

**FROM THE L&EA SYLLABUS**

FROM PAGE 1 of 2

**30%** Apr. 22

"The Times" research paper on business ethics.

**On Jan. 21 detailed instructions will be distributed.**

FROM PAGE 2 of 2

Jan 21

5

ethics

**distribute the requirements for "The Times"****Mar 11**

31 &amp; 32

agency: form &amp; liability

**"The Times" bibliography due****Apr 22**

FoE Units 5 &amp; 6

**"The Times" paper due****May 6****best three "The Times" present: earn MINUS 6% extra credit if absent****NEW DEADLINES CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT**

Jan 21, Wed, 9:00 AM

earliest submission of a Topic Petition

Feb 18, Wed, 11:30 AM

deadline for submission of Unilateral Disband Petition

**Mar 4, Wed, 11:30 AM****deadline for obtaining approval of Topic Petition**

Mar 4, Wed, 11:30 AM

deadline for submission of Source Expansion Petition

**Mar 11, Wed, 11:15 AM****deadline for submission of "The Times" bibliography**

Apr 20, Mon, 10:00 AM

deadline for submission Newspaper Appropriateness Petition

Apr 22, Wed, 9:15 AM

deadline for submission of Request Disband Petition

**Apr 29, Wed, 10:00 AM**

deadline for notification of three best "The Times" authors

**SOME OF THE "TIMES"***Chicago Sun-Times**Financial Times (of London)**Japan Times (International)**(London) The Times**Los Angeles Times**(New Orleans) Times-Picayune**New York Times**Washington Times***ALL PETITIONS MUST BE HAND DELIVERED**

All petitions must be typed (see, Typing Requirements) and must be hand delivered to the instructor or to the instructor's RH 502 suite secretary.

No petition may be submitted via email.

**YOUR TASK**

What is ethical is not necessary legal, and *vice versa*. Both ethics and law are influenced by the surrounding culture(s). Culture varies across both time and space (e.g., both nationally {e.g., United Kingdom versus Japan} and locally {e.g., New Orleans versus Los Angeles}). Your research paper will explore these interplays of ethics, laws, time, and space.

FIRST: You shall pick a specific law.. To be a specific law it must be: [i] a section of an organic document of government (e.g., USA *Constitution*, Article IV, section 1); [ii] a section from a treaty (e.g., 16 USC 708); [iii] a section from a statute (e.g., Neb. Rev. Stat. § 54-601); [iv] a section from a regulation (e.g., Neb. Admin. Code, Title 172, Chapter 14, section 001); or [v] a judicial decision (e.g., *Masterton v. Mayor of Brooklyn*, 7 Hill (N.Y.) 61 (1845)). SECOND: You shall pick an ethical issue embedded in that specific law. THIRD: You shall explore that ethical issue for its nuances both in ethics and in law, especially as both the law and the ethics change over space and time.

Your textbook's "Focus on Ethics" sections will help you conceptualize and implement your task.

The focus on your paper is you and your understanding of your research. Accordingly, the sources for your research are limited.

Your research shall be limited<sup>1</sup> so as to only include two sources:

- [A] by-lined articles in major newspapers with "Times" in the masthead; and
- [B] the two sources described below in the section "Sources of the Law".

### **YOUR TOPIC**

The "The Times" assignment is designed as a project to be completed by a single student working alone. However, a group of students may file a group formation petition the instructor's prior, written approval to work as a group. If a group does choose to form, then the assignment grade earned by all members of that group shall be identical and shall be the mean of all grades earned by the individual members of that group.

Each student<sup>2</sup> shall have a unique topic. Each student must obtain the instructor's prior, written approval for that student's topic by submitting a topic petition. Every student is encouraged to seek out the professor to discuss potential topics prior to submitting a topic petition, although any student may initiate that discussion by submitting a topic petition.

The topic petition shall be in the form of a typed cover sheet. Topics will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis. The earliest that the instructor will accept a student's topic petition for reservation of a topic is 9:00 AM, Wednesday, January 21, 2009. A student must have obtained approval of the student's topic no later than 11:30 AM, Wednesday, March 4, 2009: **time is of the essence**. If a student fails to obtain the requisite instructor approval of that student's topic petition prior to the deadline, then that student earns a grade of zero on the assignment "The Times".

