

Name: Wai Yan Hein Oo ID: 67130500834

Week 15: Course Reflection (Individual Work)

Q1: How can self-awareness help you make a better decision? Please provide a clear example. (150-200 words)

Self-awareness is the skill I have learned and value as a Burmese Student studying abroad in Thailand University. Living abroad and studying in a foreign country, I have encountered many opportunities and challenges, and being self-aware is one of the main things that help me get through. For example, there was a time where I have to choose between attending the Thai cultural festival (Loi Krathong) or to finish our group project.

I have been eager to go to the festival since at that time period, I have been pressured with the stress of study and I want to take a break from academic. However, the assignment is due that night and it is a very important one for our grades and I don't want others to get bad grades because of me. So, being aware that I came here to study and academic is my top priority, I decided to focus on our group project all day. Luckily, we finished the work early and as I really needed a break, I decided to go to the festival and enjoyed my time with my friends. In conclusion, self-awareness has helped me balance my academic, social and leisure.

Q2: How can you apply or relate the topics you have learned, such as Deep Listening, Social Awareness, Internet Ethics, Deontology, and Utilitarianism to Ethical Decision Making? **Please apply to at least 2 topics** and provide a clear example. (200-250 words)

As a Burmese student studying abroad in Thailand, deep listening and deontology have helped me make moral decisions. Understanding others while also maintaining my principles has been crucial to me during my time studying abroad.

Deep listening has helped me understand others and resolve the problem. For example, in my school, we the Burmese students decided to participate in a cultural exchange fair and we plan to make a booth showcasing our traditional food. While planning, as we all have different ideas, we had a hard time coming up with a conclusion. And things got heated when someone came up with an idea that contradicts another person's idea. Therefore, we decided to give each other a chance to explain their thoughts and carefully listen to all the ideas. After understanding each other, we came up with a compromise plan that combines the best of everyone's ideas. In conclusion, deep listening ensures that everyone respects and values each other's ideas and helps resolve the problem.

Deontology, the principle of standing by moral rules, has also shaped my decisions. One example is when a classmate of mine asked me to show him the answers to quiz assignments and I refused to show him as it would be cheating, and it goes against my principles. However, I decided to help him and taught him about the topic in the questions. Although it is difficult to refuse, it is important to uphold my own principles.

Q3: Based on Deontology and Utilitarianism, how can you apply these two theories on ethical decision making at a national level? Please provide a clear example. And what are the advantages and disadvantages of the two theories? (200-250 words)

National level ethical decision making is a complex situation that requires both moral rules and overall well-being of all citizens. That is why applying deontology and utilitarianism can help make choices in these decisions.

Deontology focuses on following moral principles and duties, no matter the consequences. At a national level, this could apply to decisions regarding human rights. For example, a government could face a situation where they have to enforce a law to protect the basic rights of its citizens such as freedom of speech, however it could lead to dissatisfaction of public. According to deontology, governments have to obey the law of morals and principles. Therefore, governments need to uphold these basic rights as they are moral principles, no matter what the consequences would be.

On the other hand, utilitarianism focuses on the greater good for the greatest number of people. At national level, this could apply to decisions regarding public health care and infrastructure. For example, the government plans to make highways to make transportation and travelling easier and more efficient, but it might require removing houses and properties of some people that are on the way. A utilitarianism approach would put more weight on the benefits of larger population, faster travel and economic growth, against the damages caused to those few people.

While deontology ensures consistency and moral principles, its disadvantage is that as it overlooks the consequences, it may sometimes lead to negative outcomes. Decisions based on utilitarianism are for the greatest good of the greatest number of people. However, sometimes it may justify the harm to the minority, which could lead to ethical concern about fairness and equality.