Gov 10: Foundations of Political Theory other**minds:** Text 22333 + minds

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outline: **subjective or objective interests**

**Prologue:** **liberty, unpacked**

* + 1. Cue up the idea of humanity in *On Liberty*
    2. Democracy and Preference: Actual or Idealized?
    3. Bentham and Mill’s lives *embody* their respective theories of utility

1. **Theories of Subjective Utility**
   1. Bentham’s “greatest happiness principle”
   2. Philosophical utilitarianism: Three Parts
      1. A theory of well-being (subjective or objective)
      2. A theory of value
      3. A normative demand
   3. Bentham’s hedonic account of our interests
      1. E.g., utlitometer
      2. Three attractive features:
         1. Non-judgmental approach (equal treatment of human goods)
         2. Scientific character
         3. Clear Moral/Political Implications
2. **Theories of Objective Utility**
   1. Mill’s breakdown: departure from Bentham’s approach
   2. Mill presents alternative account of well-being:
      1. Background for the account: values self-development of the *higher-order powers*
         1. Pig satisfied, Socrates unsatisfied (and executed?)
         2. Bad argument for this account: exercise of the higher-order powers is more satisfying…
      2. Structure of Mill’s Account
         1. Negative thesis
         2. Positive thesis
         3. Comparability thesis
      3. How do we distinguish between higher/lower-order pleasures?
         1. Familiarity
         2. Susceptibility
         3. Freedom
      4. Mill’s Decision-Procedure for *competent* judges
         1. “decided preferences” for pleasure x (See Utilitarianism 2.5)
         2. Unwillingness to trade-off
      5. Is there something *democratic* about this procedure?
      6. Mill’s Proof (discuss in section)
3. **Liberty’s Service to Utility**
   * 1. Two ways liberty contributes to human happiness
     2. Two Tests of Bentham/Mill
        1. T.E.D. 1: The Experience Machine
        2. T.E.D. II: The Survival Lottery