**KANT: Kant’s Moral Theory**

1. Kant
   1. Central figure in Modern Philosophy, and regarded as greatest modern philosopher
   2. “What can I know?”
      1. Knowledge is not the passive perception of things
      2. Human perception determines the character of our experience
   3. “What ought I do?”
2. What gives an act moral worth?
   1. Not the act’s consequences: because I intended to do what I thought was right, I shouldn’t be blamed for things turning out badly
   2. Consequences are not always in our control
   3. Motives are. As such, we are responsible and accountable for our motives
   4. To make morality a matter of producing certain outcomes puts matters backwards, grading us on our extent of becoming instrumental instead of intrinsic value
3. What is the right motive
   1. Without right intention, intelligence, wit and control can be bade or used for evil
   2. Doing what is right just because it is right: to act out of duty or concern for morality
   3. We are more sure of our motives when we do what is right even if it is not in our best interest or we do not feel like doing the right thing
   4. The ability to act for moral motives makes people intrinsically valuable
4. What is the right thing to do?
   1. Imperatives
      1. Statement that tells us to do something
      2. Hypothetical imperative
         1. Does not embody a moral ought
         2. Depends on what you want and means needed to achieve them
         3. These oughts are avoidable or contingent
      3. Categorical: what we ought to do or not to do
         1. Moral obligation
         2. First Form
            1. We do what we can accept or will that everyone do
            2. Act only on that maxim that you can will as a universal law
         3. Second Form
            1. Proper treatment as persons
            2. Ability to set your own goals, to be self-ruled
            3. Always treat humanity, whether in your own person or that of another, never simply as a means but always at the same time as an end
         4. Moral conclusions should be the same whether using first or second form.
         5. We are both subject and author of moral law since it flows from our rationality
5. Evaluating Kant’s Moral Theory
   1. Nature of Moral Obligation
      1. Real and strictly binding
      2. If there is anything we morally ought to do, we ought to do it.
      3. Being able to act out of regard for morality is basis for human dignity
   2. Application of the Categorical Imperative
      1. A test for what we should not do
      2. Difficulty in finding boundaries when applying second form
6. Duty
   1. The right thing to do
   2. Categorical imperative is an exceptionless rule
   3. Kant believed he was only setting basic principles of morality
7. Moral Equality and Impartiality
   1. We should not make exceptions for ourselves but only do what we can will for all
8. Perfect and Imperfect Duties
   1. Perfect duties: Absolute, as in false promises
   2. Imperfect or meritous duties: Flexible, as in egoism
   3. Perfect duties should take precedence over imperfect ones