

Celebrating 50 Henry West

years of teaching,
scholarship, and service

February 11

4:30 p.m.

John B Davis Lecture Hall

RACE AND THE RULE OF LAW



David Lyons

The US prides itself on respect for the rule of law, but for long periods of US history from colonial times to the recent past our officials have openly engaged in practices that are clearly and seriously unlawful, such as the toleration of, or participation in, lynching, and much else. Our neglect of these facts of American history is not merely a matter of misplaced pride. For the usual victims of official malpractice have been viewed by the dominant part of the community in racial terms. Wrongs to them have accordingly been discounted. Lyons suggests that these aspects of American society may help to account for other unfortunate aspects of American exceptionalism, such as impoverished systems of health and human services.

Professors Lyons is currently Professor of Law as well as Professor of Philosophy at Boston University. Dr. Lyons is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and three Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has directed NEH summer humanities seminars for lawyers, judges, and law teachers. He is also recipient of the Clark Distinguished Teaching Award at Cornell University. Dr. Lyons is the author of five books, including *Forms and Limits of Utilitarianism* (Oxford, 1965) and *Moral Aspects of Legal Theory* (Cambridge, 1993).

For information, contact the Philosophy Department at 696-6141