

Reading Questions for February 13

These questions cover a reading by Douglas Husak called “In Favor of Drug Decriminalization.” 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 now in the section of the course devoted to the question of whether medical marijuana should be legalized. We’re going to start by reading some pieces on drug decriminalization/legalization in general, and then focus in on medical marijuana later. Today’s reading is by Douglas Husak, who is arguing in favor of drug decriminalization.

*Questions:*

1. While this reading is not perfect, there are a number of really nice things about the way it is written. What are some of them?
2. On pages 336-8, Husak lays out what he means by drug decriminalization. He then makes some comments about his definition. What does he mean by “drug decriminalization”? Do you have any comments about any of his comments?
3. On pages 338-9, Husak lays out the first two approaches for arguing that drug use should be criminalized. What are these approaches? What do you think about their plausibility?
4. On page 339-42, Husak lays out his favored approach. How does it work and why does he favor it? Is it plausible?