



W. DEREK BOWMAN

is Visiting Instructor in Philosophy at Clark University. His recent work concerns the role of idealization in political philosophy. He has related research interests in ancient political philosophy and on the use of thought experiments in normative ethics.

POLITICAL MORALISTS IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT



When confronted with the uncomfortable parts of our nation's history we are often warned not to judge the past by our present day moral standards. Yet appeals to the past have always played an important role in politics, as sources of inspiration, warning, and justification. Political philosophers typically evaluate such appeals by invoking moral principles that are said to be timeless and universal. In so doing, some critics argue, such 'political moralists' fail to take history seriously. In this talk, **Derek Bowman** will rebut these critics, using the tale of Mark Twain's time-travelling Connecticut Yankee to explain how moral judgments about the past are an essential part of taking history seriously.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2013 AT 4:30PM
DANA COMMONS, FISHBOWL

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