

4/18/94

Dear Gerry,

Seems like you had about as good a spring break as you could hope for. We had quiet birthdays with a student who'd worked for me until a year ago parttime while in Hood returning to take us to lunch.

Your proposal seems good to me. I'm inclined to agree with Hank ~~Tran~~ and I have a suggestion. The book is supposedly contracted for paperback, to anchor, which I believe is Doubleday. I heard it was to appear in August and then that Posner said it would be September. So the paperback will cost less and can have another value and make what can be a worthwhile learning experience for a sharp student. There are so many mistakes! But Posner is not aware of them until they are called to his attention. He has written several that he was busy making those corrections. I think it would be worthwhile to compare the two versions by reading the paperback and skimming the hardback at the same time and then highlighting the changes. *Later tabulating*

His address is 500 E 54, 20C, 10022-5026. Why not write and ask him if there is to be a reprint and if so when it can be expected to be on sale. Tell you you have submitted a proposal to use it in a course but I did not tell him how you'll use it. You can also ask him if he can suggest or provide other educationally-useful material. He may respond.

If it were not that the xeroxing will be too much for us I'd offer to send you a copy of the rough draft that is being retyped in NY. Not yet complete. The adds and insertions may not be where I intended and I'm not going to take time to read and correct it when all of it reaches me.

I did ask John Hooney at Carroll & Graf to send you a review copy. If you do not get it let me know and when mine come I'll send you one. There are some terrible blunders in it for which I am not responsible and they were to have cut the repetition at the beginning. They did not make some '75 correction I found in both the retyping and the page proofs, I did not have the cover so I could not correct two different subheads titles! and they omitted any table of contents and index. I did not notice any mistake in the contents when I read the only copy I have that was sent to me early. And it is only 20-25% of what I wrote. But I think it makes the case to all but nitpickers who should know that such errors are not the author's responsibility....I see I'd told you about Jerry and Dave to have the full ms. But I'm not touching what I've been sent until I'm told it is all. Then I'll put it together.

Otherwise not much new. I've returned to work on what I'd written long ago for Inside the JFK Assassination Industry.

Our best to you all,

*Herold*

April 14, 1994

Dear Harold,

We had a great time in Milwaukee and Chicago over spring break. My whole family with the exception of my older brother and his family were on hand for my mother's 70th birthday. My mother enjoyed the attention and company, but she also felt lonely after everyone left. Hope your birthday, and Lillian's coming up, were and are pleasant times. Our stay in Chicago was interesting. We stayed right downtown on Michigan Ave. in a hotel right next to the Chicago Tribune building. Among other things we visited the Shedd Aquarium the Field Museum of Natural History, the observation deck of the John Hancock Building, and ate at Thai, Chinese, and Italian restaurants. Surprisingly, this area seemed cleaner and safer than I remember it back in the 1970s when I last spent any time in Chicago.

Enclosed is my proposal for the Interim project I plan to teach next Jan. '95. I do not anticipate it not being approved, although sometimes the committee asks for minor revisions. As you will note in the paragraph description of the project, I refer to Case Open as "recently released". The reason for this is that if it is approved, it will not appear in the Interim brochure until next fall. I may also incorporate Never Again!. Hanh-Trang read over the proposal and said she had a problem with requiring students to buy Posner's book, thereby adding to his undeserved royalties. Seems to be an unavoidable drawback. I will write to Jerry McKnight and Dave Wrono in the near future about obtaining the unabridged version of Case Open. But as far as I can see I still plan to visit sometime near the end of June.

Hope you and Lillian are well and enjoying some warm spring weather.

Best Wishes,





FORM FOR FACULTY MEMBERS' PROPOSALS FOR INTERIM PROJECTS

Respond to each item. Submit proposal, typewritten or in print-out, on this form.

PROPOSAL BY G. Ginocchi Check here  if summer project.

A. Project title. Anatomy of a Fraud: Case Closed as Dissected in Case Open

B. Describe the project in a well-composed statement for the Interim booklet. Few books in the 30-year controversy surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have received the kind of media attention and effusive praise from respected journalists and historians as Gerald Posner's Case Closed. This book purports to close the case on this tragic episode in our history. Unfortunately, Mr. Posner accomplishes this feat only by further distorting a record already sullied by the Warren Commission's original work, not to mention the groundless speculation of countless conspiracy theorists. Case Closed is, in fact, a monumental fraud, as amply demonstrated by Harold Weisberg in his recently released Case Open. Students in this project will participate in a meticulous dissection of Mr. Posner's (over)

C. Indicate the ways in which non-traditional, innovative, or experimental methods or content will be involved in the project. Students will have an opportunity to hone their critical research skills on a controversial historical topic. They will use primary source materials, check footnotes, and draw appropriate conclusions. Independent group work and an oral presentation will also be involved. They will also have access to original research which extends the critical analysis of Case Open.

- D. Enrollment, prerequisites, expenses
1. Proposed maximum enrollment: 20. If not at least 20, please attach explanatory statement.
  2. Academic prerequisites and/or other restrictions to enrollment, if any:  
Willingness to purchase, read, and study two books and related xerox material.
  3. Check here  and attach explanatory statement if enrolling students by computer seems not feasible for the project.
  4. Expected maximum project expense per student, and the items it covers:

\$45-50 for books

E. Will any off-campus activity be required for the project? Yes ; No . If yes, what will be its nature and duration?

F. Provide a week-by-week syllabus to show fully your plans for accomplishing the educational objectives of the project. Include indication of frequency and duration of regular meetings.

WEEK ONE: Introduction: present background on the Kennedy assassination and the 30-year controversy it sparked.

Begin reading and discussing Case Closed

Break up into independent study groups.

\*\*\* Will meet every day (Mon.-Fri.) for approximately 2hrs.

WEEK TWO: Groups work independently. I will meet at least once with individual groups to check progress.

Everyone to meet on Friday (approx. 2hrs). See video "Reasonable Doubt" on the "single-bullet theory".

Introduce Case Open by Harold Weisberg (over)

G. Show the requirements students in the project will be expected to meet. (Include specific readings. Indicate the number and types of tests, papers, reports, or journals required; show the requirements for discussion, participation, and any other activities or products.)

Strict attendance will be required (more than one cut or unexcused absence will be grounds for failing). Everyone will be expected to participate to some extent in class discussion and in the preparation of their group's report. I expect everyone to do all the reading (namely, Case Closed by Gerald Posner & Case Open by Harold Weisberg, and supplementary xerox material), even though each group will be concentrating on particular aspects of this case. A final quiz will be given to test everyone's general knowledge of the two major books. Failing that final quiz will be grounds for failing the project. The quality of each student's class participation, group report, and final quiz will be the main considerations in distinguishing between those who receive "pass" and those who receive "honors".

Project description continued:

book; consider how this book, and Posner himself, garnered such unwarranted attention and praise; and see what implications this episode has not only for a resolution of this controversy but also for the integrity of major institutions in our society.

F. Week-by-week syllabus (cont.)

WEEK THREE: Groups continue to work independently. I will meet with each group at least once to check progress.  
Everyone to meet on Friday (2hrs). General discussion.  
Set up presentation schedule for next week.

WEEK FOUR: Group reports: Mon. & Tues. (1½-2hr sessions)  
Wrap-up Wed. (1½hrs)  
Final Quiz (1½-2hrs) Thurs.  
Final Written group reports due. Fri.