**Lecture Summary Week 4**

Moral Reasoning and Professional Ethics

Week 4 lecture leads us into the deeper field of moral and ethics.

The first main point is about the categorical imperative which includes five formulations and one Maxims principle. The five formulations respectively give formula to Universality, to Nature, to Humanity and to Autonomy. Besides there are other categorical imperatives, for example avoidance of hypocrisy, and everyone should have a good will which is not in terms of effects.

Then the second point is hypocrisy and equality. Hypocrisy is a “practical” inconsistency between what a person believes, and how that person behaves. Usually hypocrisy may involve dissimulation, pretense. In real life, false promise in the hard case is like hypocrisy. Equality mentioned in the lecture has two different means, one is in moral pluralism, there is no one single moral theory principle that should be accepted as preferable, all different views are equal. The other one is that each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty compatible with a similar liberty for others.

Next the third topic is virtue ethics, basically it is moral excellence. Virtue includes courage, wisdom, temperance, justice and so on, these qualities can enable humans to function well as humans. Besides, all virtues are concerned with feelings, for example, courage is the virtue concerned with the appropriate feelings of fear and confidence, or it is the mean between rashness and cowardice.

Then the fourth point is about dilemmas and informed reasoning. We may encounter much problem in life, such as math problem, simple moral issues, but dilemmas are the situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives, especially they are equally undesirable, hence it is important for us to analysis moral dilemmas. One way is by applying informed reasoning, which is not simply reactions, gut feelings and situation ethics, it turns out informed reasoning or moral judgement should be systematic, justifiable and principled.

Last is the conflicts of interest, simply it is two different opinions are incompatible. There are two kinds of conflicts of interest, one is personal interests, the other one is inappropriate business or professional interests in the environment of offering an opinion or making decision. And, there is not only a single appropriate response to all conflicts.

This week’s lecture covers many moral and ethics rules, and emphasizes equality, duty, virtue. Furthermore, the way to analyze moral dilemmas is important for everyone.