



Book Review: Contemporary Moral Problems

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Contemporary Moral Problems Book review and Questions:

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: James Rachels
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "The moral institution of our life is very different than what we normally think. The majority of mankind is grossly deceived about what is, or ought to be, the case, where morals are concerned"
– Butler

What I expect to learn:

In this chapter I expect to learn the basic concepts of the different Ethical Theories in this book. As of now I only have one mindset about ethics and I hope that I would be able to explore other people's mindset about ethics. I believe that what is ethical for me is not always ethical for others and this is why this chapter will really be able to give me a glimpse of what other people think is ethical and what is not. I also expect to learn in this chapter what the most common ethical theories are being followed today. People all over the world have different cultures and traits and this is why I expect in this chapter to learn what ethical theory is applicable in most cultures.

Review:

In this chapter different ethical theories were discussed by different personalities. The different ethical theories were divided into five types namely: theory of the right, theory of the good, virtue theory, rights theory, and feminist theory. I think that dividing the different ethical theories into five types is a good idea. These five ethical types are always in conflict. Theory of the right are ethical theories based on what is right while Theory of the good are ethical theories based on what is good. But what's good isn't always what's right and this is why I think that dividing the different ethical theories is a good idea. I believe that it may somewhat help resolve the conflict between these different types of ethical theories.

The first ethical theories shared in this chapter are the ones from James Rachels. James Rachels is a University Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He authored three significant books about morality. I think that with James Rachel's background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics.

James Rachels shared two assumptions about people's ordinary way of thinking about morality. His first assumption was about people considering the well being of others and his second assumption was about people being selfless and sometimes acts in the interest of others. I think that these two assumptions are what most people think about morality. Their actions are sometimes based on what would benefit others.

Two topics that I found interesting from James Rachels are psychological and ethical egoism. Psychological egoism is the view that all men are selfish in everything that they do, that is, that the only motive from which anyone ever acts is self-interest. I think that this is true because I find that in most people even if their actions looks like it is done for the benefit of others it is actually only for their own self. Ethical egoism on the other hand is a normative view about how men would usually act in a way that would benefit himself.

I think James Rachels's discussion about egoism was good. He was able to state clearly his observations on how people react or take action for the benefit of their own and sometimes of others. James was also able to link egoism with ethics and how people decide whether their action was ethical or not based on their ego.

What I learned:

I learned the different concepts of the different ethical theories. These five types of ethical theories has their own pros and cons and what I came to realize in this chapter is that in these five types it is still unclear as to what is really ethical and what is not. But this chapter has broadened my knowledge of what may be right and what may be wrong. I also learned a lot about egoism and how it has played a big part on ethics.

Integrative questions

1. Why did Gyges used the power of the ring?
2. What is psychological egoism?
3. What is ethical egoism?
4. What were the books that James Rachels wrote?
5. What school did James Rachels teach in?

Review Answers:

1. Its about Gyges, a shepherd who found a ring that enabled him to become invisible. He used his invisibility to gain wealth and power. The questions raised were "what would rouge and a righteous man do in if they were in Gyges place?" Glaucon argues that the righteous man would do the same thing that the rouge did. I think that this is true because power corrupts. We see this in our politicians and in influential people.
2. Psychological is how people act in order to benefit themselves and ethical is how people would act in order to benefit themselves.
3. The first argument is about Smith choosing not to go to the country he plans to go to in order to help his friend in his studies. Based on Psychological egoism Smith is still selfish because he still did what he wanted which is to help his friend. The second argument is also the same as the first one.
4. Selfishness with self-interest, every action is done either from self-interest or other regarding motives, and the concern for one's own welfare is incompatible with any genuine concern for the welfare of others.
- 5."You ought to pursue your interests even if it means destroying Paul." It is inconsistent because a person should do what is right for his own self even if it affects other people.
6. Because other people would benefit. The egoist won't be able to answer and the argument will stop.

Discussion Answers:

1. I think that Rachel's answer to this question is yes because all throughout the essay he has approved of being moral.
2. I think that genuine egoists are rare because if not then everybody would be doing whatever they want whenever they want.
3. I think that it is moral because it will benefit humanity as a whole.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: John Arthur
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "Morality is social" – John Dewey

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn the impact of religion to morality.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared John Arthur's essay about morality and religion. John Arthur is a professor of philosophy and director of the program in Philosophy, Politics, and Law at Binghamton University. With this background I trust that John Arthur would be able to share some interesting insights about morality and its connection with religion. Many people think that Religion has been a motivation for a lot of people to do the right thing. But John Arthur argues that people do the right thing because they were raised to do good and because they are worried about the consequence. I think that this is true because people who have no religion are also able to do the right thing. Some are driven by conscience and some are driven by fear but obviously religion is not the only motivation to do the right thing. John Arthur also argues that religion is not a good basis for determining what is right and what is wrong. One reason is because religion itself is unclear. There are a lot of religions out there and it is hard to determine which ones to follow or is real. Religion also has different interpretations and this is why religion is an unreliable basis for what is right and what is wrong. In my opinion religion can still be a basis for what is right and what is wrong for the things that need guidance like stealing and killing. Almost all religions condemn stealing and killing and there are still a lot of people who refuse to kill because of their religion.

What I learned:

I learned that religion can be a poor basis for morality. Because of the different interpretations of the different religions and the number of religions out there it is difficult according to John Arthur to determine what is right and what is wrong based on religion.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is the Divine Command Theory?
2. What role does religion play in morality?
3. What two forms does Revelation come in?
4. What do we need to provide moral motivation?
5. What problems does the Divine Command Theory face?

Discussion Questions:

1. According to Arthur how are Morality and Religion different?

Morality is all about what is right from wrong and religion on the other hand is about belief and doing what you believe is right.

2. Why isn't religion necessary for moral motivation?

Because people who have no religion are also able to do the right thing. Some are driven by conscience and some are driven by fear but obviously religion is not the only motivation to do the right thing.

3. Why isn't religion necessary as a source of moral knowledge?

Because religion is not a good basis for determining what is right and what is wrong. One reason is because religion itself is unclear. There are a lot of religions out there and it is hard to determine which ones to follow or is real. Religion also has different interpretations and this is why religion is an unreliable basis for what is right and what is wrong.

4. What is divine command theory? Why does Arthur reject this theory?

According to divine command theory, religion is necessary for morality because without God there could be no right and wrong. Arthur rejects this theory because, as the definition above stated that God dictates us what is right from wrong. But the expressions "commanded by God" and "morally required" do not mean the same. If one thing is not commanded by God it does not automatically immoral.

5. According to Arthur, how are morality and religion connected?

In some way they are connected, but truly, morality and religion are independent from each other.

6. Dewey says that morality is social, what does this mean according to Arthur?

- The existence of morality assumes that we possess a socially required language within which we think about our choices and which alternatives we ought to follow.
- Morality is social in that it governs relationships among people, defining our responsibilities to others and theirs to us. Morality provides the standards we rely on in gauging with family, lovers, friends, fellow citizens and even strangers.
- Morality is social in the sense that we are, in fact, subject to criticisms by others of our actions. We discuss with others what we do, and often hear them concerning whether our decisions were acceptable.
- Idea depends on appreciating the fact that to think from the moral view point.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Friedrich Nietzsche
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Quote: "Corruption as the indication that anarchy threatens to break out among the instincts, and that the foundation of the emotions, called life is convulsed."

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn from Friedrich Nietzsche's theories about Morality and ethics. At the end of the essay I want to know which is more ethical, Master or Slave Morality.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared Friedrich Nietzsche's essay about Master and Slave morality. Friedrich Nietzsche was a German Philosopher and poet. Some of his famous works were The Birth of Tragedy, The Gay Science, and Thus Spake Zarathustra. Having a background about morality I think that he would be able to share some interesting insights about morality and ethics. Friedrich Nietzsche thinks that a healthy society should allow people who are wealthy and influential to exercise their ability to grab power. Friedrich Nietzsche thinks that a strong person follows a "master-morality" and a weak person follows a "slave-morality". I don't entirely agree with Friedrich Nietzsche on his view of a healthy society. I think that it is ok for people to exercise their will for power if they can but it must be done with a good motive. A person's bid for power must have a purpose. The power that he or she will use must have a purpose. If all people who are able to who is able to acquire power will do so then it will give way to corruption. Also a society that lets people grab power as long as they can causes greed and as we all know most of the bad things that happen in our society comes from greed and mostly greed for power.

