

Reading Questions for February 16

These questions cover a reading by Peter de Marneffe called “Against 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 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 Peter de Marneffe, who is arguing against drug legalization.

*Questions:*

1. This article, and the one we read last Friday, come from a book called *Contemporary Debates In Applied Ethics*. Marneffe, the author for today, and Husak, the author for last time, are supposed to be debating each other. But do they actually disagree? And if so, in what ways?
2. Marneffe runs through a number of objections. (It’s worth noting that while some of the objections are to his argument, others are to drug laws, and still others are to US drug control policy. These are not all the same thing – Marneffe seems to think that US drug control policy is problematic). Which objections do you find plausible? Which do you think Marneffe has good responses to?
3. Which of the objections that Marneffe discusses apply to medical marijuana? Are any of these ones plausible?