A group of students must share a topic (i.e., specific law and an ethical issue). However, each student in the group still must have a unique topic. Each student in a group must approach the shared topic differently and *must vigorously disagree* with

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<sup>1</sup> As described in other sections of this handout you may elect to expand your set of sources. You are not required to do so. To enforce the lack of requirement, merely obtaining expansion of your list of resources will in no way alter your assignment grade. Quality, not quantity, earns a grade. Expand your list of sources if you wish; but, only do so because you wish to do so.

<sup>2</sup> Throughout this document wherever it says "student" it applies equally to a group of students.

each other student in the group. The maximum size group is four students. The group formation petition to form a group must include simultaneous submission of each member of the group's individual topic petition. The members of a group share a topic and may engage in collaboration that is calibrated to assure each achieves vigorous disagreement with other members of the group. However, each student in a group still is solely and personally responsible for that individual student's "The Times" assignment.

Once a group forms, a group may disband in one of two manners. First, a group may unilaterally disband upon the group filing a unilateral disband petition with the instructor signed by each group member that: [i] one or more group members have formally dropped the course; or [ii] it is the unanimous desire of the group members to disband. A unilateral disband petition must be filed no later than 11:30 AM, Wednesday, February 18, 2009: **time is of the essence**. Second, unlike a unilateral disband petition, any two members of a group that is less than unanimous on the question of disbanding may submit a request disband petition to the instructor requesting permission to disband the group no later than 9:15 AM on April 22; but, in no event will the instructor's granting of a request disband petition alter the April 22 due date.

### NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Your selection of those by-lined articles from major newspapers with "Times" in the masthead shall simultaneously satisfy the following four requirements:

- [1] a minimum of **six** different such major newspapers;
- [2] at least **two** of those newspapers shall be newspapers published outside the USA;
- [3] at least **two** of those by-lined articles must have been published in each of the following sets of years
  - [3a] January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2009,
  - [3b] January 1, 1988 through December 31, 1997, and
  - [3c] December 31, 1987 and earlier;

and

- [4] at least **one** of those by-lined articles must have been published in the month and year of your birth.

All of the newspapers list at the start of this document are "major" and appropriate. To be a major newspaper the newspaper must be published in paper format. A "newspaper" that only exists in digital form is neither major nor appropriate.

If a student has any doubt as to whether a newspaper that the student desires to use is "major" or is otherwise appropriate for this assignment, then that student shall submit a newspaper appropriateness petition to the instructor. The deadline of submission of a newspaper appropriateness petition is 11:30 AM, Monday, April 20: **time is of the essence**. That newspaper appropriateness petition shall include a single paragraph explanation by the student on why the student believes the proposed newspaper is appropriate as well as include:

- [1] a photocopy of the article the student desires to include in the student's bibliography; and
- [2] a photocopy of the front page of the newspaper for the day in which the article is published.

### SOURCES OF THE LAW

Since the law is written, what is the law often is far more definite than what are the primary ethical principles. But, what is the law? A businessperson often needs to swiftly find the law. Rarely will the businessperson have either the time or the ability to do high quality legal research, but always the businessperson will need to know at least the general contours of the law.

Legal research ranges widely in quality according to the task at hand (e.g., b-law-2 ethics research paper versus corporate merger). The focus of this research paper is your perception of ethical nuance: not the law. Accordingly, for this research paper your research of the law shall be limited to only two legal sources. The first legal source is your textbook. This legal source will provide a completely adequate description of the general law of the USA. You shall be expected to address the law of a locality (e.g., Illinois) or of another nation (e.g., Singapore). To do so your second legal source shall be the Legal Digest sections of the legal directory *Martindale Hubbell*.<sup>3</sup>

Your research paper shall include and shall use as appropriate **both** legal sources (i.e., textbook and *Martindale Hubbell* Law Digest sections).

Ideally, but not necessarily, your "The Times" research paper will turn upon a single judicial decision (e.g., *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 438 (1965)) that is cited within either of these legal sources.