What I learned:

I've learned that a society that enables people to exercise their will for power can be healthy.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is master morality?
2. What is slave morality?
3. What are the characteristics of noble morality?
4. What does corruption indicate?
5. What is will to power?

Review Questions

1. How does Nietzsche characterize a good and healthy society?

A good and healthy society according to Nietzsche allows people who have the ability to grab power to do so.

2. What is Nietzsche's view of injury, violence and exploitation?

He thinks that these attributes are needed in order to form a healthy society.

3. Distinguish between master-morality and slave-morality.

Master-morality emphasizes power while slave-morality emphasizes weakness.

4. Explain the Will to Power.

Will of Power is a person's will to achieve power by any and all means necessary.

Discussion Questions

1. Some people view Nietzsche's writings as harmful and even dangerous. For example, some have charged Nietzsche with inspiring Nazism. Are these charges justified or not? Why or why not?

I think that their charges are justified. This is because Nietzsche encourages elite people to grab power and when people are able to do something they tend to do it by any and all means necessary. Nietzsche didn't also say how these powerful people should use the power they acquired so these elites can either use their power for good or bad which is still dangerous in my opinion.

2. What does it mean to be "a creator of values"?

"What is injurious to me is injurious in itself; he knows that it is he himself only who confers honor on things; he is a creator of values."

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Mary Midgley
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "to try out one's new sword on a chance wayfarer"

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what moral isolationism is and its difference from other moral and ethical theories.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of Mary Midgley. Mary Midgley taught philosophy at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in England for over 20 years. She authored several books about morality, human nature, and philosophy. This is why I think that Mary Midgley would be able to tell a lot of interesting insights and theories about morality. In this essay Mary Midgley criticized moral isolationism for being immoral. Mary argued that it is immoral because there is no justification or any moral reason on why people criticize cultures that they do not understand. I agree with Mary Midgley, people should not criticize cultures that they don't understand because there is no reason for doing so. People should morally criticize something if they find it immoral or wrong but if there is nothing wrong with it then just leave it be. I also found Mary's example about the samurai really interesting. It's about a verb in classical Japanese which means "to try out one's new sword on a chance wayfarer." A samurai needs to cut a wayfarer with his sword in order to try it out and defend his honor. By not doing so the samurai will be dishonored and offend his ancestors. A lot of people criticized this Japanese culture but are they so different. Their culture allows human experimentation which could also lead to the death of another human being and yet they criticize the Japanese. Also if they do not understand it then how could they have the right to criticize it?

What I learned:

It is immoral to criticize a culture without moral reasoning.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is moral isolationism?
2. Do you think it is morally right?
3. Why does a samurai sword need to be tried out?
4. What is tsujigiri?
5. What is real moral skepticism?

Review Questions

1. What is "moral isolationism"?

Moral isolationism is the view that people should not morally criticize cultures that they do not understand.

2. Explain the Japanese custom of tsujigiri. What questions does Midgley ask about this custom?

Tsujigiri or crosscut is practiced by the Japanese samurais. They test new swords on wayfarers. It is important to the samurais that their sword must be able to slice through someone in a single swing, passing from the shoulder to the opposite side. If the sword did not work properly, the samurai would lose his Honor, the respect of his emperor and disgrace his ancestors.

Midgley asks how people from western cultures morally criticize the Japanese when they also have savage practices of their own like human experimentation.

3. What is wrong with moral isolationism, according to Midgley?

Moral isolationism stops us in criticizing others customs and this includes the ones that are really destructive in nature.

4. What does Midgley think is the basis for criticizing other cultures?

The basis for criticizing other culture is to prove it that it destroys the general moral teachings.

Discussion Questions

1. Midgley says that Nietzsche is an immoralist. Is that an accurate and fair assessment of Nietzsche? Why or why not?

No because he encourages moral reasoning.

2. Do you agree with Midgley's claim that the idea of separate and unmixed cultures is unreal? Explain your answer.

Yes because racial discrimination is present in all cultures and sectors of society.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: John Stuart Mill
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "The strength of Utilitarianism is that it firmly resists Corruption by possible irrational elements."

What I expect to learn;

I expect to learn what Utilitarianism is and how people determine whether and action is ethical or not based on utilitarianism.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of John Stuart Mill. John Stuart Mill is an influential British Philosopher. He wrote several books about ethics, morality and philosophy. In his essay the main topic was utilitarianism. Utilitarianism is the idea that the moral worth of an action is determined solely by its contribution to overall utility that is, its contribution to happiness or pleasure as summed among all persons. Basically it is the action with the greatest good for the majority. This is the ethical theory that I agree with. I think that the right thing to do is the one that would benefit the majority. Utilitarianism is also about actions which would bring happiness to the majority. Another interesting topic discussed in this essay is of what sort of proof the Principle of Utility is susceptible. Mill argues that the only proof that something is desirable is that people actually desire it. It is a fact that happiness is a good, because all people desire their own happiness. Thus, it is clear that happiness is at least one end, and one criterion, of morality. However, in order to show that happiness is the sole criterion for morality, it is necessary to show that people never desire anything but happiness. Mill says that people do desire things like virtue, which in common language is distinguished from happiness.

What I learned:

I learned what Utilitarianism is and how it has become a basis for determining whether and action is ethical or not. I also learned what sort of proof the Principle of Utility is susceptible.

Integrative Question:

1. What is Utilitarianism?
2. What is the Greatest Happiness Principle?
3. What causes happiness?
4. What is a utilitarian standard?
5. What is the Principle of Utility?

1. State and explain the Principle of Utility. Show how it could be used to justify actions that are conventionally viewed as wrong, such as lying and stealing.

Principle of Utility or the Greatest Happiness Principle, says that the ultimate end, with reference to and for the sake of which all other things are desirable, whether we are considering our own good or that of other people, is an existence exempt as far as possible from pain, and as rich as possible from enjoyments, both in point of quantity and quality. Actions that have negative consequences does not bring happiness to the doer.

2. How does Mill reply to the objection that Epicureanism is a doctrine worthy only of a swine?

Mill said that if the sources of pleasure of a human being and a swine are the same, the rule of life which is good enough for the one would be good enough for the other.

3. How does Mill distinguish between higher and lower pleasures?

According to Mill a being of higher type requires more to make him happy than an inferior type. The higher being can sustain more suffering than the inferior type.

4. According to Mill, whose happiness must be considered?

The happiness of the majority must be considered.

5. Carefully reconstruct Mill's proof of the Principle of Utility.

According to Mill:

Happiness is desirable, and the only thing desirable, as an end; all other things being only desirable as means to that end. An object is visible is that people actually see it, and so of the other sources of our experience.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: James Rachels
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Quote: "happiness is desirable."

What I expect to learn:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of James Rachels. James Rachels is a University Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He authored three significant books about morality. I think that with James Rachel's background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. James Rachels objected to the ideas of utilitarianism based on three propositions. The first proposition is about judging whether an action is right or wrong based their consequences. Basically it is like choosing the lesser evil. James Rachels argued that this is not entirely correct because commonsense is used in choosing right and wrong with Utilitarianism and commonsense cannot fully be trusted. It cannot be trusted because what is right in common sense is based on merit and not what is entirely right. The second proposition is about happiness. The right action is the one that creates more happiness than misery. James Rachels argues that this is wrong because the right thing to do is not the one that causes happiness but the one that causes less suffering. The third proposition is about consequences. According to utilitarianism the right action is the one that has less negative consequences. James Rachels argues that this proposition is flawed because it is not compatible with justice. An action can have less negative consequence to the doer but it can cause damage to other people.

What I learned:

I learned that Utilitarianism is flawed in many ways. I thought that Utilitarianism is the best ethical theory but in actuality it is as flawed as the other ethical theories.

