



CJBA210
Term Paper
Fall 2017
Professor Wolff

For the writing assignment in this course you are asked to explore a legal issue which interests you and then discuss THREE EMPIRICAL STUDIES surrounding the issue in significant detail. The topic of this paper is completely up to you, so make it something that interests you within the legal and criminal justice system. Importantly, however, it must be a topic on which research exists.

Part One:

Due October 24th, 2017 ~Upload to Blackboard by 12:00AM~ (25 points)

- In a half page or so, introduce the legal issue of interest to you and the way these laws are thought to impact the behavior or outcome you are examining. (15 points)
- Provide at least 3 references for the empirical work on the issue that you will discuss in detail in your paper. These papers must empirically test the legal issue you are interested in. (10 points)

Part Two:

Due Wednesday December 6th, 2016 ~Upload to Blackboard by 12:00AM~ (175 points)

In 5-7 double-spaced pages, you should:

- Introduce the issue (50 Points).
 - What is the issue at hand?
 - What are the current laws surrounding this issue? (Could be state specific or broader reaching (Federal) laws).
 - How are these laws thought to impact your chosen outcome?
 - What outcome are the designed to reduce or impact?
 - How are they believed to accomplish this?
 - What direction is the effect? (i.e. increase? decrease?)
 - Review the seminal cases surrounding the issue, including what the courts have ruled (if there has been cases on your issue).
- Discuss the **three** empirical articles that you have chosen to discuss the impact of the laws on your chosen outcome (50 Points).
 - Discuss the data and methods used in the research in significant detail
 - What kind of data did the authors use?
 - Where did it come from or how was it collected?
 - How did they measure the concepts of interest (Independent Variable and Dependent Variable)?
 - What kind of analysis did they use?
 - What did they find? What do their results suggest?
- Conclude the paper with a discussion of whether or not the research suggests that the laws do what they were designed to do, or if they have other unintended consequences. (30 points).
- A reference section should be included that lists the resources you cited and include all appropriate in-text citations (20 points).
- Paper should be free of typos and unclear sentences as well as be well-organized (25 points).

This assignment is due at midnight on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason and will result in a ZERO.