### EXPANDING YOUR SOURCE LIST

You are under zero obligation to expand your source list beyond those listed above in the "Newspaper Articles" and in "Sources of the Law" sections.

**Unilaterally** (i.e., without prior, written approval from your instructor) you may expand your source list to include either [a] the USA *Constitution*; or [b] any judicial decision cited in the "Sources of the Law". If you do choose to unilaterally add a source, then your bibliographic annotation shall end with a parenthetical abbreviated citation to direct the instructor to the location where you found that judicial decision (e.g., (textbook, page 94); (M-H, Connecticut, Privacy)). **But note**, such unilateral addition requires you to read and use as appropriate the **entire document**, not just the snippet(s) in the textbook and/or in *Martindale Hubbell*. No petition is required for such an unilateral expansion of your source list.

**With prior, written instructor approval** you may expand your source list (beyond that expansion permissible unilaterally) to include [i] any "specific law"; or [ii] any by-lined article from either the magazine *Fortune* or the magazine *Forbes*. No other source may be added to your source list.

To obtain your instructor's prior, written approval for any expansion of your source list you must submit a timely **source expansion petition**. Your source expansion petition shall include [a] your cover sheet, and [b] your entire proposed bibliography

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<http://catalog.lib.unomaha.edu/search~S0?/tmartindale/tmartindale/1%2C9%2C9%2CB/fameset&FF=tmartindale+hubbell+law+digest&1%2C1%2C>

see also

<http://catalog.lib.unomaha.edu/search~S0?/tmartindale/tmartindale/1%2C9%2C9%2CB/fameset&FF=tmartindale+hubbell+international+law+digest&1%2C1%2C>

with the proposed expansions bolded. The bibliography in a source expansion petition may be, is not required to be, annotated (either partially or fully). Instructor approval of a petition to expand a source list must be obtained no later than 11:30 AM, Wednesday, March 4: ***time is of the essence.***

### **COVER SHEET**

Your header will number the cover sheet as Page 1 of Y.

The text of the cover sheet shall start on the first line of the page.

LINE ONE: Shall be the student's unique title for the assignment.

LINE TWO: Shall be blank.

LINE THREE: Shall only contain "ABSTRACT:".

LINE FOUR: Shall start with a tab that is followed by an abstract of your research paper that contains between 100 and 200 words. The abstract's first sentence shall summarize the specific law. The abstract's second sentence shall pose the ethical question. The remainder of the abstract shall answer that ethical question. The abstract shall end with "WORD COUNT = xxx."

LINE AFTER ABSTRACT: Shall be blank.

NEXT LINE: Shall only contain "GROUP:".

FOLLOWING LINE: Shall contain either "None." or shall contain an alphabetical listing of the names of the group's members.

### **BODY OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

The body of your "The Times" assignment shall start on Page 2 of Y.

The page length of the body of your assignment shall be long enough that at least the last page of your body shall enter the page your header identifies as Page 4 of Y; but shall not be so long as to enter the page your header identifies as Page 8 of Y.

Clarity and completeness of argument demonstrates quality. Directly and unambiguously addressing both supporting and opposing attributes of your thesis demonstrate quality. Page count does not indicate quality.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Before the end of class (i.e., 11:15 AM) on March 11 you shall submit a proposed bibliography preceded by a proposed coversheet: ***time is of the essence.*** This **March 11** proposed bibliography is worth 20% of the "The Times" assignment (i.e., 6% of the course grade). Your March 11 bibliography shall start on page 2 of Y.

In your **April 22** submission of your "The Times" assignment your bibliography shall start on the page following the last page of the body of your assignment (e.g., on Page 8 of Y).

In addition to the two sources listed in "Sources of the Law", your bibliography shall only include by-lined articles from major newspapers with "Times" in the masthead (unless your source list was expanded unilaterally or by an approved source expansion petition).

Your bibliography shall be annotated. Each annotation shall be between 50 and 150 words. Each annotation that primarily repeats the information available from the article's title is a failure to comply with TYPING REQUIREMENTS.