Integrative questions:

1. What is classical Utilitarianism?
2. What is Hedonism?
3. What is the most serious anti utilitarianism attack in this theory?
4. What does Utilitarianism say about happiness?
5. What is Rule-Utilitarianism?

Review Questions

1. Rachels says that classical utilitarianism can be summed up in three propositions. What are they?
 1. Actions are judged right or wrong solely in virtue of their consequences
 2. In assessing consequences, the only thing that matters is the amount of happiness or unhappiness that caused.
 3. In calculating happiness or unhappiness that will be caused, no one's happiness is to be counted as more important than anyone else.

2. Explain the problem with hedonism. How do defenders of utilitarianism respond to this problem?

Hedonism is a view that pleasure is happiness.

3. What are the objections about justice, rights and promises?

The objection for justice, rights, and promises is that these three were not underrepresented.

4. Distinguish between rule- and act- utilitarianism. How does rule- utilitarianism reply to the objections?

Rule Utilitarianism is actions conform in to the rules that will lead to greater good. Act Utilitarianism on the other hand states that the right action is one that will give happiness to a person.

5. What is the third line of defense?

Act-Utilitarianism

Discussion Questions

1. Smart's defense of utilitarianism is to reject common moral beliefs when they conflict with utilitarianism. Is this acceptable to you or not? Explain your answer.

No because our moral beliefs are the ones that will bring us true happiness.

2. A utilitarian is supposed to give moral consideration to all concerned. Who must be considered? What about nonhuman animals? How about lakes and streams?

They must consider everyone who is unaware of utilitarianism.

3. Rachels claims that merit should be given moral consideration independent of utility. Do you agree?

Yes.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Immanuel Kant
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Quote: "it is impossible to conceive anything at all in the world, even out of it, which can be taken as good without qualification except a good will."

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what The Categorical Imperative is and how it is different from other ethical theories. I also want to see the pros and cons of The Categorical Imperative.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of Immanuel Kant. Immanuel Kant is a German who was one of the most important Philosophers of all time. He contributed to all areas of Philosophy and wrote many significant books in the areas of Philosophy and reasoning. I think that with Immanuel Kant's background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. The main topic in his essay was about The Categorical Imperative. The Categorical Imperative according to Immanuel Kant is a supreme rule where our moral duties can be derived. Immanuel Kant expressed great disapproval with Utilitarianism and this is why he devised the Categorical Imperative which according to him will correct the shortcomings of Utilitarianism. Categorical Imperative allows people to act based on what is right for ourselves and for others. Kant argues that the highest form of good is good will. To have good will is to perform one's duty. To do one's duty is to perform actions which are morally required and to avoid those actions which are morally forbidden. Kant said that we should perform our duty because it is our duty and for no other reason. To perform an action out of desire for any self indulgent consequences is not a morally good action. Duty is good in itself. Kant believed that we should act out of duty and not emotion. A human action isn't morally good because we feel it's good, or because it is in our own self interest. Even if duty demanded the same action, but it was done for a motive such as compassion, the act would be a good act, but the person would not be moral for choosing it.

What I learned:

What I learned in this chapter is that the Categorical Imperative is an impressive ethical theory. it has reduced or even eliminated some conflicts bought upon by determining what is right and what is wrong.

Integrative Question:

1. What is The Categorical Imperative?
2. Who is Immanuel Kant?
3. What is the Universal law?
4. What are some of the duties derived from the Categorical Imperative?
5. What are the consequences of happiness?

1. Explain Kant's account of the good will.

It is universally good.

2. Distinguish between hypothetical and categorical imperatives.

Hypothetical imperative requires a certain action in a given situation. A categorical imperative you should do your duties.

3. State the first formulation of the categorical imperative (using the notion of a universal law), and explain how Kant uses this rule to derive some specific duties toward self and others.

"Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."

He uses it as a universal law where good duties can be derived.

4. State the second version of the categorical imperative (using the language of means and end) and explain it.

"The end justifies the mean"

This means that the actions you have taken will be judged by the results it caused.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Aristotle
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "Each man judges well the things he knows"

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what Aristotle's interpretation of Happiness and Virtue is.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the Author shared Aristotle's essay. Aristotle made important contributions to all areas of philosophy. He was the pupil of Plato who was also a great philosopher. Aristotle was one of the founders of western philosophy. I think that having this background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. The topics discussed in this chapter were happiness and virtue. According to Aristotle happiness is not pleasure or wealth but an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue. Pleasure will only bring happiness for a short period but its consequence will last longer. An example is drugs or sex. People think that if they have the most pleasure they become happy but the truth is pleasure brings misery. Pleasure can only bring true happiness when it is done in moderation or at a reasonable time. I think that this is true because if a person is virtuous then that person's conscience is clean and with a clean conscience a person can be happy. Virtue according to Aristotle is a balance or a habit of doing the right thing. I agree with Aristotle's perception of virtue. I think that a person is virtuous if that person maintains a balance in his life. Making a habit of doing the right thing will also bring happiness to a person.

What I learned:

I was able to learn what Aristotle's perception of Happiness Virtue is.

Integrative questions:

1. What is happiness?
2. What is Virtue?
3. How does Aristotle portray the virtue of courage?
4. How must we describe virtue?
5. How do we acquire happiness?

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Joel Feinberg
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "The idea of desert has evolved a good bit away from its beginnings by now"

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what the nature and value of rights are. I want to know the importance of having rights in a society. I also expect to see the difference between a society that has no or limited rights and a society that has an abundance of rights.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of Joel Feinberg. Joel Feinberg is a professor of philosophy at the University of Arizona. He authored several significant books concerning philosophy and human behavior. I think that having this background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. In this essay Joel Feinberg wants to demonstrate or show how important rights are in connection with morality. Without rights people will be deprived of freedom and voice out their concerns. If they are unable to do this they will be deprived of justice and without all these freedoms people will become miserable. I also found Joel Feinberg's example really interesting. He described a town called Nowheresville and in this town people have no rights. He described Nowheresville as having pretty and virtuous people and a friendly environment. The only thing missing in this town is rights. He used this example to criticize Immanuel Kant's Categorical Imperative.

What I learned:

I learned the importance of rights in a society. Without rights people will be deprived of freedom to voice out their concerns and will be stripped of their dignity.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is Nowheresville?
2. Who is Joel Feinberg?
3. How do dictionaries define "claim"?
4. What is Leviathan?
5. What is "three-to-marry"?

1. Describe Nowheresville. How this world different from our world?

Nowheresville is a world like our own the only difference is that it has no rights.

2. Explain the doctrine of the logical correlativity of rights and duties. What is Feinberg's position on this doctrine?

His answer is yes and in a sense no.

3. How does Feinberg explain the concept of personal desert? How would personal desert work in Nowheresville?

Personal Desert means when a person deserves something good from us what is meant in parts is that there would be a certain proprietary in our giving that good thing to him in virtue of the kind of person he is.

4. Explain the notion of a sovereign right monopoly. How would this work in Nowheresville according to Feinberg?

The sovereign rights of the people will be controlled by the government.

5. What are claim rights? Why does Feinberg think they are morally important?

A claim right is a right which entails responsibilities, duties, or obligations on other parties regarding the right-holder. I think it is morally important because it enables us to do the right thing and attain true happiness.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Ronald Dworkin
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "if a people have a right to do something, then it is wrong to interfere with them"

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn the reason why rights need to be taken seriously. I also want to know what happens in a society where people are deprived of their rights.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of Ronald Dworkin. Ronald Dworkin is a University professor at Jurisprudence, Oxford University, and professor of Law at New York University. I think that having this background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. Ronald Dworkin argued that it is wrong for people to interfere with the rights of other people. I agree with Ronald Dworkin on this, I think that it is really immoral for a person to interfere with another person's rights. We can see its effects on nations that have taken the rights of its people. The result is chaos, insurrection, rebellion, and unrest. Governments must respect the rights of the people in order for them to have a stable and strong nation. Ronald Dworkin also condemned governments treating people who have committed civil disobedience harshly. If governments treat their people with respect and integrity it would be much easier to govern the nation. Silencing free speech is never the answer to solving political unrest. I think that this is true because by silencing the people their anger will only build up more and more and there will come a time when all this anger will be put on display and it would be disastrous for the nation.

