

# Intellectual Property Lab



GERMAN 8200 PROF. BIRK HOLD

Mondays 4:00-6:30PM AUTUMN 2018

A bot recently wrote a new chapter of *Harry Potter*. In 2016 a monkey snapped a selfie. Beyoncé sampled Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in “Flawless.” Who owns the resulting works and why?

In this course, we’ll examine the philosophical underpinnings of intellectual property and examine recent case studies to test the validity of the law’s basic principles. What is an author? What is the nature of creativity? How should we incentivize and reward the creation of works?

In addition, we will conduct experiments and use our disciplinary knowledge (what lawyers don’t have!) to address ambiguities in the current law. What constitutes “substantial similarity” for copyright infringement? What is considered “transformative” for fair use? We will also interview various creators, including choreographers, painters, writers, and musicians. In the end, we will think of new ways to regulate intellectual property. And students will have the option to design their own experiments related to their own research agendas.

**\*for humanists and social scientists, because most lawyers don’t actually know enough about cultural production to meaningfully seek answers to these questions**

ALL WORKS IN ENGLISH; TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

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