UMKC SCHOOL OF ELECTIVE COURSE INFORMATION FALL 2010

COURSE NAME: Cyber Law and Information Policy

COURSE NUMBER: 8716

PROFESSOR: Callister

ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITES: None

DESIRABLE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE BOOKS:

PATRICIA L. BELLIA, PAUL SCHIFF BERMAN, AND DVAID G. POST, CYBERLAW PROBLEMS OF POLICY AND JURISPRUDENCE IN THE INFORMATION AGE (West Publishing 2008, 3rd.).


METHOD OF GRADING & APPRAISAL OF STUDENT FOR GRADE:

10%--Participation. The instructor will be looking for evidence of preparation for class and engagement in the issues.

45%--Group projects on three separate legal issues. The specific issues will be assigned by the instructor.

45%--Paper (case comment, firm memo, amicus brief, or article) on issue selected by student and approved by instructor from subjects found in the casebook, Cyberspace Law, hypothetical practice problem, or recent events. Paper must be between 10 and 12 pages in length (double spaced, standard margins, Times Roman or Arial Fonts, and using citations standards of the Bluebook, 17th or 18th ed). Outlines, introductory sections, drafts, etc. may be due at designated dates throughout the semester. Turn in paper by email, instructor's library mail box, or in class at last class before Thanksgiving break.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course will emphasize the changing infosphere (i.e., the informational and technological environment in which we live) brought about by the advent of various computer technologies and the impact of such change upon law and society. Students will come away with an appreciation of difficulty in applying some traditional legal concepts to new environments such as the Internet and why the very nature of the Internet is sometimes challenged by traditional regulatory schemes such as copyright. The course will have some features of a graduate level seminar, but will also rely upon traditional methodologies of case and statutory analysis.

COURSE CONTENT:
The course's structure will be sufficiently flexible to respond to current developments and to permit students to explore their own interests. Topics will include the application of traditional causes of actions to the Internet, copyright, licensing (UCITA), problems of jurisdiction and regulation, net neutrality, freedom of speech, privacy, the Patriot Act, crime and terrorism, ecommerce, trademark, domain names, content filtering, and problems of minority groups in the "market for loyalties" of the larger media environment that constitutes the Infosphere.

**RELEVANCY OF COURSE FOR CAREER PURPOSES:**

Students will get exposure to some of the subjects in the traditional Intellectual Property (IP) curriculum and how subjects, like copyright and trademark, arise in the context of the Internet. In addition, many of the issues listed above are not typically found in traditional IP courses. Besides being relevant to students interested in IP and technology start-ups, some of these subjects, like copyright, the Patriot Act, privacy, content filtering, freedom of speech, and database licensing, are particularly relevant to students interested in representing educational institutions, libraries, artists and public institutions. Subjects like copyright and database licensing are also relevant to law practice management.