JUSTICE

Lecture 2 – Classical Utilitarianism

1. The Pinto Affair

2. Cost/Benefit Analysis in law and public policy

3. Two distinctions:
   a. Empirical vs. normative claims
   b. Theory of society and politics vs. theory of social and political morality

4. Utilitarianism as a *comprehensive* theory of morality

5. The Principle of Utility, or the Greatest Happiness Principle

6. The argument for the Principle of Utility
   a. “Consequentialist” view of right action (rightness is a function of consequences)
   b. “Hedonist” theory of value (what matters intrinsically is happiness, understood as pleasure and the absence of pain)
   c. Impartiality (everyone’s happiness counts equally)
   d. Sum-maximization (what is to be maximized is the *sum* of happiness)

7. Implications of the Principle of Utility
   a. Perfect altruism?
   b. Enforcement of majority likes and dislikes?
   c. Domain of civil liberties (where punishment “unprofitable”)
   d. Meaning of rights

8. A note on Bentham