

MIT Sloan School of Management
Spring Term H4 (April and May) 2026

15.620

Patent Law Fundamentals

Jeffrey A. Meldman

*Intensive introduction to the basic provisions of U.S. patent law
Designed for undergrads and grad students in all MIT departments*

3 units G, graded P/D/F
Wednesdays, 1 to 2:30, room E51-335

*Sloan bidding will NOT be used.
Priority, if needed, will be given to students who pre-register.*

Topics include:

Conditions for Patentability (Novelty, Non-Obviousness, and Utility) • Inventor Priority • Eligible Classes of Invention • Rights of Patent Ownership • Application for a Patent • Patent Infringement, Defenses, and Remedies • Comparisons with Other Forms of Intellectual Property (Copyrights, Trade Secrets, and Trademarks)

Reading materials include key sections of the U.S. patent statute (Title 35, U.S. Code) and related federal case law. Readings and lecture slides will be posted on the Spring 2026 Canvas 15.620 website. There are no textbooks or course packs to purchase.

Students' grades (P/D/F) will be determined by short, weekly written assignments and by a comprehensive quiz during the spring final exam period.

Jeff Meldman is Senior Lecturer in MIT's Sloan School of Management. He received his SB, SM, and PhD degrees from MIT (EECS) and his JD degree from Harvard Law School. His teaching and research focus on technology-related law and on computer modeling of legal reasoning and legal procedure.

jmeldman@mit.edu / (617) 253-4932 / E62-317