What is Justice?

L13 Writing 103
(fulfills first-year writing requirement)

Does Tom Brady deserve a 20+ million dollar salary?
Should payday loan companies be allowed to charge a 400% interest rate?
Is freedom compatible with social justice?
Is civil disobedience an obligation?

These are some of the important questions of justice we will be considering in this course. We will do so by engaging with some of the most powerful literary statements about justice in the western tradition, from Antigone to Crime and Punishment, from Shakespeare to Toni Morrison. By thinking, talking, and writing about justice, students will have the opportunity to learn about the value of evidence, the ethics of persuasion, and the difficult art of judgment.

The course, which will fulfill the College’s first-year writing requirement (College Writing 1), is open to all interested students, and no special background is required; however, students who have AP English Literature or Composition (or their IB equivalent), or those interested in pre-law, political science, or the humanities, are especially encouraged to enroll.

Note: you may sign up for this course in addition to your choice of first-year programs or seminars. You will be assigned to either the fall or spring semester of What is Justice? through the same process in which you would otherwise be assigned to a semester of College Writing 1, and you will be informed of your semester assignment prior to registering for fall courses.

This course may not be taken in addition to the Pathfinder program, Text and Tradition, Focus: Ireland, or Focus: Missouri’s Natural Heritage, as scheduling conflicts would necessarily arise.