POLITICAL & SOCIAL THOUGHT

Marriage & The State

Instructions 🗺

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What premises, assumptions, reasons, evidence, and other important considerations lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, it is *information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is *to evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support and justify accepting the author's conclusions as opposed to other ones.

Reading 📖

Yousef. (2016, November 8). I'm Qatari, and I Want to be Able to Decide for Myself Who I Marry. *Doha News*. Retrieved December 25, 2018, from https://dohanews.co/im-qatari-want-able-decide-marry/.

Kinsley, M. (2003, July 2). Abolish Marriage: Let's Really Get the Government Out of Our Bedrooms. *Slate*. Retrieved December 25, 2018, from http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/readme/2003/07/abolish_marriage.html.

Questions ❓

1. What happened to Yousef? Why is he upset and "have so many questions"? What are these questions?
2. What is Michael Kinsley's argument justifying ending "the institution of government-sanctioned marriage"?
3. How, if at all, would Kinsley's solution help Yousef?
4. What barriers to Kinsley's solution might exist in Qatar?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses (unless you miss or are late to class, and must then submit a written reading question review).

You do need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting. You may, during the following class, be randomly selected to present answers to these if selected to do so for a verbal reading question review.