## PRESENTATIONS

This course will not have a final exam during the Regent's scheduled final exam time of 10:00 AM, Wednesday, **May 6**, 2009. Instead of a final exam, that time will be used for presentations of the best "The Times" assignments. During the Regent's scheduled final exam time students either will earn NEGATIVE extra credit, or will earn zero extra credit, or will earn positive extra credit. Any student who is absent will automatically earn NEGATIVE 6% extra credit in the course.

Unambiguously superior class participation during the question and answer portion of a presentation can earn any student positive 1% extra credit.

The authors of best three "The Times" assignments will be notified in class on Wednesday, April 29. Individual authors, rather than groups, will be selected when identifying the three best authors. It is feasible that one or more group members may be selected. The best three "The Times" assignments will be presented by their individual student authors to the class on Wednesday, May 6. Each student's presentation shall include a lecture of a minimum of 15 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes, followed by a question and answer period of a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes. Presenters shall use PowerPoint software to assist their audience. A good faith presentation effort consistent with high quality will earn a presenter positive 3% extra credit. *Less than a good faith presentation effort consistent with high quality will be graded as an absence.*

## TYPING REQUIREMENTS

**If there is any conflict between these general TYPING REQUIREMENTS and the specific instructions in an assignment, then the assignment instructions are controlling.**

All submissions of all typed assignments (e.g., petitions) shall use a cover sheet. Every page of every typed assignment (i.e., including the cover sheet) shall use the same header format and the same footer format. The header shall display the student author's name (i.e., last name, first name) at the left margin and shall display the Page X of Y at the right margin. The footer shall display the assignment's name at the left margin (e.g., Topic Petition) and the date the assignment is submitted at the right margin. Topic Petitions by a group have the group as the student author; but recall each group member also must obtain approval of that individual student's Topic Petition: this will influence the header and footer formats.

Grammar, punctuation, and spelling do influence your grade.

The headers, footers, text, and footnotes of all of your typed assignments shall use a #12 font Georgia typeface (i.e., this typeface). **NOTE:** the default footnote typeface (i.e., font) in Microsoft Word is #10 Times Roman rather than #12 Georgia.

All of your typed assignments shall use one-inch margins on all four sides of a page, shall be typed double spaced, with all paragraphs starting with a tab and no blank line between paragraphs, and shall be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. **NOTE:** the default margins in Microsoft Word include 1.25 inches on the right and on the left. However, footnotes (e.g., bibliographic citations for material quoted in the text) shall be typed single-spaced.

Your bibliography and your footnotes shall comply with Harvard's *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* format.<sup>4</sup> **NOTE:** the HBB format is radically different than formats used by APA, MLA, Chicago, and HTML.

Assignments with multiple sheets of paper shall be stapled together in the upper left corner.

Each use of an article that is not by-lined, or is not from a major newspaper, or is not otherwise appropriate is a violation of the TYPING REQUIREMENTS.

**EACH FAILURE to comply with the typing requirements (e.g., incorrect header or not using a staple) will cause an AUTOMATIC LOSS of 5% from your earned assignment grade.** If you merely open an MS Word document in its default setting, then you will violate these rules in *at least* two ways.

Your tuition bill included a \$5 *per credit hour* technology fee for the ENRON Computer Lab in RH 403 and the campus computing rooms in EAB 009; MBSC 1st Floor, Elmwood Room; DSC 104; and PKI 158: all of which have word processing and PowerPoint software and provide computer support for you. You also have paid for a UNO Lotus Notes email account.<sup>5</sup> Because CBA had technology fees prior to UNO, CBA will, *upon your timely request*, give you a print card for use in the ENRON lab that is worth \$5. Black and white copies are less than a nickel a page, but color copies much more expensive. No color ink is required for any of your typed assignments.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2008/02/25\\_bluebook.html](http://www.law.harvard.edu/news/2008/02/25_bluebook.html)

also see,

<http://catalog.lib.unomaha.edu/search~S0?cKF245+.B58/ckf++245+b58/-3%2C-1%2C0%2CE/frameset&FF=ckf++245+b58&1%2C1%2C>

<sup>5</sup> See, <http://mail.unomaha.edu> where, on your first visit, you use your first and last name as your username and your NU ID number as your password. UNO sends all official notices to this email account. See also <http://its.unomaha.edu/student.php>