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# CopyrightX: Harvard University Law School

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

# Call for Applications

- The first session was offered in 2013.
- A colleague in IAMSLIC recommended that librarians take the class.
- I applied in fall 2013 and was accepted into the second iteration of the class, for the spring 2014 session.
- The application consisted of a personal information form, a pre-test, and an essay.
- Five hundred students were accepted for the online class and placed in twenty-one sections.

# Section B14

- Twenty-five students in my section.
- Class consisted of:
  - One real-time session per week over twelve weeks with a graduate teaching assistant.
  - Three to seven online lectures per week given by Professor William Fisher.
  - Readings.
  - Preparation to discuss special problems.
  - Discussion forum participation.
  - Special events: interviews and a panel discussion.
  - Took between ten and twenty hours per week.



# Fellow Students

A former chemist

A car designer

A teacher


A couple of lawyers

A disc jockey/artist

A couple of librarians

A homemaker

Et al.



Several people dropped out of my section over the course of the semester.

Ten of us completed the course successfully.



# Course Outline


1. The Foundations of Copyright Law: Treaties; Originality; and the Idea/Expression Distinction
2. Fairness and Personality Theories
3. The Subject Matter of Copyright
4. Welfare Theory
5. Authorship
6. The Mechanics of Copyright
7. The Rights to Reproduce and Modify
8. The Rights to Distribute, Perform, and Display
9. Fair Use
10. Cultural Theory
11. Secondary Liability and Para-Copyright
12. Remedies

# Emphasis

- There was an emphasis on United States copyright law, but there was substantial discussion of international treaties and conventions.
- There was an emphasis on the idea/ expression distinction, music, and art, and a de-emphasis on textual materials.
- Practice was emphasized somewhat over theory, though theory was often discussed in the context of examples.



# Discussion Forum

- Several threads were open in a discussion forum where students from all sections and all teaching assistants could interact.
  - Participation was mandatory.
  - The boards were very active and a good way to interact with fellow students.
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# The Lectures

<http://copyx.org/lectures/>



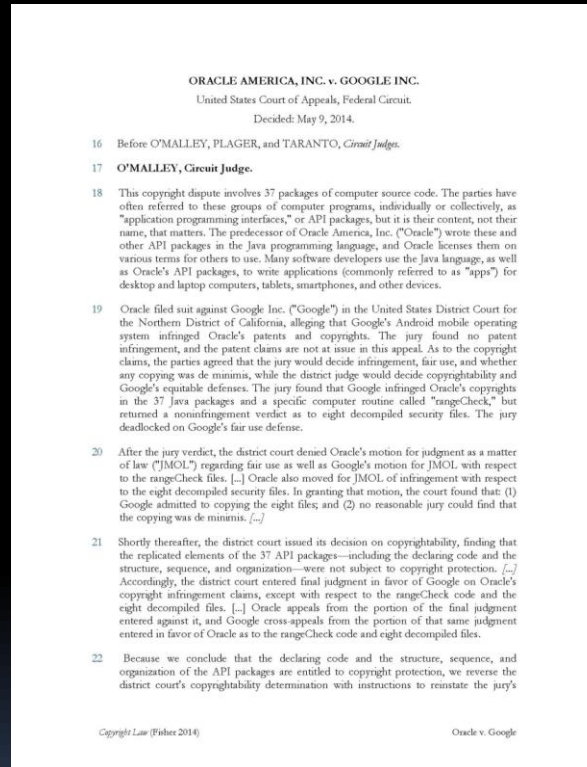


# Notes

- I took copious notes from the lectures and less detailed ones during the class times.
  - I filled a 2” three-ring binder with notes which I referred to during class time as well as during the open-book final.
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# The Readings

<http://copyx.org/essential-us-materials/>



I printed out all of the readings.  
These filled a 3" three-ring binder.

# United States Copyright Code


- Copyright Law of the United States of America and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code, Circular 92
- <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/>

# The Mind Map





# Class Time

- Adobe Connect, real-time, once per week.
  - About one and a half hours each.
  - Sessions were taught by Jennifer Garnett, a Harvard Law graduate teaching assistant.
  - Mandatory attendance, mandatory participation.
  - Topics were often only indirectly related to the week's lectures.
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# Special Events

- Three guest interviews: Joshua Redman, Ruth Okediji, Justin Hughes.
  - Panel session: Chris Bavitz, Felix Oberholzer–Gee, Jeffrey Schnapp, and Stuart Shieber.
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# The Final

- CopyrightX, Instructions for the Final Examination, spring 2014
- CopyrightX, Final Examination, spring 2014
- Three essay questions, four days to complete.
- I wrote about joint authorship, the cultural theory, and appropriation art in my final exam.




# Success!

- I passed the course, along with nine others from my section.
- List of 2014 graduates.



# The Takeaway

- A great value; no tuition and very little expended for equipment and supplies.
  - Rigorous; time-consuming.
  - Broadly applicable.
  - Biased approach; often not objective.
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# For More Information

- [About CopyrightX](#)
- [About Professor William Fisher](#)
- [CopyrightX Lectures](#)
- [CopyrightX 2016 Syllabus](#)
- [CopyrightX Self-Paced Study](#)
- [Lessons from CopyrightX](#) by William Fisher