal information from case law, legislation and other source material; and
- Be capable of independent learning.

## **2. OUTCOMES**

### **2.1. Critical cross-field outcomes**

It is intended that successful participation in the course will assist students in developing the following competencies:

- Identifying and solving problems;
- Organising and managing themselves;
- Collecting, analysing and evaluating information;
- Communicating effectively; and
- Using technology.

### **2.2. Intended specific outcomes**

It is intended that students will be able to do the following on successful completion of the course:

- Trace the development of copyright and trademark law locally and internationally;
- Identify and apply the relevant legal principles applicable to copyright and registered trademarks;
- Communicate the legal position as well as their own point of view; and
- Understand and explain the impact of technology on copyright and trademark law.

## **3. TEACHING METHODS**

A detailed course outline with a comprehensive reading list and bibliography are provided for this course. Students are expected to read ahead of the following lecture to acquire a basic familiarity with the relevant topic and then take notes in lectures. Lectures are structured but discursive, allowing for questions and discussion. Practical examples are routinely considered with reference to case law. Students are expected to be able to discuss the facts

and decisions of all the cases listed in the course outline at the appropriate time.

There are two compulsory lectures per week for the semester, although students may be absent without leave for five lectures during the course.

## **4. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **4.1. TEXTS**

Students are required to supplement and consolidate their notes. The following texts, which are all available in the Law Library, form the core reading for this course:

- O Dean and A Dyer *Introduction to Intellectual Property Law* (2014) Oxford: Cape Town
- O Dean *Handbook of South African Copyright Law* (1987) Juta & Co: Cape Town
- F Schechter 'The Rational Basis of Trademark Protection' (1927) 40 *Harvard Law Review* 813
- G C Webster and N S Page *South African Law of Trade Marks* (1997) LexisNexis: Durban (The full text of this work is also available on My LexisNexis, which can be accessed through the RU Library webpage. Go to Research Databases and select My LexisNexis.)

### **4.2. Websites**

There is a wealth of information available on the internet, and the following sites are helpful:

<http://ipkitten.blogspot.com/> (a UK IP blog that you can subscribe to)

<http://afro-ip.blogspot.co.za> (an African IP blog that you can subscribe to)

<http://blogs.sun.ac.za/iplaw/news-3/from-ipstell/> (IP law blog hosted by Stellenbosch University)

[www.heinonline.org](http://www.heinonline.org) (electronic access to a vast array of legal journals which can be accessed through the RU Library webpage)

[www.adamsadams.co.za](http://www.adamsadams.co.za) (SA IP firm)

[www.derebus.org.za](http://www.derebus.org.za) (SA Attorneys Journal)

[www.spoor.com](http://www.spoor.com) (SA IP firm)

[www.domaindisputes.co.za](http://www.domaindisputes.co.za) (.za Alternate Dispute Resolution)

[www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org) (UDRP: Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy)

[www.dalro.co.za](http://www.dalro.co.za) (SA licensing body)

[www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int) (World Intellectual Property Organisation)

[www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/trips\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/trips_e.htm) (TRIPS gateway on the WTO website)

[www.brandchannel.com](http://www.brandchannel.com) (general information about branding issues)

[www.saiipl.org.za](http://www.saiipl.org.za) (SA Institute of IP Law)

[www.zaip.org](http://www.zaip.org) (SA Companies and Intellectual Property Commission)

[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) (USA Patents and Trademark Office)

[www.patent.gov.uk](http://www.patent.gov.uk) (IP in the UK)

[www.iacc.org](http://www.iacc.org) (International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition)

[www.lessig.org](http://www.lessig.org) (the website of Lawrence Lessig, a Stanford professor, who questions the role of copyright and argues that it impedes the dissemination of knowledge)

<http://creativecommons.org/> (an organisation that aims to create a flexible and reasonable system of copyright control)

## 5. ASSESSMENT

<b>Specific outcomes</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b>	<b>Assessment tasks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trace the development of copyright and trade mark law locally and internationally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the historical development of copyright and trade mark law</li> <li>Identify and describe the main international agreements that relate to copyright and trade marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class discussion and questioning (formative)</li> <li>Essay questions in test and examination (summative)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and apply the relevant legal principles applicable to copyright and registered trade marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and distinguish between the legal principles applicable to copyright and trade marks with reference to factual situations</li> <li>Apply statutory and common law principles to given copyright and trade mark issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class discussion and questioning (formative)</li> <li>Problem and theory questions in test and examination (summative)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate the legal position as well as argue their own point of view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe, explain and argue the relevant legal principles with reference to case law and legislation</li> <li>• Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect and evaluate the current law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class discussion and questioning (formative)</li> <li>• Problem, theory and essay questions in test and examination (summative)</li> <li>• Research essay (summative)</li> <li>• Write case notes in test and examination (summative)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and explain the impact of technology on copyright and trade marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse the inherent problems in regulating copyright and trade marks nationally and an internationally</li> <li>• Utilise www. Resources to research South African and comparative law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class discussion and questioning (formative)</li> <li>• Problem and theory questions in test and examination (summative)</li> <li>• Essay questions in test and examination (summative)</li> <li>• Research essay (summative)</li> </ul>

The classwork component for this course amounts to 30% of the final mark, and the remaining 70% comprises a two-hour examination.

Students are assessed for the class work component based on two pieces of work (either two tests or one test and an assignment subject to the student's choice), each of which counts 15% of the final mark.

The assignment requires students to research and write an essay on either copyright or trade marks, depending on their interests.

The test and examination will contain questions of the following types:

- problem questions which require the application of statute and common law to solve practical issues;
- theory-type questions in which students are required to describe, explain and critically evaluate the current law;
- case note questions in which students are required to set out the facts and decision of a case and provide a critical evaluation of the decision; and
- essay-type questions in which students fully canvass a particular area of the law relating to copyright or trade marks.

It is always a good idea to have a look at past examination papers to give guidance as to the type of questions that may arise. Past examination papers can be accessed through the RU Library webpage.



## **COURSE OUTLINE**

Introduction to intellectual property

## **TRADE MARKS**

**TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION TO TRADE MARKS**

**TOPIC 2: REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS**

**TOPIC 3: TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING TRADE MARKS**

**TOPIC 4: INFRINGEMENT OF TRADE MARKS**

**TOPIC 5: DOMAIN NAMES AND THE INTERNET**

## **COPYRIGHT**

**TOPIC 1: INTRODUCTION TO COPYRIGHT**

**TOPIC 2: REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SUBSISTENCE OF COPYRIGHT**

**TOPIC 3: TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING COPYRIGHT**

**TOPIC 4: INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT**

**TOPIC 5: COPYRIGHT AND THE INTERNET**

**COUNTERFEIT GOODS**