

# Philosophy 2400

## Political and Social Philosophy



This course explores foundational philosophical questions about politics. We will make a special effort to combine abstract philosophical theorizing with attention to the way these issues surface in contemporary American society.

Some of the questions we will explore: How is the state's authority justified? Is authority ever legitimate? When and why is civil disobedience permissible? Can criminal punishment be justified? How does massive racial inequality in criminal punishment in our society affect our view of the practice? Is the state obligated to promote equality? Is there a tension between the pursuit of equality and individual freedom?

Professor David Goldman

Sp 2015 • M/W/F 12:40–1:35 • Class # 31083