

# POSC 2801-102: Justice and Power

Darrell Dobbs, Ph.D.  
Office Hours: 8:30-9:30 T Th, and by appointment  
421 Wm. Wehr Physics

Marquette University, Spring Term 2012  
Class time: 11:00 - 12:15 T TH  
418 Wm. Wehr Physics

## Course Description

Think of justice, power, and authority as the ABCs of politics. Without a thorough understanding of these elementary principles, you 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 simply a cultural 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 free ourselves from the shackles of these common prejudices. Moreover, we shall attempt to rethink the demands of justice especially as they affect us as members of a college and as American citizens.

## Requirements, Expectations and Grading

You are to attend every meeting of this class, having read the assigned texts carefully. You will be given daily writing exercises, which are designed to guide your reading and to enhance the quality of your participation in classroom discussions. 80% of your final grade will be determined by the quality of your daily exercises and your performance in class discussion, while 20% will be determined by your performance on a comprehensive final exam. Absences may be excused, upon written request made via email on or before the day of absence, at your instructor's sole discretion. In any case, you will be required to make up any missing work.

## Class Schedule

### Unit One: What, after all, is Justice?

Weeks 1-4      Introductions; Preliminary Consideration of Justice and Power;  
Plato, *Republic* 327a-331d; 331d-336a; 336b-342e; 343a-348b; 348b-352b; 352b-354c

### Unit Two: Justice-Seeking in Higher Education

Week 5              Fr. Guido & The Five-Minute University, <http://youtube.com/watch?v=kO8x8eoU3L4>;  
Dorothy Sayers, *The Lost Tools of Learning*

Weeks 6-8        C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, ch.1; ch.2; ch.3; ch.3; St. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, Q.90  
aa.1-4; Q.91 aa.1-4

Week 9              **Spring Break**

Weeks 10-11    St. Thomas Aquinas, *Treatise on Law*, Q.92 a.1, Q.93 aa.2, 6; Q.94 aa.2-5; Q. 95 aa.1-2; Q. 96 aa.1-2,  
Q. 97 a.2

### Unit Three: Justice-Seeking in America

Weeks 12-13    Lincoln, *Lyceum Address*; **Easter Break**; Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch.13, *Declaration of Independence*;  
*Declaration of Independence*, *The Constitution of the United States of America*, *Northwest Ordinance*  
*of 1787*

Week 14            Frederick Douglass, *The Constitution: Is It Pro-Slavery or Anti-Slavery?*; Lincoln, *Speech on the*  
*Repeal of the Missouri Compromise*

Weeks 15-16    Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (Mansfield and Winthrop, trans.) pp.3-15, 27-53;  
239-249, 403-410, 639-645, 661-665; 82-83, 250-251, 278-284, 417-426, 517-524; 482-492, 496-506