

During Quiz #5 on March 12 -13, 2003 each individual student, in question 10, was given three options. Each student's choice binds only that student.

Option A was not changing the syllabus
(*i.e., take quizzes #5 through #8, each worth 5% of the course grade*).

Option B was to end the quizzes
and move that 20% of the course value onto the Final Exam grade
(*i.e., make the Final Exam worth 40% of the course grade*).

Option C was to end the quizzes
and move that 20% of the course value to a research paper.
The research paper is a 10 page, typed
paper on an instructor approved research topic.

This document addresses the requirements of that Option C research paper.

The syllabus' TYPING REQUIRMENTS must be satisfied. The font face shall be Tahoma (in Windows) or Geneva (in Macintosh). Every paragraph of text shall start with a tab.

There are two due dates:

- [1] research topic approval, and
- [2] paper submission.

Early completion is strongly encouraged with respect to the approval due date. The research topic approval due date is the end of class on **April 16 - 17**. (*Recall, there is no class on April 2 -3, however, the CLE&S is due on that date.*) The paper submission due date is **April 30 - May 1**.

The research topic approval of the instructor must be in a writing signed by both the student and the instructor. That writing shall be a one page typed document. The student shall author the document. To obtain the instructor's signature, the student shall present the instructor with **two copies** of the document. A wise student would consult with the instructor orally prior to authoring the approval document.

The research topic approval document shall contain five parts:

Part One shall identify the broad area of law (*e.g., copyright fair use*).

Part Two shall, in one sentence, describe the research question (*e.g., Why was Napster not fair use?*).

Part Three shall be an abstract of the expected research results. This abstract shall use between 50 words and 150 words. The word count shall appear inside parentheses at the end of the abstract.

Part Four shall be a preliminary bibliography. This preliminary bibliography shall conform to the Turabian form.¹ This bibliography shall have no fewer than four and no

¹ Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Revised by John Grossman and Alice Bennett. 6th edition. x, 308 p., 26 line drawings. 1996 Series: (CGWEP)

more than eight citations; at least one citation shall be a relevant statute and at least one citation shall be a relevant court decision.

Part Five shall be the two signature lines with typed names below the lines.

When the instructor's approval is granted that approval is with respect to Part One. In the course of the student's research the student may² completely revise and/or abandon Parts Two, Three, and/or Four. The instructor welcomes communication initiated by the student with respect to their research efforts both prior to and after approval.

The instructor is open to many topics. The instructor's own research agenda focuses upon, in order of importance, forensic economics (*i.e., proof of damages in litigation*), intellectual property, and alternative dispute resolution. A full list of the instructor's research output can be found at his web site's Scholarship page:

<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/scholars.htm>.

His current research project is on valuation of covenants not to compete. For example, see:

<http://cba.unomaha.edu/faculty/mohara/web/ALSB02Covenant.pdf>.

Unabashedly, the instructor will attempt to steer students towards the types of research topics displayed on his Scholarship page. The student is free to suggest other research topics (*e.g., directly related to their MBA Business Case or their employment*).³

The first page of the research page will be an updated and revised version of the research topic approval document, minus Part Five. Additionally, Part Four shall be limited to the four most important citations. A photocopy of the original research topic approval document shall be appended to the rear of the research paper (*i.e., the approval document is not counted within the page limit of ten pages*).

The research paper shall use footnotes rather than endnotes. There shall be no fewer than ten footnotes and no more than thirty footnotes. The last page of the research paper shall contain the paper's bibliography of all cited works (*i.e., the bibliography shall not be longer than one page*). The paper's footnotes and the paper's bibliography shall conform to the Turabian form.

Of course, tables and other non-textual graphics are welcome and even encouraged. However, such tables and other non-textual graphics shall not be included in the text nor counted within the page limit of ten pages. Ideally, each table or other non-textual graphics will appear on a separate sheet of paper. Ordinarily, but not for

Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. Cloth \$30.00sp 0-226-81626-5 Spring 1996; Paper \$14.00 0-226-81627-3 Spring 1996.

² I.e., without consulting the instructor and/or without obtaining the instructor's approval.

³ A wise student will use this paper to further some academic objective in addition to passing LESE. For example, a student might use this paper as a scoping document for an MBA thesis.

this paper, tables and other non-textual graphics would be inserted into the text itself. Accordingly, the student author shall indicate that location with a single line of centered and capitalized text, for example,

INSERT TABLE ONE HERE.

The research papers will not be graded on a curve. The research papers will be graded against an absolute standard of quality for such papers in a graduate business class. The research papers will be graded in increments of 10% (*e.g.*, 80%, 70%, *etc.*). If there is more than one paper at the 90% level, then the single best research paper at the 90% level shall be graded as 100%. Otherwise, all "A" quality papers will earn 90%. Of course, a research paper's quality grade is assigned prior to the subtraction of points for failure to comply with the TYPING REQUIREMENTS.

All questions seeking an interpretation of this document must be by a non-confidential email. All such questions must quote the sentence(s) of this document that is ambiguous prior to asking the question.

I suggest that students pick a research topic by picking a statute. I suggest the selected statute either be a Nebraska statute or be a federal statute. For example, I suggest a student explore the *United States Code Annotated* in the UNO Library and note the case listings following the statutory sections. I suggest a statutory section that is short. Trust me when I say that your library research will be much faster and much more focused if it is based on a statute.

You also may wish to make an appointment with a Reference Librarian in the UNO Library for guidance on how best to conduct your research. There are many internet based research materials that the UNO Library has purchased that are not available free on the net. A free-on-the-net research tool that you may wish to visit and try out some scooping searches is www.findlaw.com. If you play with findlaw.com prior to making your appointment with the Reference Librarian, then you will be better prepared to ask focused questions.

A research paper is to be the result of an individual student's effort. Research papers are not group projects. If you are not certain what is the dictionary definition of the word "plagiarism", or if you are not certain what are the *UNO Graduate Catalog's* Academic Integrity requirements, then I suggest you eliminate that uncertainty immediately. Recall the syllabus provisions on Academic Dishonesty. That said, student study group collaboration in the form of serving as a sounding board for ideas and/or providing simple editorial tasks (*e.g.*, *proof reading a "final" draft*), are encouraged and appropriate.

Seven students (*i.e.*, *Balkus, Chamberlain, Cox, Hu, Jimenez, Jirinec, and Palubecki*) are doing this research paper project. I am willing to make appointments to meet in the UNO Library with a group of three or more of these students.