

LEH355/PHI365 – LEGAL REASONING – FALL 2015

MARCELLO DI BELLO – LEHMAN COLLEGE, CUNY

ASSIGNMENT #3 – DUE OCT NOV 14

PLEASE BRING A HARD COPY TO CLASS

Fact/evidence analysis Watch the movie *Twelve Angry Men*. Answer the following questions in 2-3 pages as precisely as possible. *No essay format please.*

- (a) What is the charge brought against the defendant? Please provide the technical legal definition. Look up the legal definition of the crime if necessary. Cite your sources.
- (b) What are the different pieces of evidence brought to trial? Describe them precisely. (For example, if you are describing a witness testimony as a piece of evidence, you should describe what the witness said.)
- (c) What was the incriminating evidence? What was the exculpatory evidence? Explain the criteria you used to distinguish between incriminating and exculpatory evidence.
- (d) Would the incriminating evidence—considered on its face—warrant the finding of guilt? Explain. (Note that considering the evidence on its face means to assume that the evidence is not misleading, unreliable or untrustworthy. For example, you consider a witness testimony on its face when you believe the testimony without questioning the reliability of the witness.)
- (e) Why did the jurors acquit the defendant? Reconstruct the debate in the jury room. What was the argument for guilt? What was the argument for innocence?
- (f) Do you agree with the juror's decision? Explain.