What I've learned:

Taking the rights of the people is never a solution to solving political unrest and chaos. We need to take the rights of the people seriously.

Integrative Questions:

1. What issues does the constitution face?
2. What is the Kantian idea?
3. When does a government have its most natural use?
4. Do Constitutional rights represent moral rights against the government? Why?
5. Why do we need to take rights seriously?

1. What does Dworkin mean by rights in the strong sense? What rights in this sense are protected by the USA Constitution?

"If a people have the right to do something, then it is wrong to interfere with them."

Some rights protected by what Dworkin said are the right of free speech and the right to assemble.

2. Distinguish between legal and moral rights. Give some examples of legal rights that are not moral rights, and moral rights that are not legal rights.

Legal right is the right of a citizen protected by a constitution. Moral right is right of a person according to his morality and conscience. Not all legal rights, or even constitutional rights, represent moral rights against the government. An example that I can give is death penalty. In some countries it is legal but we all know that it is morally wrong.

3. What are the two models of how a government might define the rights of its citizens? Which does Dworkin find more attractive?

The first model recommends striking a balance between rights of the individual and the demands of society. The second one is that the government inflates a right. Dworkin finds the second model more attractive.

4. According to Dworkin, what two important ideas are behind the institution of rights?

The majority and the minority.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: John Rawls
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "Injustice, then, is simply inequalities that are not to the benefit of all"

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn the some new and unique insights about justice.

Review:

In this part of the chapter the author shared the essay of John Rawls. John Rawls is a professor of philosophy at Harvard University. He authored several significant books about the Law and Justice. I think that having this background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. In Rawls's theory there are two principles of justice; one is about equal basic liberties and the other is about the arrangement of social and economic inequalities. I think that tackling these two issues about justice is a good thing. There are a lot of injustices today concerning the people's lack of basic liberties and inequalities in the justice system. Basically what John Rawls is proposing is to give everyone equal access to the basic judicial services of the government and treat everyone as equals. I think that by doing this people have more rights because they are granted basic services by the government. A lot of nations deprive the little people of justice which results in lots of unjust imprisonments. Corruption will also be lessened since the criminal justice system is treating the people as equals. With a more efficient justice system determining what is ethical and what is not will be a little bit easier.

What I learned:

I was able to understand more the importance of an effective judicial system.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is the 1st principle of justice?
2. What is the 2nd principle of justice?
3. Where does fairness begin?
4. Why is Justice as fairness not a complete contract theory?
5. What are the consequences of the two principles of justice?

Review Questions:

1. Carefully explain Rawls's conception of the original position.

Rawls describes an "original position", in which representatives with limited information about the interests that they represent attempt to agree as to how society should be ordered.

2. State and explain Rawls's first principle of justice.

Rawls's first principle of justice suggests that equal liberties be given.

3. State and explain the second principle. Which principle has priority such that it cannot be sacrificed?

The second principle involves economic inequalities.

Discussion Questions:

1. On the first principle, each person has an equal right to the most extensive basic liberty as long as this does not interfere with a similar liberty for others.

It allows basic liberties to be served to everyone.

Contemporary Moral Problems by James E. White Chapter 1: Annette Baier
Amazon link: http://www.amazon.com/Contemporary-Moral-Problems-James-White/dp/0495553204/ref=pd_sim_b_2/185-6566170-6503008

Quote: "The cold jealous virtue of justice"

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what is an effective determiner of what is ethical and what is not other than the criminal justice system.

Review:

Annette Baier is a teacher of philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh. She authored several significant books about morality and ethics. I think that having this background he would be able to share a lot of interesting theories and insights about ethics. Since most of the time morality is used as a basis for something being ethical or not I think that a person who knows a lot about morality would be able to share some important theories and insights about ethics. What Annette Baier is suggesting that the government takes care of the people. Annette thinks that if the government is taking care of its people then the need for justice to be served will be lessened. People who do criminal activities will be lessened because there won't be a need for them to do so. Governments must take care of the weak because without their care those people are the ones who will be committing crime and as a result there will be more pressure on the judicial system and it will be less effective.

What I learned:

I learned that care is somewhat more important than justice.

Integrative Questions:

1. Who is Annette Baier?
2. Who influenced Kohlberg?
3. Who developed the Kantian philosophical tradition?
4. Why did Kantian framework dominate the Western moral theory?
5. What is an alternative to the Kantian justice perspective?

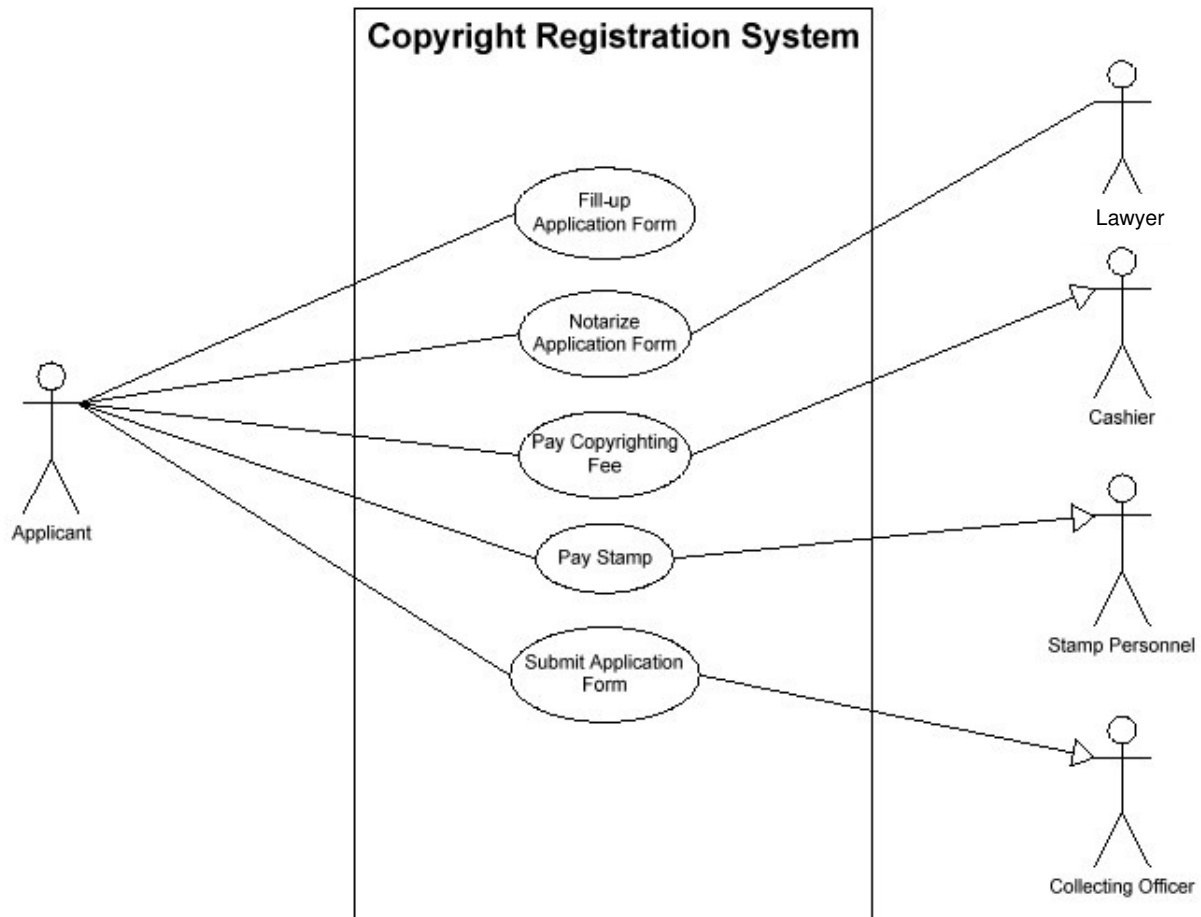
Review Questions:

1. If the government takes care of the people there will be less pressure on the judicial system.
2. Are planes of moral adequacy conceived by Lawrence Kohlberg to explain the development of moral reasoning.
- 3.
4. Because it is flawed.

