Deadlines and Suggestions

Each of you has two research exercises to do, number 1 & 3, or number 2 & 3. Here are the deadlines for all the research exercises:

**One** (reproductive freedoms): 9/11—Bring your notes to class for the research you are doing. We will discuss any problems, questions or discoveries you have. Do **not** hand in your notes.
9/23—Bring a typed copy of a draft of your research summaries. I will read and return them with a few comments and suggestions on 9/25.
10/02—Hand in the **final version** of your research summaries.

**Two** (military/civilian draft): 9/11—Bring your notes to class for the research you are doing. We will discuss any problems, questions or discoveries you have. Do **not** hand in your notes.
10/28—Bring a typed copy of a draft of your research summaries. I will read and return them with a few comments and suggestions on 10/30.
11/06—Hand in the **final version** of your research summaries.

**Three** (end-of-life care): 9/11—You **may** bring notes and ask questions about topic 3, but it is not required to do so. Do **not** hand in your notes.
11/20-12/4—At any time during this period, you may bring a typed copy of a draft of your research summaries to me if you would like me to look at what you have and make suggestions. **I will not accept any research summaries for review after the class of 12/4.**
12/9—Hand in the **final version** of your research summaries.

[You should keep copies of your research summaries for yourself, and should retain the research materials on which the summaries are based.]

Please observe the following suggestions in working on your exercises:

1) Don’t leave the work until the last minute when there may be a crush of students, especially on the 5th floor, or seeking access to other materials. Even if your library session is not until later, you can start work now on exercise 1 or 2, based on our class instruction and the research manual.
2) When you have finished with the legal research books, be sure that you either re-shelve them EXACTLY where they belong or that you leave them on the library tables on the fifth floor for staff to re-shelve. Failure to observe this rule could really foul up other people’s work…and it might be yours.
3) Legal research is largely trial-and-error work at the outset. Don’t get frustrated by this; and don’t take the very first thing that you find. Be patient. Look for the best materials you can locate. Once you get the hang of this research it gets easier; and once you get into working on an area for a period of time so that you know something about the substantive law and the cases and other materials that are out there, it gets easier still.

4) Keep careful notes in each stage of your search (legal as well as social science and humanities materials) so that you don’t have to go over the same ground twice, so that you can have a record of the process you are developing, and so that you can “zero in” on better and better materials. In this work, details matter enormously. Don’t be careless in copying down citations, references, works you have consulted, etc. Bring all your notes to class on 9/11. I don’t expect your work to have been completed by 9/11. We are just using this class to help discuss methods, questions, suggestions.

5) Remember that I am not so much concerned with the ‘right’ answers as I am with your getting comfortable and competent with the method of doing research. Having kept good records of your research path and materials consulted will make it easier for me, Barbara Morgan, and your colleagues to help you improve your method.

6) You may work together with other students who have the same questions, if you can find them. But please remember that you gain nothing at all by copying someone else’s work or by having another student tell you how he or she did the work. It’s like learning to swim. There’s no amount of instruction or assistance that can substitute for actually getting in the water and giving it a try. You won’t drown trying these ungraded exercises yourself. But if you don’t learn the method before you start your ten-page research paper, you may drown then.

7) Read the assignments carefully and try to respond to the actual questions and assignments. If you are unsure of what you are seeking or about the value of what you find, ask.