

LEH355/PHI365 – LEGAL REASONING – FALL 2015

MARCELLO DI BELLO – LEHMAN COLLEGE, CUNY

FINAL ASSIGNMENT – DUE DEC 16

Please email me a copy of the assignment. No late assignments are accepted.

The final assignment should be 10-15 page long and should contain the following sections:

- (a) The controversy and the question(s) under dispute.
- (b) The position you endorse in response to the question(s) under dispute.
- (c) Previous court decisions and why they are (or are not) useful to decide the case.
- (d) Your two/three best arguments in support of the position you endorse.
- (e) The best objections against each of the arguments in (d) *and* your responses.
- (f) The two/three best arguments in support of the position opposite to yours.
- (g) Your best responses to each of the objections in (f), i.e. why the objections fail.
- (h) Summary and conclusion.

NB: *Keep in mind that you are providing legal arguments here, not arguments based on your own views about politics and the common good. Your arguments should be grounded in the US Constitution, the governing laws, precedents and the tools of judicial interpretation (e.g. text, tradition, history, precedent, purpose and consequence).*