Individual Responsive Reading and Writing

This is an opportunity to extend your learning on a topic that arises in class and to earn extra credit toward your course grade. Here’s the way it works:

1) Pick a topic, issue, conflict, or other part of our semester’s work that particularly interests you and for which an optional reading has been noted in the syllabus or posted on the course web page. Read the optional reading, and think about how this reading expands or clarifies your understanding of the topic, issue, conflict that you have chosen.

2) Write a full two-page, typed essay in which you discuss A) what your initial interest was (i.e. what in the chosen topic from the course provoked you to want to extend your learning), B) what the optional reading added to your understanding of your topic, and C) how this extra-credit exercise has added to or changed your perceptions about law.

3) You may do this extra-credit project only once, to earn 2 ½ points added to your semester average. Your paper will not be graded except for a mark that indicates whether or not you have received credit for it. Please remember that this opportunity is about more than just earning extra credit. We would also like to provide you with the kind of feedback (comments on your brief essay) that will extend your learning further. This exercise will be most useful if we get a few papers each week and turn them back to you quickly, rather than getting all of them near the end of the course. Therefore, we urge you to do this exercise sooner rather than later, and we inform you that we will accept these brief essays only until November 29th. They must be submitted in hardcopy. No electronic submissions will be accepted.

4) Within two weeks of handing in your essay (unless we get flooded all at once) it will be returned to you with a brief comment and with an indication of whether you have earned the 2.5 extra points on your semester grade.

5) What we expect: As an introductory course, Legal 250 necessarily treats important topics more superficially than they should be treated. The aim of LS 250 is not only to acquaint you with the field, but to try to get you engaged in some aspect of the study of law and society that you might want to continue to pursue (whether academically or just as an informed person living in a highly ‘legalized’ society). This reading and writing opportunity is a chance to go a little deeper into some aspect of the course content that interests you, to explore intelligently something you want to know more about, to experiment with something that contradicts your previous knowledge or current beliefs. When you think about it, 2.5 points added to your semester course grade is quite a bit; it could move you from a B+ to an A-, for example. So we are looking for something that shows that you are trying to further develop your thinking and writing skills in some area of the study of law and society.
Please Use This Form When Turning in Your Responsive Reading and Writing Work

Name_____________________________

Student number_____________________

Active email address___________________

A) Name of the optional reading that you have selected_______________________________

B) Date on which you are submitting the essay______________ [none after November 29]

C) What was the topic or issue or class session that led you to pursue this work?

_______________________________________________________________________________

Do not write below this line

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