Present and explain Conventionalism. Present, explain, and evaluate the Cultural Differences Argument.

Conventionalism basically says that different cultures have different moralities. For example, in American we don’t accept infanticide, whereas some Eskimo societies used to accept infanticide. Neither society is really right or wrong. “Good” just means “good in my society”.

The Cultural Differences Argument said that there are no objective moral truths since different cultures have different beliefs about morality. For example, the ancient Greeks thought that it was right to burn the dead, whereas the ancient Callatians thought the dead should be eaten.

We talked about one objection to this argument in class. In the US and the UK have different traffic laws. In the US we say that you should drive on the right and in the UK they say that you should drive on the left. But BOTH laws are motivated by the same basic principle: death, injuries, and property damage are bad things. The two governments just enforce the basic moral principle in different ways. It might be the same way with the Greeks and Callatians. Everyone agrees on the basic moral principle, which is that we should honor our dead. The two cultures just obey this principle in different ways.

When we were talking about Conventionalism I just kept thinking: How could anyone not believe in Conventionalism? It’s just obvious that different cultures have different moralities.