

**Prosecutorial Misconduct**  
**Instructor: James R. Elkins**

**On the Course Evaluation**

Your grade for the course will be based on the writing you do for the course. Your writing can take the following forms:

- 1) a traditional research paper
- 2) an essay/research paper that focuses on a particular topic relevant to the course
- 3) a series of shorter writings that explore selected topics relevant to the course.

There is no mandated page lengths for course writing. For those who feel they cannot live without a specific guideline, 20 pages might be viewed as a reasonable expectation for the length of the paper/writings.

For guidance on possible topics, you are welcome to draw on themes and topics presented in either John Kroger's *Convictions: A prosecutor's Battles Against Mafia Killers, Drug Kingpins, and Enron Thieves* (New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2008) and Gary Delsohn, *The Prosecutors: A Year in the Life of a District Attorney's Office* (New York: Dutton, 2003), the two assigned books for the course. (As we read John Kroger's *Convictions*, I am posting a webpage with links to Internet resources related to various subjects raised in the Kroger book. Perusal of the Kroger book webpage resources may also be a source of ideas for writing topics.)

The course website Bibliography is also a viable source for writing topics. The bibliography webpage provides links to articles found on-line. (The bibliography is a work-in-progress and I do not claim that it is in any way meant to be anything more than a suggestive/representative preview of scholarly literature on prosecutorial misconduct.

You are also welcome to seek out and to explore in your course writing recent case studies of prosecutorial misconduct (e.g., the Michael Nifong/Duke Lacrosse Players case; the Senator Ted Stevens Case; the New York Strauss-Kahn case); the Texas/Anthony Graves case).

I do not require submission of outlines or drafts. I do expect that your writing for the course will demonstrate lucid prose and reflect writing expected of students in a professional school offering an advanced degree. I further expect that the paper/course writing will be closely edited so that the work presented will be more finely crafted than is something you simply throw together to try to satisfy the course writing requirements.

I will be available throughout the semester to discuss your selection of a topic (or topics) and will be willing to review drafts of your writing as you might make them available.

Note: Given the small number of students in the class, I am abandoning the idea of having you create teams for purposes of class presentations.

/dated/January 25.2012/