The “Legal Clinic: Practical Preparation of GMU Patent Applications” class is a working writing course where students write actual patent applications which will be filed for inventors affiliated with George Mason University. The students will each be assigned an invention. They will work directly with the inventor(s) to draft a patent application covering the invention. The inventors will likely be University professors, staff and in some cases students. Students will be instructed as to best practices with regard to meeting with the inventor(s) and drafting the patent applications. They will then be critiqued regarding their written applications. The patent applications will be written in stages, including drawings, claims, and specification, with critique on each step in the process. Multiple drafts of the complete application will be written and critiqued until it is ready for filing.

The two credit course will meet as a group for two periods every other week. The instructors will attempt to match inventions with students’ backgrounds, if possible. Students should expect to write a patent application in computer, electrical or mechanical technology. Prerequisites are Patent Law I, Patent Law II, and Patent Writing Theory and Practice or equivalent experience.

This course has been approved for patent examiners by the Ethics Office of the Department of Commerce.

The two credit writing (W) course is eligible to count towards students’ upper level writing requirement.
Class 1 (1/8/2014)
- Introduction to class
- Assign invention disclosures to students
- Lecture: Inventor Interviews
- Lecture: Drawings

Homework (Due – Sun., 1/26/2014):
- Interview inventors
- Generate informal drawings of the invention (graded 10%)

Class 2 (1/29/2014)
- Group Discussion: the interviews, inventions and drawings
- Lecture: Basic Claim Drafting
- One on One: discuss informal drawings

Homework (Due Sun., 2/9/2014):
- Update drawings (graded 10%)
- Draft an initial set of claims (graded 10%)

Class 3 (2/12/2014)
- Group Discussion: the drawings and claims.
- Lecture: Specification Drafting.
- One on One: discuss initial set of claims and updated drawings

Homework: (Due Sun., 2/23/2014):
- Update the claims and drawings (graded 10%)

Class 4 (2/26/2014)
- Group Discussion: the claims
- Lecture: Drafting Applications in the Computer Arts
- One on One: discuss updated claims and drawings

Homework (Due Sun., 3/16/2014):
- Write a first draft of the application
  - Draft an initial Specification including updated claims and drawings (graded 10%)
- Generate a separate list of questions for inventor
- Get feedback on claims and drawings from inventor
SPRING VACATION (3/10/2014 – 3/16/2014)

Class 5 (3/19/2014)
- Group Discussion: the first draft of the application
- Lecture: Application Issues (oath/declaration, inventorship, assignment considerations, IDS considerations)
- One on One: discuss first draft of the application

Homework (Due Sun., 3/30/2014):
- Write a second draft of the application (including updated specification, claims and drawings) (graded 10%) 

Class 6 (4/02/2014)
- Group Discussion: the second draft of the application
- Lecture: Lecture: Nuts and Bolts of Filing
- One on One: discuss second draft of the application

Homework (Due Sun., 4/13/2014):
- Get feedback on second draft of the application from inventor
- Write a final draft of the application (including updated specification, claims and drawings) (graded 40%)

Class 7 (4/16/2014)
- Group Discussion: the final draft of the application
- One on One: discuss final draft of the application