

# Political Science 2801: Justice and Power

Professor D.D. Dobbs  
421 Wm. Wehr Physics  
<http://www.mu.edu/polisci/Dobbs.htm>

Marquette University, Spring, 2010  
11 am - 12:15 pm T TH; Wm Wehr Physics 138  
Office Hours: 8:20 - 9:30 T TH & by appointment

## Course Description:

Think of justice, power and authority as the ABCs of politics. Without a thorough understanding of these elementary principles, one could no more claim to understand politics than an illiterate could hope to write *Paradise Lost*. Yet many so-called experts in the university, in government, and in the press, take it for granted that justice is a social construct and that authority exists only when those with whom we agree possess power. Our task, in this introductory course in political philosophy, is to call these common assumptions into question by examining for ourselves the elementary principles of politics. We shall approach this task by reading and discussing some of the greatest and most influential texts of ancient and modern political thought.

## Requirements, Expectations and Grading:

You are required to attend *every* meeting of this class and to read the assigned texts carefully and on schedule. There will be daily writing exercises. I shall grade **eight** of these exercises, collecting them by surprise and treating them as pop quizzes. You will also be expected to present some of your daily exercises for discussion and constructive criticism in class. The quality of your exercises (as written and presented) will account for approximately 2/3 of your final grade. The remaining 1/3 of your grade will be determined by the **quality** of your contribution to classroom discussion.

In addition to your regular attendance, you should expect to spend at least **six hours** each and every week studying and preparing for this class. (If you carry a load of fifteen credit hours, and follow this rule of thumb in all your classes, you will still be investing no more time developing your own human capital than you will spend enlarging your employer's capital after you have graduated. My working assumption is that you are worth the investment. Would you agree?)

## Class Schedule Assigned Reading

### Date

### Unit One: Justice in Higher Education

- Week 1 Fr. Guido & The Five-Minute University <http://youtube.com/watch?v=kO8x8eoU3L4>  
Josh Waitzkin on the Art of Learning, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTZS3SqpT-o>;  
D. Sayers, "The Lost Tools of Learning" <http://www.gbt.org/text/sayers.html>
- Weeks 2-3 C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, ch.1; ch.2; ch.3; ch.3
- Week 4 Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, Q.91 a.2, Q.94 aa.2-5 (pp.14-16, 57-70);  
Q. 95 aa.1-2, Q. 96 a.2, Q. 97 a.2 (pp.73-80, 90-93, 108-110)

### Unit Two: Discerning Justice in Times of Political Crisis

- Week 5 Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch.13 <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/h/hobbes/thomas/h68l/chapter13.html>  
& *Declaration of Independence* <http://www.ushistory.org/Declaration/document/>;  
*Declaration of Independence*, Frederick Douglass, *The Constitution of the United States: Is it Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery?* <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1128>
- Weeks 6-8 A. Lincoln, *Lyceum Address* <http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln/speeches/speech.htm> ;  
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol.I Introduction, part 1 chs.2-3 (pp.3-15, 27-52); part 2 chs.7-8,  
vol. II part 1 chs.1-2, 5, 7 (pp. 235- 264, 403-410, 417-426); part 2 chs.2-5, 7-9 (pp.482-492, 496-506);  
part 4 chs.1-3, 6, 8 (pp.639-645, 661-665, 673-676)
- Week 9 Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*; Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, Book I §66-88, §139-145, II §34-55
- Week 10 Thucydides, *Peloponnesian War*, Book III §1-50; V §84-116

### Unit Three: Conflicting Theoretical Foundations

- Weeks 11-12 Machiavelli, *The Prince*, chs.1-5; chs. 6-8, *Book of Exodus* ch.32; *The Prince*, chs. 9-15; chs.16-26
- Weeks 13-15 Plato, *Republic* 327a-331d; 331d-336a; 336b-341a; 341a-350e; 350e-354c