

Reading Questions for April 17

These questions cover excerpts from a book written by Douglas Husak and Peter de Marneffe called *The Legalization of Drugs*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

We are spending this week talking about the legal drinking age. We're going to start Monday by looking at some general theoretical issues surrounding the legalization of drugs, then on Wednesday we'll start focusing in on alcohol, and then on Friday we'll focus in on the drinking age in particular. Today's reading, while focusing mostly on heroin, raises some of the major theoretical issues regarding drug legalization.

*Questions:*

1. De Marneffe outlines the argument for drug prohibition on the bottom of page 109. On the top of page 110, he clarifies what he means by "drug prohibition". Then, in the section titled "Heroin" on pages 111-4 he lays out some of the costs of legalizing heroin. What does he mean by "drug prohibition"? What is his argument for prohibiting heroin? Is it plausible?
2. De Marneffe considers an objection to his argument to do with paternalism, which he discusses from 141-5, starting with the paragraph that begins "Paternalistic curtailment of a person's liberty ..." What does he say in these pages? Is it plausible? Why?
3. From pages 161-3, starting with "The objection raised at the beginning of this section ..." de Marneffe considers several burdens of a heroin ban and responds to them. What are the burdens and what are his responses? Are they plausible? Why?