PAPER - INSTRUCTIONS

The research paper should be turned in by the beginning of class on the date due, to my email address (tkalino@siue,edu), from your University email address, with an attached Word file and an attached PDF, and a Subject Line similar to the following: POLS 280 - Research Paper. The name of the Word file should be <lastname><firstinitial>ResearchPaper280.doc and <lastname><firstinitial>ResearchPaper280.pdf. An example: KalinowskiTResearchPaper280.doc. The extension may be .docx

1) Cover page with your name and your topic description.

2) Page setup: 8.5" x 11", 12 pt Bookman Old Style font, double spaced, 1 inch margins, and left justified (left aligned) except for headings. If for some reason you do not have access to this font, please come talk to me. If for some reason you *need* to use a sans serif font, the only one that I can read passably well is Ebrima, but I would prefer that you work in your favorite font, then convert the final document to Bookman Old Style, but go back and deal with any formatting changes.

3) Every reference and assertion of fact should be cited unless it is common knowledge. If the fact is not cited, it may be ignored. Citation method is discretionary (see Syllabus), but should be consistent. The key point is that the reader should be able to quickly find the source. URLs alone are not adequate.

4) You should use at least 5 sources; all sources should be reputable and easily accessible to other students. Blogs/wikipedia/encyclopedias do not generally count as reputable sources.

5) First person statements or "in my opinion" statements should be avoided -- no "I", "my" or "we". Contractions should be avoided as well.

6) Passive voice (particularly passive voice with an unknown actor) should be avoided.

6) A bibliography should be included.

7) The paper should be a minimum of 7 pages and probably no more than 15. The Cover Page and bibliography (list of citations) do not count in those totals.

8) Compliance statement – the paper will not be graded if a signed compliance statement (below) is not included.

9) If you have any confusion about your assignment, please discuss with me.

COMPLIANCE STATEMENT:

Subject to the penalties for violating the student academic code as specified here: https://www.siue.edu/policies/table-of-contents/3c2.shtml, this paper (as submitted) is my work and was developed in the following manner:

1) I wrote the outline and my initial ideas pertaining to the subject matter based upon my knowledge at the time I chose the topic;

2) After completing Step 1, I then did research (using basic and academic search engines) to support my ideas and broaden my perspectives adding material and references for appropriate authoritative sources as need;

3) After completing Steps 1 & 2, I consulted generative Artificial Intelligence to a) identify any insufficiencies in my paper, b) explore points of view that might differ, c) adjust my paper to address such insufficiencies and differences, and d) to review my paper for structural and grammatical improvements or corrections;

4) I confirmed all authoritative sources cited are valid and the material used exists; and

5) The writing is my creation, except where quotations are used as cited, with judicious adjustments in consideration of suggested edits (by people or AI).

_____   _____
Name   Date

Explanation of Compliance Statement:

The above process generally describes how I have written computer programs and legal briefs for more than 30 years. My thoughts about that are reinforced by the ideas expressed in this study: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2506.08872 which is significantly shortened and expressed in a less technical way here: https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/urban-survival/202506/how-chatgpt-may-be-impacting-your-brain

But the basic process is to get thoughts down on paper, explore further to see if those thoughts are correct, complete, and concise. Lastly, let another expert review the material. When programming, I'd listen to the problem, sketch an outline of the process to solve the problem, and then poke around to see if that was going to work. When I thought the solution was mostly completed, other people did quality assurance testing and a code review to make sure that it was done correctly (followed company conventions).

When writing a legal brief, I had the information from the client and a general understanding of the law that I might use (breach of contract, fraud, fraud in the inducement). I would structure the brief, write down the facts I knew (and additional facts I needed to find), and detailed the elements of each cause of

action as a I remembered them (with notes on what research to do). Then I'd read statutes, cases, and other material to know exactly what elements had to be proven, what facts had to be alleged, what legal rights and wrongs had to be established, etc. This might result in a restructuring of the complaint or brief if research showed one cause of action was more likely to succeed under the specific circumstances. Ultimately, I rarely filed anything without both an expert and a layman reviewing the material for flaws and understanding.

