

FINAL PAPER REQUIREMENTS

Emerging Technologies and Environmental Law

Spring 2011

Professor Tracy Hester

MW 1:00 – 2:30

Instead of a final examination, you will need to prepare a final research paper to complete this class. Your final paper will account for virtually all of your final grade, although we will adjust your grade where needed to account for class participation under University of Houston Law Center grading policies.

Topic: Your paper, obviously, should focus on an issues related to the application of environmental laws to emerging technologies. Beyond this general requirement, I'm very flexible about the specific topic that you may wish to pursue. Please refer to my earlier handout for some example topics (although you're certainly free to pick something not on the list). I encourage you to tackle ideas that lend themselves to practical applications because I'll gladly present high-quality papers under your name to government workgroups, journals or business task forces that could utilize your work.

Process: Please prepare a brief outline of your paper and expected lines of analysis for submission in class on March 23, 2011. This outline need only be approximately two to three pages long, although longer outlines might speed up your research. I am looking primarily for a well-developed topic and general lines of analysis. In particular, you will not need to have gotten deeply into your research for this outline.

Mechanics of Final Paper: The final paper should be approximately ³⁰~~20~~ single-sided pages long in its main body (I will not count for this page total extensive footnotes that contribute little substantive analysis; please don't get carried away with meaningless case citations). The text of the body should be double-spaced. If possible, please have the footnotes at the bottom of each page (rather than end notes), but this requirement is not iron-clad. Generally, use a rule of common sense: bizarre margins, unusual or illegible fonts, and other impediments to a sharp, clean paper will count against your final grade. Please see me if you have any questions about these mechanical standards.

Review: Each of you will present your research during the final three class sessions.. Please submit your rough draft one week before your scheduled class presentation. I'll happily accept email drafts in either Microsoft Word, WordPerfect or Adobe Acrobat formats. After reviewing your draft, you will need to submit a complete final paper by the final deadline of May 11, 2011. We also will ask you to briefly summarize the results of your research verbally for the rest of the class (be prepared to speak for about five minutes or so).

I hope that these guidelines will help in your drafting. Please call or email me if you have any question or concerns. I'll post any good questions and answers to the class website for everyone's benefit.