

Copyright Law
University of Florida Levin College of Law
Fall 2024 | LAW 6572 | 3 Credits

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:30–11:30

MEETING TIME: Monday/Wednesday 9:00–10:25

LOCATION: MLAC 106

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Welcome to Copyright Law! In this course, we will cover the principles of copyright law and how they apply to the many subjects covered by copyright, including music, film, literature, visual art, and software. We will also examine the policy implications of strong vs. weak copyright protections across industries and in light of competing legal values and policy considerations.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the core principles of copyright law;
- Apply those principles to novel factual settings;
- Understand the policy issues that inform the development and application of copyright law; and
- Further develop their skills as advocates and client counselors by practicing how to analyze copyright issues as they arise in a variety of contexts.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

The required text for this course is *Copyright Law: Cases and Materials* (v6.0) by Fromer and Sprigman. The digital version of the text is available for free at <http://copyrightbook.org/>; the site also includes a link to purchase a low-cost printed version. Please be sure to register for the Canvas course and have any required materials with you in print or easily accessible electronic form in class. You are responsible for checking your Canvas page and the email connected to the page on a regular basis for any class announcements or adjustments.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING EVALUATION

Attendance, preparation, and participation are vital not only to your own understanding of the material but to your classmates' as well. The class will be divided into groups, with each group on call for a designated class on a rotating basis. Although you are expected to have completed the reading for each class, it is particularly important that you are prepared when your group is on call. I encourage you to volunteer even when your group is not on call.

Students will be evaluated based upon class participation and a final exam. The final exam is worth 80% of your grade. The remaining 20% of your grade is based on class participation. Factors that influence your participation grade include preparedness when called upon, willingness to volunteer in class discussions, attendance, and activity in class exercises.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance is required. If you will be absent from class, or unprepared on a day that your group is on call, please email me in advance to let me know. You will have two free passes over the course of the semester; after that, absence or lack of preparation will negatively affect your participation grade. Viewing class recordings later does not count as attendance. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement will be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](#).

UF LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW STANDARD SYLLABUS POLICIES

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies, including compliance with the UF Honor Code, Grading, Accommodations, Class Recordings, and Course Evaluations can be found at this link:

<https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/427635/files/74674656?wrap=1>.

ABA OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS REQUIREMENTS

ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every “classroom hour” of in-class instruction. Each week's classes run a total of approximately 3 hours, requiring at least **6 hours of preparation** outside of class including reading the assigned materials, preparing for class, and preparing for the exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Reading will generally be assigned on a weekly basis. The assignments will be posted on Canvas. I will, from time to time, post suggested readings. These readings are *optional* and will be marked as such. Suggested readings are intended to provide additional context on the topics we cover for students interested in delving deeper into copyright law, whether during the semester or in the future.

For the first two weeks of class, we will cover the origins and basics of copyright law, the fixation and originality requirements, and derivative works and compilations. The reading assignments are:

- 8/19: Introduction, Course Overview, and the Basics of Copyright Law
 - o pp. 1–17
- 8/21: The Fixation and Originality Requirements
 - o pp. 19–35
- 8/26: The Originality Requirement (continued)
 - o pp. 35–47
- 8/28: Derivative Works and Compilations
 - o pp. 47–61

Subsequent parts of the course will cover the idea-expression distinction, the scope of copyrightable subject matter, the relationship between authorship and ownership, the duration of copyright, the exclusive rights of copyright holders, infringement, fair use, and remedies.