Discussion Questions:

1. It means that the past theories like that of Immanuel Kant's are obsolete. We are now becoming more and more mature.
2. What's wrong with it is that it extends rights to people who don't fully understand these rights. They tend to abuse these rights as an effect.
3. I think that it is important. Freedom of choice allows us to truly choose doing good and doing bad.

Use Case Diagram



Use Case Narratives Existing

Identification Summary

Title: Fill-up Application Form

Summary: This is the applicant's first step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant must complete all the requirements.
1. The applicant must acquire an application form at the 5th floor of the National Library.
2. The applicant must complete all the necessary fields.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant filled up the wrong application form.
2. The applicant failed to submit the complete requirements.

Error Sequences

1. The applicant does not have the requirements.

Post Conditions:

1. The applicant successfully filled up the application form with complete details.

Identification Summary

Title: Notarize Application Form

Summary: This use case shows the process of the applicant's second step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant, Lawyer

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have the application form with complete details.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will submit the application form and pay to an attorney to get it notarized.
2. The Lawyer will now notarize the application form.
3. The Lawyer will now give back the application form.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant filled up the wrong application form.
2. The applicant failed to find an attorney.
3. The sales personnel paid a wrong amount

Error Sequences

1. The attorney rejected the applicant's application form.

Post Conditions:

1. The applicant successfully notarized the application form.

Identification Summary

Title: Pay Copyrighting Fee

Summary: This use case shows the payment process.

Actors: Applicant, Cashier

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have the application form with complete details and notarized.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will pay for the copyright registration fee.
2. The Cashier will issue the official receipt.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant has insufficient money.
2. The applicant failed to submit the application form.
3. The sales personnel paid for a wrong application form.

Error Sequences

1. The applicant didn't pay the fee resulting into the voiding of the application form.

Post Conditions:

The applicant successfully paid for the copyright registration.

Identification Summary

Title: Pay Stamp

Summary: This use case shows the process of the applicant's fourth step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant, Stamp Officer

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have paid for the copyright registration.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will pay for the stamps.
2. The Stamp Officer will give the official receipt and the stamps.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant has insufficient money.
2. The applicant failed to present the official receipt from the copyright registration.

Error Sequences

1. The applicant didn't pay the fee resulting into the voiding of the application form.

Post Conditions:

The applicant successfully paid for the stamps.

Identification Summary

Title: Submit Application Form

Summary: This use case shows the process of the applicant's fifth and final step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant, Collecting Officer

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have paid for the copyright registration and stamps.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will submit the application form
2. The Collecting Officer will verify the official receipts.
3. If validated, the Collecting Officer will return the official receipts.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant has incomplete requirements.
2. The applicant failed to present the official receipts.

Error Sequences

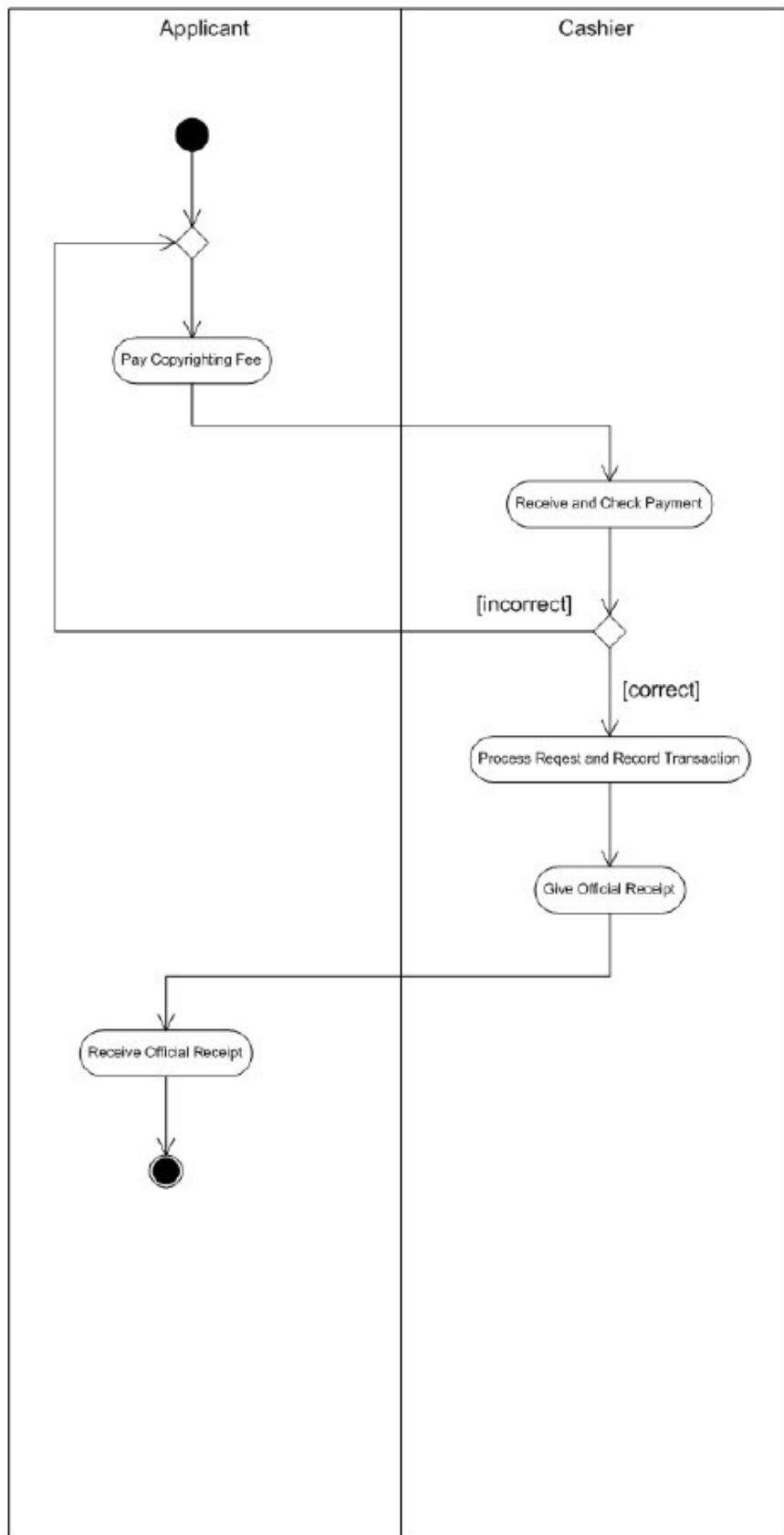
1. The applicant didn't pay the fee resulting into the voiding of the application form.

Post Conditions:

