

**PHL 205/Ethics. I./Professor Card**

**Thought Questions: Recreational Drug Use, LeGuin, *Omelas***

1. Szasz argues that laws restricting “recreational” drug use are unjust. First, review his main argument. Do you think this argument is successful or unsuccessful? If you think it is unsuccessful, explain what problems you foresee. If you think it is successful, identify one or two potential problems and try to explain how these can be addressed.
2. Dworkin examines the extent to which a state should put paternalistic policies in place—policies which interfere with a person’s liberty for that person’s own good. Do you agree that some such policies can be sensible and justifiable? If you agree, what are some examples you would support? If you disagree with paternalistic policies, what do you think of Mill’s prohibition on selling oneself into perpetual servitude?
3. LeGuin writes about the society of Omelas and its “central practice” concerning the child. Describe the essential details of the city of Omelas and the central practice. Next, what do you think of Omelas? (Try to be specific about your thoughts and why you think this is the correct assessment of Omelas.) What do you think is LeGuin’s point in this story?

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