

## **Paper Assignment for Perspectives on the Family, the Individual and Social Institutions:**

The principle requirement for the course will be a paper. This paper should be in the range of 20 to 30 pages. By the third class of the semester students should submit a 1 to 2 page outline/discussion of their paper for approval. A rough draft of the completed paper shall be required by the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the semester. The final version of the paper will be due on the day of the final exam. The permissible choices as to paper topic are numerous and varied. You may write on a strictly legal topic, or one that is only tangentially related to the law. You may rely on legal materials, or scientific, or economic, or historical, or philosophical. You may choose a narrow topic or a broad one. The only requirement is that you choose something that falls within the general subject area of the course (a category that remains largely undefined) and that it be of substantial interest to you. I list below a number of topics that you might choose or (even better) that might stimulate your imagination to find other narrower or broader topics: (1) The nature of marriage; (2) Efficient divorce laws; (3) Grandparent rights; (4) Surrogacy; (5) Dysgenic effects of social policy and economic development; (6) The legal and social implications of the "gay" gene; (7) The eclipse of fatherhood; (8) The future of male/female relations; (9) The market for adoption; (10) Illegitimacy its causes and consequences; (11) Comparative family systems (Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Native American, Moslem)--divorce, patriarchy, incest, violence; (12) Children's rights; (13) Covenant marriage; (14) Polygamy (15) Evolutionary Psychology (a.k.a., Sociobiology) (16) Orphanages (17) the underclass, (18) same-sex marriage.