Grading Policy

Attendance/Participation 15%-20%

I will assign the questions in my textbook at the end of a case to a specific student. We will go over the questions (the student answering the questions) in class after I present the facts and holdings of the case. I am really not after the right answer here – in fact some questions have no 'right' answer – just that the student has given a bit of thought to the issue. Some of the questions stump the law students, so the issues might not be real evident before we discuss the question. You will know in advance you will be called on for the specific questions.

After the entire class has done one case I will take volunteers to do the questions on another case for essentially extra credit if you need it. Since the class is mainly lecture this is one way to make sure everyone is on board with the legal concepts.

Attendance is important since we have a small class to start with, and without students the interactions and feedback questions will be limited. I will take roll and reserve the right to give points to those who are regular attendees and to dock those who regularly miss class unexcused.

Short homework projects/in class and take home guizzes 25%-30%

I recognize that some majors are probably overloaded with homework already, and any project or short homework I send home is intended to be highly relevant with a clear takeaway from a learning standpoint. The homework or in class or take home quizzes will not be onerous time wise, and hopefully the point of the projects will be self-evident.

Midterm 20-25%

The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice and short essay answers to questions. It will be a take-home mid-term, open note and book.

Final 25-30%

The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice and short essay answers to questions. It will be a take-home final, open note and book.

Extra Credit/Special Projects 5%-10%

Extra credit will be given for Bloomberg training, and other miscellaneous opportunities that will be announced that will enhance your educational experience at SMU

The goal of all this is to make sure you understand the basic course concepts.