

Professor Marcilynn A. Burke

PAPER REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements

- The paper must be at least 25 pages and no more than 30 pages in length (typewritten), exclusive of footnotes. See more below on format. **However, if you are an LLM, your requirements are different. It is your responsibility to determine what your requirements are.**
- The first draft of your paper must be at least 12 pages, exclusive of footnotes (or half of the required pages for LLMs).
- The paper must be original and demonstrate research, analytical, and writing skills.
- The paper may not previously have been submitted to any other instructor in connection with any other course at the Law Center or elsewhere. Nor may any research therefore have been done in whole or in substantial part in connection with your outside employment.
- Before you begin writing your paper, please review the handout on plagiarism. The Law Center has recently implemented additional mechanisms for detecting plagiarism. Please contact me at any time if you have questions regarding permissible uses of sources.
- Your final paper grade will be based upon your first draft and the format and content of your final draft.

Paper Format

- Paper: letter size (8 ½ x 11 inches)
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 points, *including footnotes*
- Margins: One inch
- Line Spacing: Double-spaced for regular text and single-spaced for block quotes and footnotes
- Citations: The Bluebook
- Page Numbers: Bottom center on all pages but the first
- Table of Contents

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Paper Content

- The required text for this class is EUGENE VOLOKH, ACADEMIC LEGAL WRITING: LAW REVIEW ARTICLES, STUDENT NOTES, SEMINAR PAPERS, AND GETTING ON LAW REVIEW, 2d edition (2005).
- Substantive grading of your paper's content will be evaluated using the framework of Volokh's book: (1) nonobviousness, (2) soundness, (3) writing and structure, (4) utility, and (5) novelty. Volokh's book includes a thorough discussion of the process of writing a good paper. Set out below are some additional criteria.

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| • <u>Topic</u> | • <u>Quality of Research</u> |
| • Ambitious | • Cases |
| • Current | • Law reviews |
| • Clear thesis statement | • Statutory language |
| • <u>Organization</u> | • Legislative history |
| • Logical | • Other secondary sources |
| • Flow from introduction and background to the analysis | • <u>Footnotes</u> |
| • Descriptive/Meaningful Headings | • Citation Form |
| • <u>Analysis</u> | • Appropriate use of parentheticals |
| • Statement of Problem | • <u>Writing Style</u> |
| • Reasoning | • Mechanics/Grammar |
| • Appropriate reliance on sources | • Presentation |
| • Counter-arguments | • Grace/Smooth Transitions/Flow |
| • Originality | |
| • Proposed Solution | |

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Deadlines

- Sentence Outline with thesis statement due by September 26, 2006 at 5:00 p.m., via e-mail attachment. It should be entitled as follows: YourLastName.Outline (e.g., Jones.Outline)
- Meet to discuss outline by October 3, 2006.
- First Draft for 1/3 of final grade due between November 3 - 17, 2006 at 5:00 p.m., via e-mail attachment. It should be entitled as follows: YourLastName.FirstDraft (e.g., Jones.FirstDraft). You will turn in your first draft on the Friday before you present it to the class on Tuesday. We will draw lots to determine the order of presentations.
- Final Draft due by December 2, 2006 at 5:00 p.m., via e-mail attachment. It should be entitled as follows: YourLastName.FinalDraft (e.g., Jones.FinalDraft).
- All written submissions should be sent to me at mburke@central.uh.edu and my assistant, Abraham Roberts, at ajrober2@central.uh.edu, by 5:00 p.m. on the relevant due date via e-mail attachment.