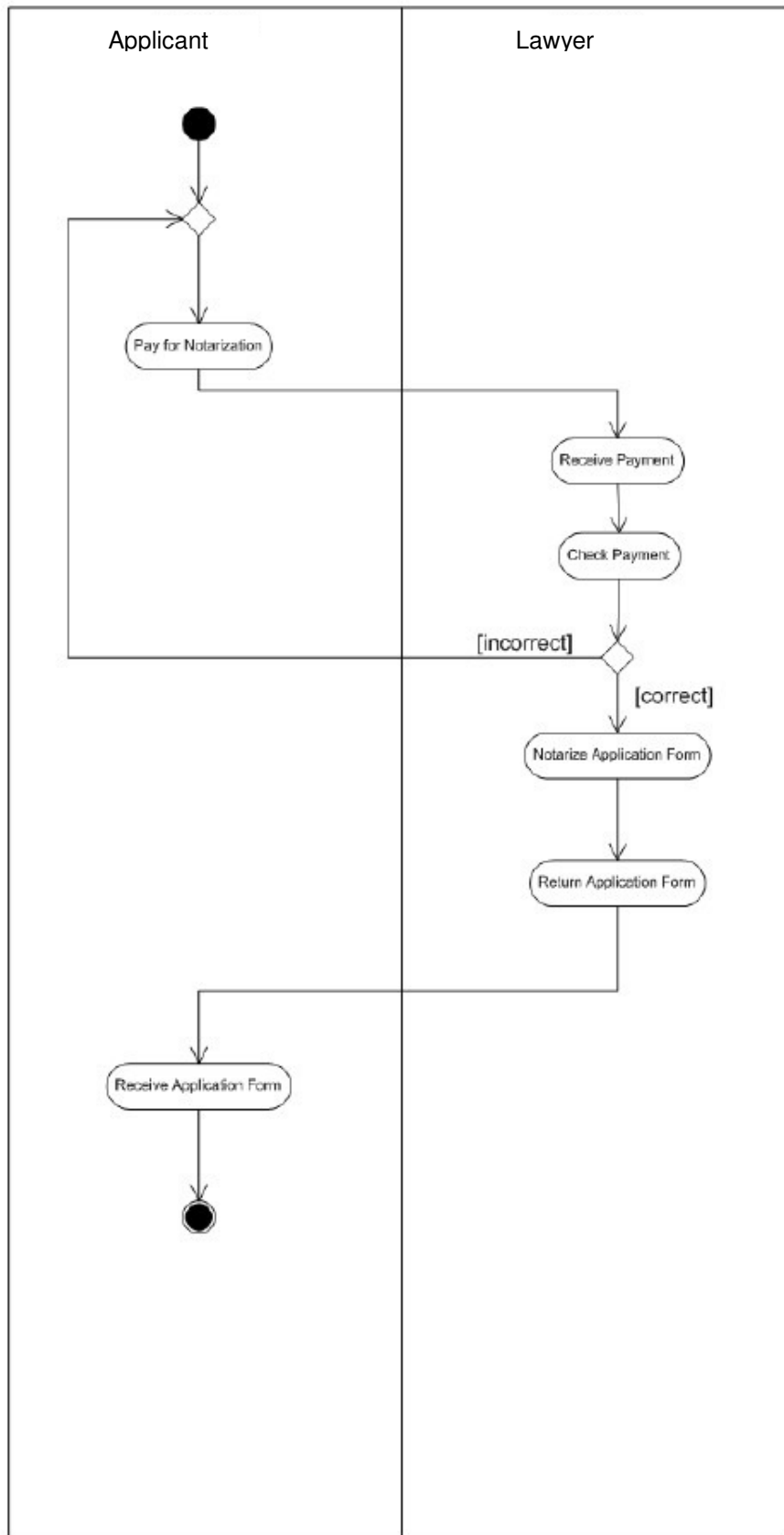
The applicant successfully submitted the application form.

Activity Diagram Existing:

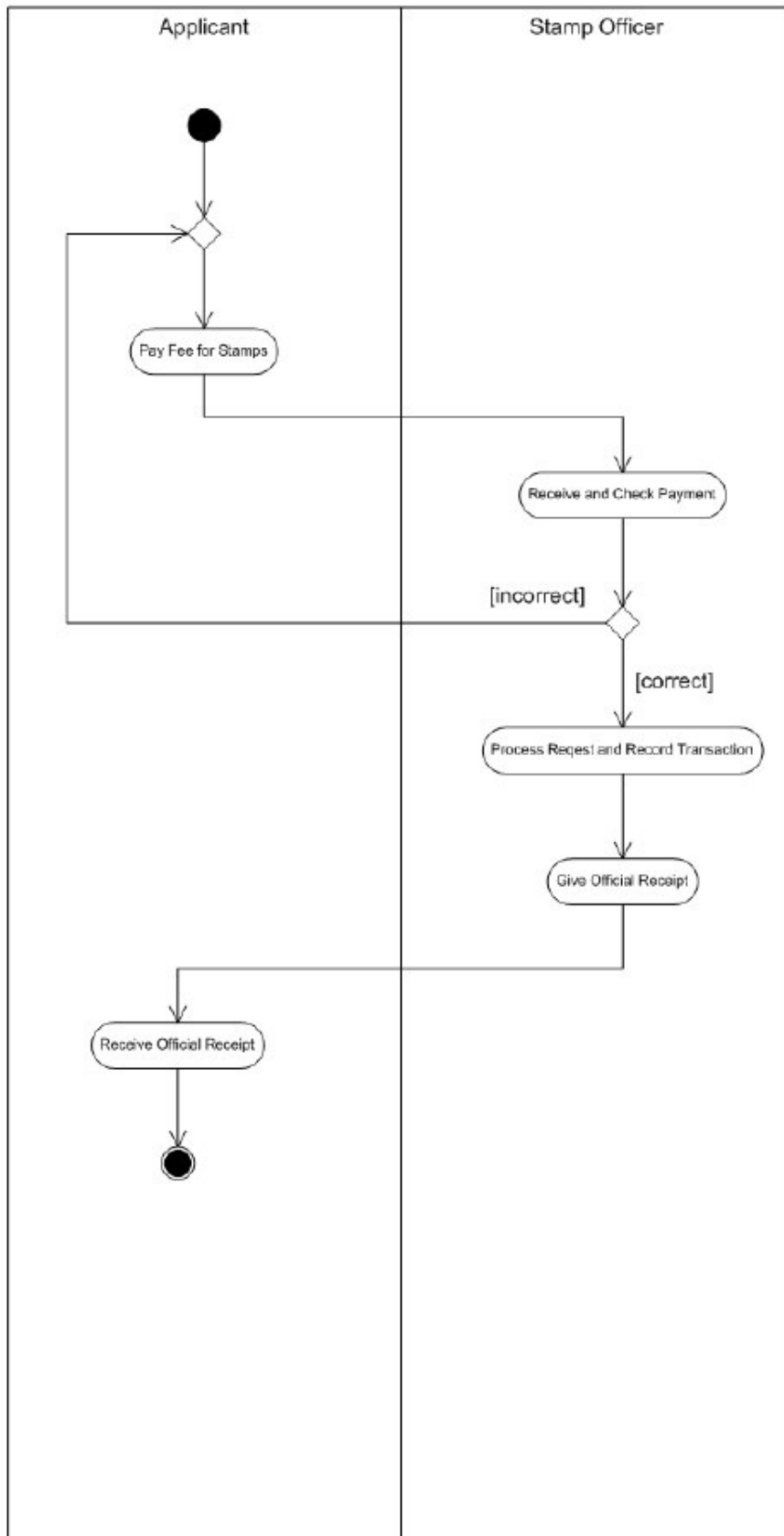
Activity Diagram of Pay Copyrighting Fee



