

PHI 234/POL312 – PHILOSOPHY OF LAW/JURISPRUDENCE – SPRING 2015

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PASS/FAIL ASSIGNMENT – DUE WED APRIL 29TH

This is preparatory work for the final paper due May 13th.

- (a) Review the course readings and find a topic that interests you, such as, court decisions about same sex marriage; the relationship between law and morality; whether the law can be violated; how appellate courts make decisions; self-defense; the state of exception; why we punish criminals; etc.
- (b) Narrow down the topic to a well-specified question. For example, the question whether the law can be violated is too broad, but the question whether Socrates should not violate the laws of Athens because they nurtured him, is more well-specified.
- (c) Come up with a well-defined thesis you want to defend.
- (d) Sketch your argument(s) in support of your thesis. Use the readings as a source.
- (e) Formulate possible objections and think of how you could respond.