The process above that I am asking you to learn seems to follow the literature, but also is analogous to what I've always thought was right. You might argue that's confirmation bias...may be. But write down what you know and your ideas, explore what experts have said about, and have someone review your work. You could have a friend or parent review your work (and maybe should), but they are unlikely to be experts. During your life, AI will probably become a more reliable reviewer as an expert. Many times, it will work now – but you must ensure that anything it asserts as fact is accurate.

Your work for Step 2 should largely start with resources available here: https://www.siue.edu/lovejoy-library/ as the material is more likely to be authoritative and reliable (peer reviewed).

While part of the goal of the project is that you learn some topic really well, the primary purpose of the paper is to improve skills: critical thinking, assessment, research, and writing. This is what you need to focus on learning more than the specific content area of the project. A commitment to this process is the impetus of the above statement I am asking you to sign.

A sample outline for the paper might be (but is not required to be) as follows:

Identify the law or policy
    A short statement of the law/policy of interest.
Explain the law or policy
    Clearly describe the purpose and scope of the law/policy, who it effects, and how it operates; when and why it was proposed/enacted and any amendments or judicial interpretation. Provide examples of actual implementations.
Explain the theoretical basis of the law or policy
    Identify the legal or philosophical theory that conceptually support the law/policy. Examples: natural law, positive law, order, equality, utilitarianism, social contract, etc. Explain your understanding of the theory's core principles, assumptions, and goals. Explain and illustrate how the theory justifies the existence of the law or policy.
Assess the Theory
    Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the theory and how well it supports the law/policy. Identify alternative theories that might be considered as the basis of the law/policy. (You <u>might</u> have separate sections here for Normative Assessment & Empirical Assessment.)
Assess the Law or Policy
    Analyze whether the law/policy is effective (outcomes = goals), just, and right. Identify any unintended consequences, controversies, or areas of improvement that might exist. Discuss any data, public opinions, or legal challenges that support your analysis. (You <u>should</u> have separate sections here for Normative Assessment & Empirical Assessment.)

Example citations *(you might also indicate page numbers where cited in the paper)*:
- Hanley, Rebekah, *The Legal Writer: Notes on Quotes: When and How to Borrow Language*, 71 Or. St. B. Bull. 13, The Oregon State Bar, February/March 2011 (accessed via LexisNexis May 16, 2011)
- Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C 106
- <u>Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.,</u> 464. U.S. 417 (1984)

Examples of avoiding Passive Voice with Unknown Actor
1) Using someone else's words as your own is unethical.
2) Even if someone else's content may be used under the fair use doctrine, the material must be cited.
3) If too much material is copied, a violation of the United States copyright laws may occur.

(Note: a person could be lazy and write those as follows:
==There are== three primary reasons to properly attribute the source of information:
1) ==It is== unethical to use someone's words as your own.
2) ==It is== important to cite information even if it is being used under the fair use doctrine.
3) ==It may be== a violation of United States copyright laws to copy too much material.

Please try to avoid using IT in this fashion. It is simply lazy. [Irony intended])

Re-read the no-pass policy in the syllabus.

Grading Rubric

Content: (see details above)
    75 points –
        5 – Identify the law/policy
        15 – Explain the law/policy
        15 – Explain the theoretical basis of the law/policy
        20 – Assess the Theory
        20 – Assess the Law/Policy

Writing:
    25 points – earned as each of the following are judged on a 5 pt scale:
    1) Clear and persuasive.
    2) Assessments are supported with reasons, evidence, and examples.
    3) Organized and unified.
    4) Sources are correctly documented and cited.
    5) Grammar, punctuation, spelling, layout, and word choice are proper and free from errors.