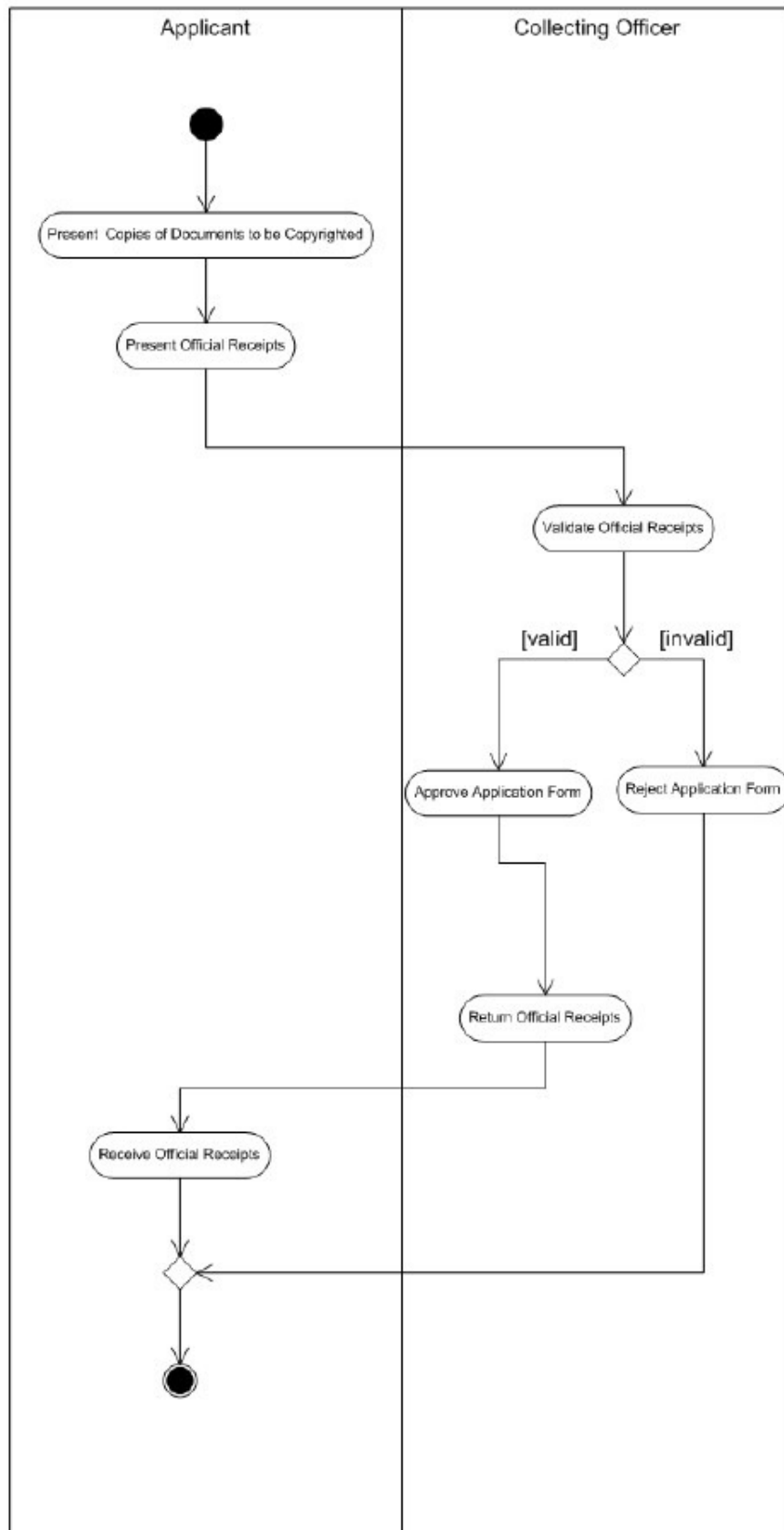
Activity Diagram of Notarize Application Form



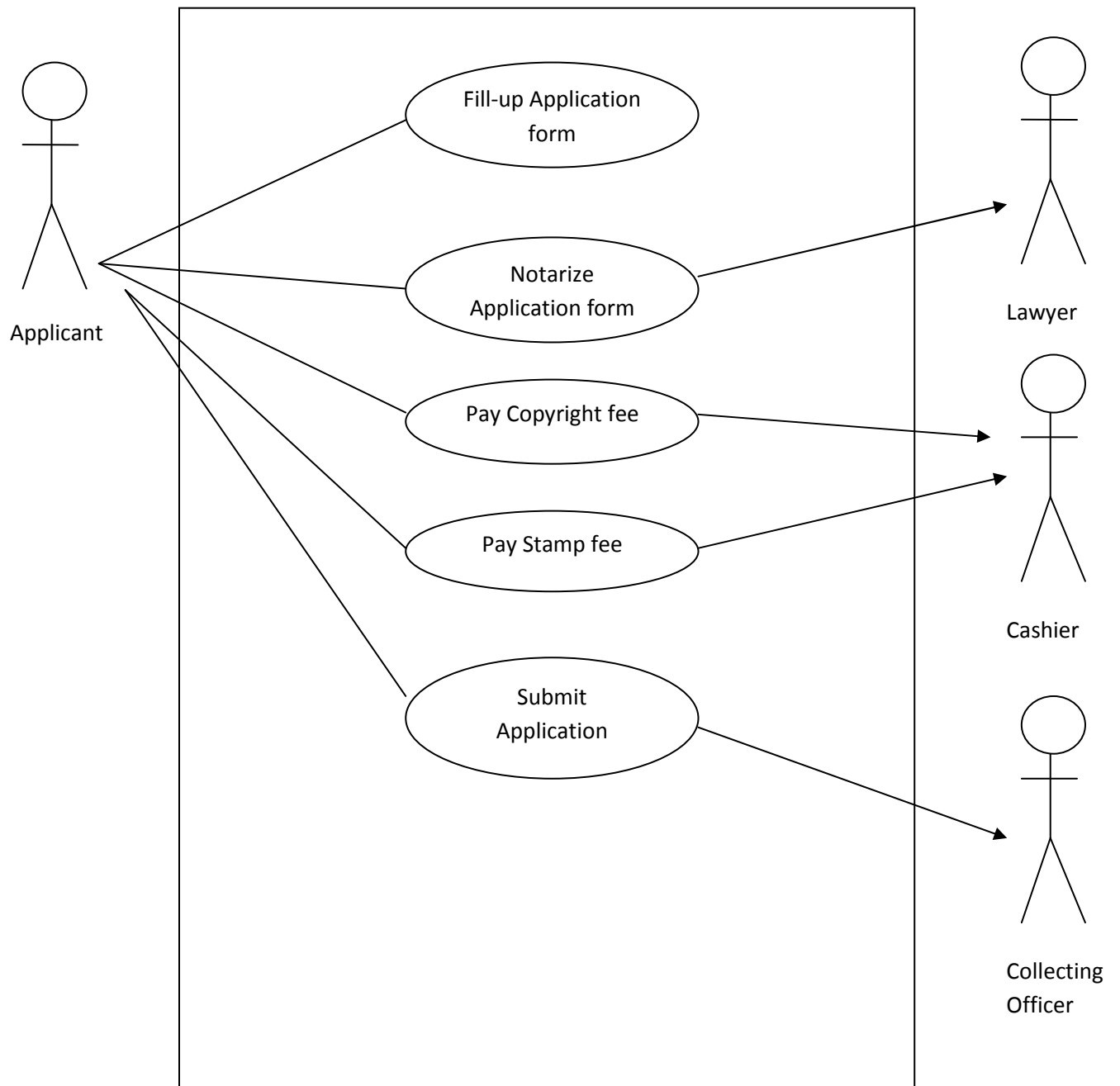
Activity Diagram of Stamp Payments



Activity Diagram of Submit Application Form



Use Case Diagram Proposed



Use Case Narratives Proposed

Identification Summary

Title: Fill-up Application Form

Summary: This is the applicant's first step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant must complete all the requirements.
1. The applicant must acquire an application form at the 5th floor of the National Library.
2. The applicant must complete all the necessary fields.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant filled up the wrong application form.
2. The applicant failed to submit the complete requirements.

Error Sequences

1. The applicant does not have the requirements.

Post Conditions:

1. The applicant successfully filled up the application form with complete details.

Identification Summary

Title: Notarize Application Form

Summary: This use case shows the process of the applicant's second step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant, Lawyer

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have the application form with complete details.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will submit the application form and pay to an attorney to get it notarized.
2. The Lawyer will now notarize the application form.
3. The Lawyer will now give back the application form.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant filled up the wrong application form.
2. The applicant failed to find an attorney.
3. The sales personnel paid a wrong amount

Error Sequences

1. The attorney rejected the applicant's application form.

Post Conditions:

1. The applicant successfully notarized the application form.

Identification Summary

Title: Pay Copyrighting Fee

Summary: This use case shows the payment process.

Actors: Applicant, Cashier

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have the application form with complete details and notarized.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will pay for the copyright registration fee.
2. The Cashier will issue the official receipt.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant has insufficient money.
2. The applicant failed to submit the application form.
3. The sales personnel paid for a wrong application form.

Error Sequences

1. The applicant didn't pay the fee resulting into the voiding of the application form.

Post Conditions:

The applicant successfully paid for the copyright registration.

Identification Summary

Title: Pay Stamp

Summary: This use case shows the process of the applicant's fourth step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant, Cashier

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have paid for the copyright registration.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will pay for the stamps.
2. The Cashier was able to give the official receipt and the stamps.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant has insufficient money.
2. The applicant failed to present the official receipt from the copyright registration.

Error Sequences

1. The applicant didn't pay the fee resulting into the voiding of the application form.

Post Conditions:

The applicant successfully paid for the stamps.

Identification Summary

Title: Submit Application Form

Summary: This use case shows the process of the applicant's fifth and final step in applying for registration of copyright.

Actors: Applicant, Collecting Officer

Creation date: February 27, 2009

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Miguel E. Tablan

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The applicant should have paid for the copyright registration and stamps.

