Copyright, Legal Issues and Policy H72.1804001

(4 hours per week for 15 weeks)

Faculty: Rina Elster Pantalony

Educational Objectives:
• Basic conceptual understanding of copyright law.
• Knowledge of copyright issues affecting preservation, restoration, exhibition, and repurposing.
• Familiarity with both professional and legal rights and responsibilities around preservation and restoration.
• Comprehension of copyright management as a function of collections management
• Understanding of the kind of policy and intellectual property management issues facing moving image repositories.

Grade based on research paper and group copyright audit and risk assessment project:
- Class participation 10%
- Paper (at least 5 thousand words) on topic 50%
- Audit Project oral presentation and written report 40%

Course Syllabus:

September 5: Introduction to Copyright: The US Constitution, First Amendment and Article 11 that constitutes the Social Contract – an examination of ownership, control and progress

September 12: Introduction to Copyright: a bundle of rights and a handful of rights holders

September 19: Examining the layers of copyright in film, video, film ephemera and electronic media – examples given to illustrate problematic copyright and trademark issues in the creative process

September 26: An Introduction to the Audit Project - Class to be held at WNET

September 29 (class rescheduled from October 3 to Monday September 29): Exceptions to Copyright, and Fair Use – What are copyright exceptions, how do they work? What is
fair use? An examination of case law and policy surrounding the availability of fair use for the purposes of preservation and access to collections

October 10: AMIA Conference – Mandatory attendance by students in MIAP – no class

October 17: Problematic issues: Sections 1201, 512 US Copyright Laws and the application of copyright law to orphan works

October 24: How to manage IP in a collecting institution: performing the copyright audit and developing copyright and access Policies for libraries, archives and museums

Monday October 27 (Class rescheduled from Friday October 31): Social media, digital resources, copyright, privacy, preservation and access – legal issues especially complex in developing, maintaining and even preserving online interactive spaces

November 7: The use of trademarks in film and video

November 14: Privacy and Confidentiality Issues when working in the museum and archive online space

November 21: The Historic Context: History of advocacy surrounding copyright, the Internet and digital content creation- copyright, creativity, education and access – examination of town hall meeting reports, multimedia presentations, print material and other innovative communication tools used to advocate about copyright at the inception of the Internet. Screening “Remix: A Copyright Manifesto”

November 28: Thanksgiving Break no class

December 5 – Class may be rescheduled - TBD: Class presentations of Audit Project

December 12 – Week 15: The practical effects of consistent copyright management – looking at the management of film collections through the lens of repurposing content.