

Reading Questions for October 11

These questions cover two things: Joshua Davis's talk and an interview with Jeff McMahan conducted by Gary Gutting titled "Can Torture Ever Be Moral?". The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

First, we'll discuss philosophical issues raised by Joshua Davis's talk. Then we'll shift to the main focus for this week: the morality of torture. Today, we'll look at some theoretical discussions of the issue; on Thursday we'll look at some particular cases.

*Questions:*

1. What philosophical questions do you think Joshua Davis's talk raised? What do you think the answers are?
2. On page 1, Gutting asks McMahan: "What's your overall view on the morality of torture?" What does McMahan say in response? What do you think about what he says and why?
3. On page 2, Gutting asks McMahan if he thinks torture can ever be moral. What does McMahan say and why? Do you agree? Why?
4. On page 3, Gutting makes a comparison between torture and civil disobedience. What is the comparison supposed to be? What does McMahan think about it? What do you think about what they say and why?
5. Starting on the middle of page 3, and continuing on, Gutting asks McMahan a couple of questions about defining torture. What are these questions and what does McMahan say? What do you think about what they say and why?