Fall 2010 ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION  
UMKC School of Law

COURSE NAME: Law, Science and Technology

COURSE NUMBER: 8853R

PROFESSOR: Holman

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: A background or interest in some area of technology would be useful. A course in intellectual property or patent law would also be helpful.

COURSE BOOKS: No casebook, but a variety of readings will be assigned.

METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:  
The grade will be primarily based upon a major writing assignment on a topic to be agreed upon by student and instructor. The remainder of the grade will be based upon a presentation to the class and on participation in classroom discussion.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:  
This course will provide a survey of a number of fascinating and topical issues that arise when the law is forced to confront advances in science and technology. I intend to include a number of guest speakers to address some specific topics of interest with which they have particular expertise. The class is intended to provide the students a forum to discuss and comment upon some of these issues. Each student will make a presentation to the class on some topic of particular interest, and will prepare a major writing assignment addressing that topic. There is a wide variety of subject matter that can be addressed in the class. The specific topics to be covered will depend somewhat upon the availability of guest speakers, the interests of the class, and we will likely focus on topics that are particularly “hot” at the time the class is offered. Some representative topics might include the facilitation, funding, protection and commercialization of technology, technology transfer, intellectual property issues, bioterrorism, industrial espionage, technology in the court room, scientific evidence, bioethics, forensic anthropology, agricultural biotechnology and cyberlaw.

COURSE CONTENT:  
See Summary Description

RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:  
The course will help students become more adept at dealing with innovations in law and technology that they will undoubtedly encounter in practice. The classroom component of the class will provide them with a broad introduction to a number of cutting edge issues facing today’s attorneys, while the class presentation and writing assignment will afford them the opportunity to delve deeply into a particular area of interest. The presentation and writing will also be generally useful in developing and practicing these important skills.