

Journal Entries

Connor Nagel

6/30/2016

CS230

6/1/2016

Kantianism

Kant concluded that good will is always good. Even if a person's best effort falls short, it is still considered good. End goals and emotions are not considered when using Kantianism.

Kant says that what we want to do does not matter, what we ought to do is what matters. This is an adage that describes duty.

Kant's Categorical Imperative is a test for a moral rule, what would happen if everybody did whatever is questioned? Would it have a good or bad outcome? The second formulation states that you should act in a way where you don't treat yourself and other people as a means to an end.

6/2/2016

Rule Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is a philosophy asserting our best moral choice is that which offers the most utility

Act Utilitarianism focused on the happiness of just those parties affected by a single choice

Rule Utilitarianism focuses on the bigger picture. Total happiness, the outcome of everyone following that rule, without consideration for the means. Reliance on rules frees us from performing the utilitarian calculus on simple decisions. This ethical theory avoids the egocentric trap by focusing on everyone rather than affected parties alone.

The Social Contract

Morality consists of those rules governing the people. Rational people accept these rules for their mutual benefit on the condition others follow those rules as well. The social contract is framed in the language of rights. This is part of why there are so many people who take issue with the current state of our police force, they consider them to be in violation of the social contract between them and their citizens for they are the ones who are supposed to be protecting their rights but they are accused of doing the very opposite.

6/6/2016

Virtue Ethics

Many ethical theories ignore morals. Virtue ethics defines a path to achieving one's potential by living a virtuous life, a life well-lived. Virtue ethics focuses on the dilemma, "What sort of people should we be?"

Virtue involves more than a choice of action or following rules. Virtue Ethics emphasizes what a choice of action says about the development of one's character. Virtue Ethics encourages a choice of action consistent with the habits of a virtuous person in the same circumstances. Unfortunately, Virtue theory is limited because the traits that people deem virtuous are subjective, so it's hard to pin down exactly what being virtuous means. Every individual has their own understanding of what is virtuous.

6/7/2016

Intellectual Property

My haiku:

Hot outside

Stuck inside

A Summer Spent Cold

This haiku is my intellectual property. I could keep it a secret. I could write it on a wall and forfeit ownership of the haiku. I could enter it in a contest, assigning ownership to the company running the contest. I could license it for \$\$ to someone, but I still own it. If I issue a license the license text will specify what rights the licensee purchased. Much of the law pertaining to intellectual property was written before software could be considered. Software has complicated the matter due to its replicable nature and its nuanced ways of writing licenses.

Trade Secret

A secret in the form of a formula, design, software algorithm, etc. A trade secret is not known by others, and is something that is not obvious to others. It is a secret that is strictly confidential within the group holding the secret.

I thought the idea of employee poaching was interesting. It almost like a game of chess within a competitive market. Certain employers will try to take important pieces of other companies (employees) to strength the knowledge and power of the competing company.

6/8/2016

Copyright

Copyright identifies who owns the work, and when it was created. The holder of the copyright has the legal right to copy, distribute, create derivative works, display, and control the reproduction, distribution, display, and performance by others. Nearly all of commercial software is copyrighted.

Fair Use

Fair Use is a collection of criteria by which cases involving copyright infringement can be assessed.

I think that Fair-Use is an important topic within the realm of online media. I remembered an issue that concerned the copyrights and fair-use of Youtube content not too long ago, and this lecture encouraged me to go and research it. This led me to an article that described a Youtuber's experience with Freebooting, which caused a great deal of frustration among the Youtube community.

http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/technology/2015/07/freebooting_stolen_youtube_videos_going_viral_on_facebook.html

6/9/2016

Excused Absence

6/13/2016

Excused Absence

6/14/2016

Excused Absence

6/22/2016

High Frequency Trading

High Frequency Trading came off to me as a way for a small group of people to have an unfair advantage over the stock market. The technology allows the user to receive and react to information that nobody else could use in time. The solution that someone came up with in class was a possibility that I thought would work well. If high frequency traders want to continue to use this method, then there need to be separate markets that limit where these high frequency traders can do their business. This would allow regular people to have an equal playing field when they want to invest.

6/27/2016

Great FireWall

I had been hearing about these pushes for internet regulation in China. It really shows the differences of what is allowed legally in China as opposed to the United States. Ideally the internet should be free of censorship and as long as the content itself is not illegal, then people should be able to

access it. I expect to see similar issues come up as more and more countries have to figure out what works best for them. Eventually, I would like to see a universal code that is adopted by all countries that would dictate what is and isn't allowed on the internet, there isn't much room for cultural relativism when it refers to globalization.

BusyBox

This presentation gave light to some of the problems with the GPL. The fact that professionals can easily gloss over important legal problems such as this makes me a little nervous for when it's my time to make the choices that could possibly result in getting myself sued.

6/28/2016

My presentation

My presentation went as well as I think it could have gone. Considering that I had to rush my essay I pulled together a pretty well constructed coherent argument for what I wanted to present. The discussion afterwards was fun too. I liked being able to discuss the topic with others and give them answers if they had them. I am getting to a point where I am not nearly afraid of public speaking as I used to be, and I now look forward to future presentations that I may create.

6/29/2016

3VR

I thought that the concept of 3VR was rather frightening. While the benefits for stores and public safety are a good reason to implement the technology, it gathers so much data about everybody that it makes me feel like I will lose almost all of my privacy. Not only that, but the safety it ensures would protect against mostly petty theft. I'm not willing to give up that amount of privacy for something that has little impact on my day-to-day safety.

Robo-Advisors

This topic was less controversial; the use of robo-advisors is a danger if used incorrectly. Other than that the biggest issue/threat that this topic had was the possibility for it to further damage the stock market if it were to crash.

QVOD

I found this to be an interesting parallel to my own presentation/essay topic. It involved fair-use but in a case from China where the defendants were charged with distributing pornography. The use of other people's content for profit is a problem that we will continue to see around the world as the world becomes more technologically literate.