

Reading Questions for April 19

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 started Monday by looking at some general theoretical issues surrounding the legalization of drugs; today we'll start focusing in on alcohol. We'll also spend a little bit talking about a couple of other drugs, including marijuana. Then on Friday we'll focus in on the drinking age in particular.

*Questions:*

1. On pages 171-4, de Marneffe lays out some harms that would be reduced by making alcohol illegal. What are these harms? Do you agree with him about the harms? Why?
2. On pages 174-7, de Marneffe discusses whether there are any reasons to think that policies of heroin and alcohol prohibition are equally defensible. What does he say? Do you agree with him? Why?
3. From pages 177-85, de Marneffe discusses the prohibition of several other drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, and LSD. What does he say? Do you agree with him? Why?