Appendix “A” to Seminar Syllabus
Research Paper Requirements for Those Choosing this Option

**Grading the Paper**

The paper’s grade will be based on the following: (i) 5% for bibliography, (ii) 5% for abstract, (iii) 35% for the draft, and (iv) 55% for final paper.

**Topic Submissions**

Individual consultation with the professor.

**Standards for Papers**

The primary purpose for this assignment is to provide a major exercise in rigorous legal research and writing. Each student is responsible for the investigation of sources and authorities, the accumulation of data, the selection of pertinent material, and the presentation of a full paper in acceptable form.

Each paper should include the following components: basic explanation of the nature of the background or history of the area involved, discussion and analysis of the relevant aspects of the topic, and a thesis or statement of the student's position concerning one or more of the issues raised by the topic. The paper should focus on the *significance* of the topic and, where issues are unresolved, argue for a solution. In sum, it is more desirable to *comment on* and *analyze* your topic rather than simply report or describe.

**Original Work**

The paper must be of original work for this course only. Work for law review, moot court, other classes, outside employment or work prepared by others is not a substitute for preparing a paper for this course. If you have any questions concerning this requirement, see me.

In transcribing anyone else's actual words, one precaution is absolutely requisite: enclose every phrase or sentence you copy in quotation marks, to remind you that you have borrowed it and thus must retain the quotes.... To a reader who detects the unacknowledged “borrowing,” the offense is known ... accurately, as plagiarism. The plea that the identifying quotation marks were absent from the original research note by reason of momentary carelessness, or that they were lost somewhere between the original note and the merciless daylight of print, is not defense. It has been used unsuccessfully in several well-publicized recent cases, ... and the professional careers of the careless transcribers have been seriously impaired if not actually destroyed.¹

Minimum Length

Each paper should be 25 pages of text, exclusive of footnotes.

Form
Each paper must be computer-produced on a letter quality printer. Required form and quality include (i) double-spaced, (ii) use of proper English, (iii) correct spelling and punctuation, (iv) compliance with the most recent edition of *A Uniform System of Citation*, (vi) 12 Pt. New Roman type, and (vii) standard margins.

**Elements of Paper Development (please email me your submissions and be sure that I confirm receipt):**

1. Topic (Due by February 2)

2. Annotated Bibliography - this bibliography should be at least 5 to 10 pages long citing the material you intend to use in your research and paper. Citations should be in blue book form, and each entry should be accompanied by a short annotation describing the source and how you intend to use it. (Due by February 16)

3. Abstract - This one page paper should summarize your intended paper and include a thesis, a short description of the development of your paper, and a short conclusion. (Due by March 2)

4. Draft paper - **Should be a complete and final paper**; the best work you can do without the professor's comments. (Due by March 30)

5. Final paper. (Due by April 30)

**Warning**

Late bibliographies, abstracts, drafts, and final papers *will not* be accepted for credit.