PHIL 101IH INTRO ETHICS: GOOD AND EVIL

Don Demetriades

Spring 2018 – Weekly Brainstorm #2

Johnny Gaddis

We began this week by talking about the nuances and weaknesses of utilitarianism. We pondered the idea of a Hedometer, a meter showing one’s hedons or dolors gained from an experience. A criticism of utilitarianism states that one can never truly measure hedons or dolors, invalidating the idea. This was countered by Bentham; Bentham states that one can always approximate the quantities enough. This leads to greater issues with utilitarianism. Who oversees this approximation? When two people approximate differently who is right? Another example provided in class was the $1000 distribution. This problem states that both one person and four people receive the same amount of hedons from this money. Utilitarianism states that since both parties receive the same hedons there is not right or wrong choice. I believe that you give it to the one person because one person receiving a lot of benefit, in my eyes, is better than four people receiving minimal benefit.