This course considers the role of antitrust law in both facilitating and policing the business strategies of dominant firms and joint enterprises. We will examine technology-driven firms such as Apple, Facebook, Google, Uber, and Microsoft, as well as disrupted industries such as the digital music industry. In each case, we will consider how firms adapted their strategies to rapidly changing technological environments and ask whether antitrust law served to promote or to hinder innovation. Course coverage will range over all portions of the business economy in which competition and innovation are important, but emphasizing markets that have a significant technological component. We will also study a series of classic business cases involving the fashion industry, American Can Company, Standard Oil, Alcoa, and DuPont. We will pay special attention to the role of intellectual property rights in fostering both individual and collaborative innovation.

No prior study of or acquaintance with antitrust law is necessary. We will study judicial antitrust decisions as well as historical and economic sources. Readings will consist of a one volume text and other sources that will be posted periodically to Canvas.

Your obligations for the course will consist of 1) regular attendance and class participation (15%); 2) a midterm examination (35%); and 3) a final examination (50%).