**UECS3313**

**Computer Ethics and Professional Responsibility**

**Tutorial 1**

**Introduction to Ethics**

1. Analyze the relationship between law and ethics. Describe in detail the four categories of laws.
2. Explain the basic concept of social contract theory and the moral obligations for political power. What is the key idea behind the conceptual formulation called the “veil of ignorance” for deriving the proper policies?
3. Contrast the concept of negative rights (liberties) and positive rights (claim rights). Consider what actions are required of the government when considering the right to life as a negative right and as a positive right.
4. Give 4 examples of human rights or liberties. What are the two main difficulties related to positive rights?
5. Give an argument supporting and opposing the view that Internet access should be considered as a right (either positive or negative).
6. Describe the act utilitarian approach to ethics in detail and identify 3 flaws with it.
7. Describe the two principles of Kant’s or deontological approach to ethics.
8. Analyze whether the following 3 actions below can be considered to be ethical from a Kant’s perspective.
   1. Passing a law that makes it illegal to drink alcohol (regardless of quantity) for everyone in a country
   2. A online business gives equal treatment to complaints about its service from non-paying members as well as paying members
   3. A judge gives a much lighter sentence to an offender because the background of the offender is very similar to the judge, and the judge feels very empathetic with the offender
9. A person has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. It is unknown how long he will live for. There is promising research to develop a cure, but none is available at the current point of time. It is known that his vital organs (heart, kidney, liver) are all healthy and unaffected and they perfectly match the tissue profile of 3 other people who are also dying and need transplants for these 3 types of organs in order to live. The person is currently in a coma on life support and is not able to respond to external stimuli. The doctors have to make a decision on whether to take him off from life support and then transplant his organs to these 3 other people, or continue to keep him alive. Both options are legal in the country where this incident is taking place in. The person’s relatives have indicated that they are fine with any decision the doctors make. Analyze and justify what action the doctors should take if:
   1. A purely act utilitarian approach is used
   2. A rights based approach is used