Main Success Scenario

1. The applicant will submit the application form
2. The Collecting Officer will verify the official receipts.
3. If validated, the Collecting Officer will return the official receipts.

Alternative Sequences:

1. The applicant has incomplete requirements.
2. The applicant failed to present the official receipts.

Error Sequences

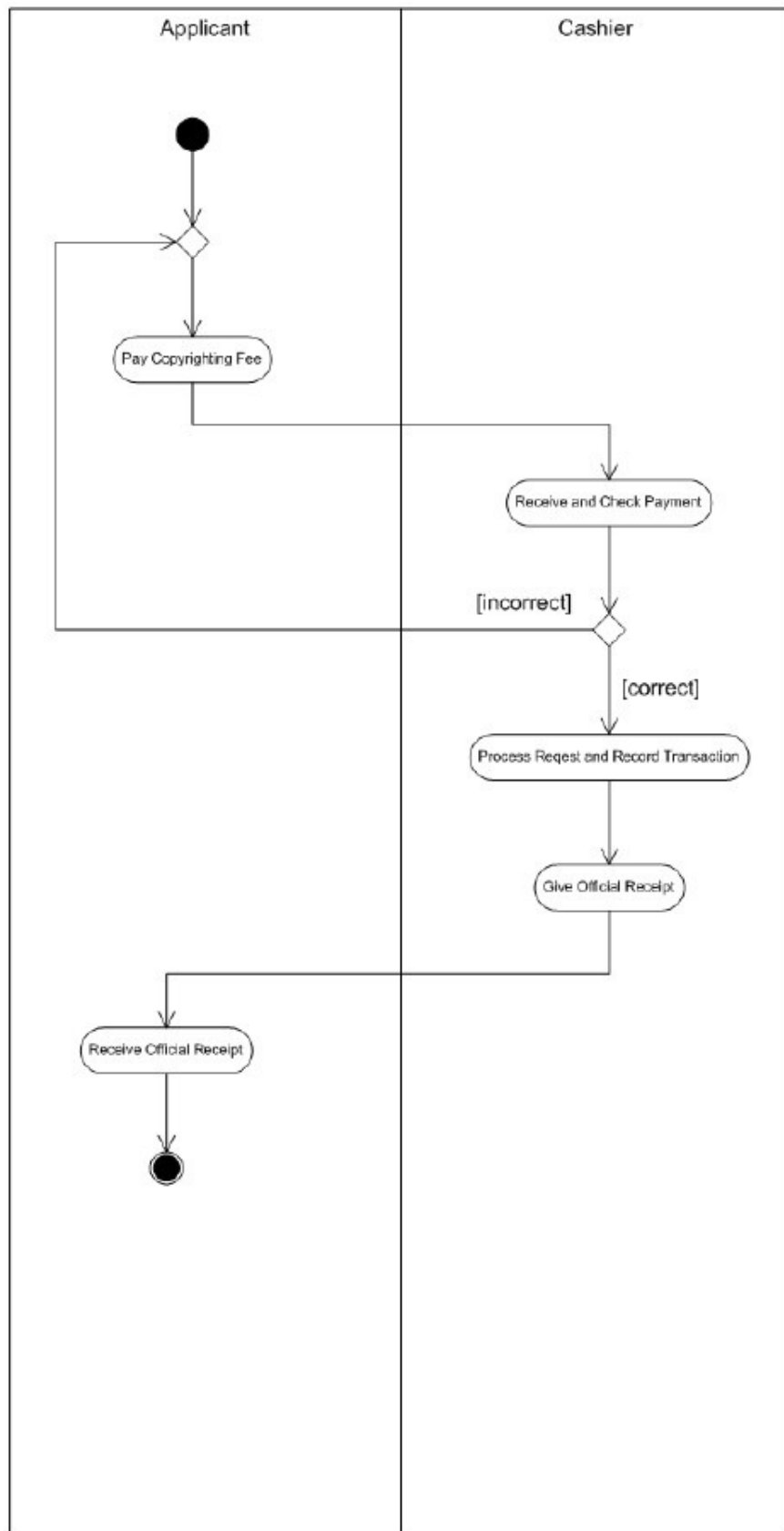
1. The applicant didn't pay the fee resulting into the voiding of the application form.

Post Conditions:

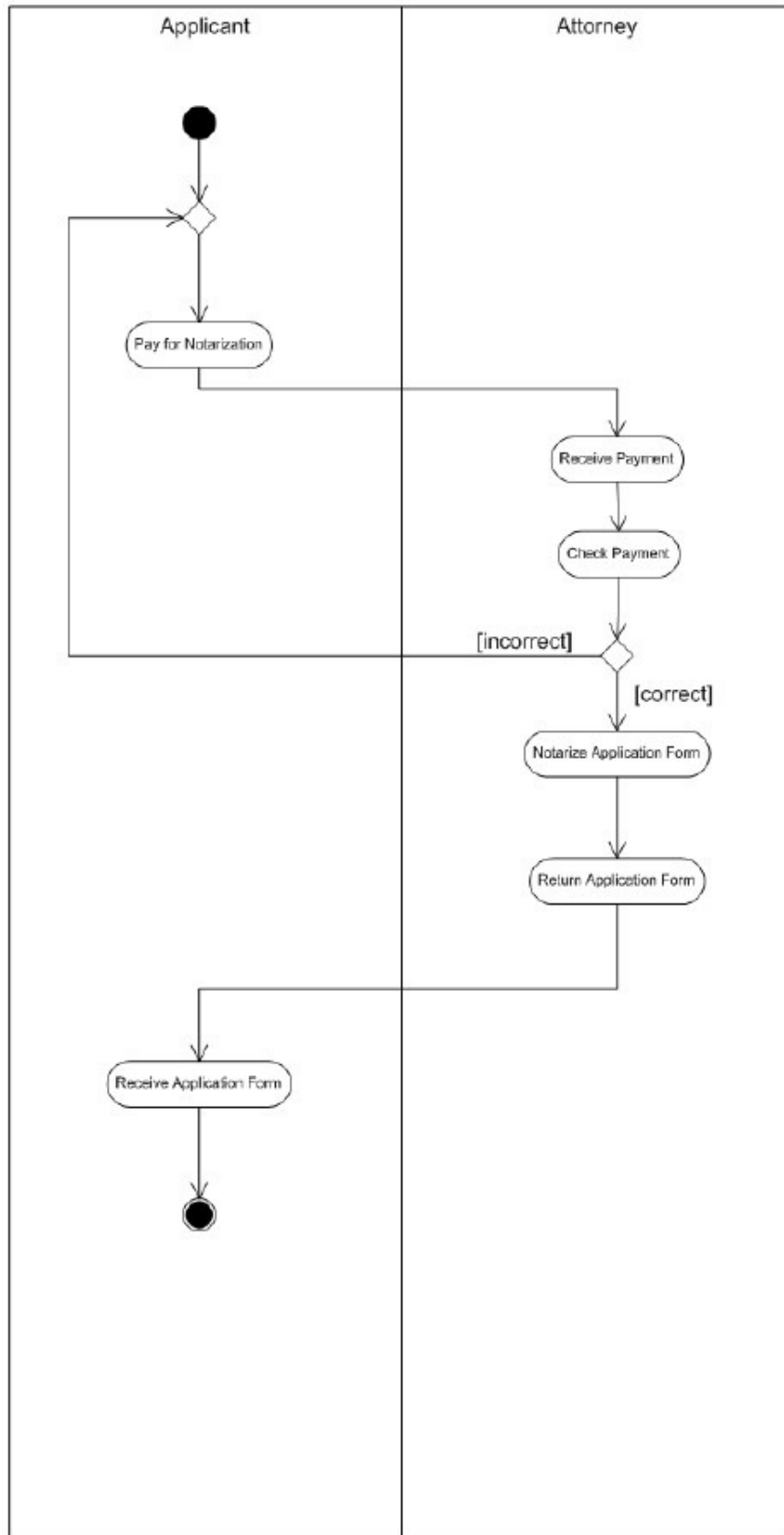
The applicant successfully submitted the application form.

Activity Diagram Proposed

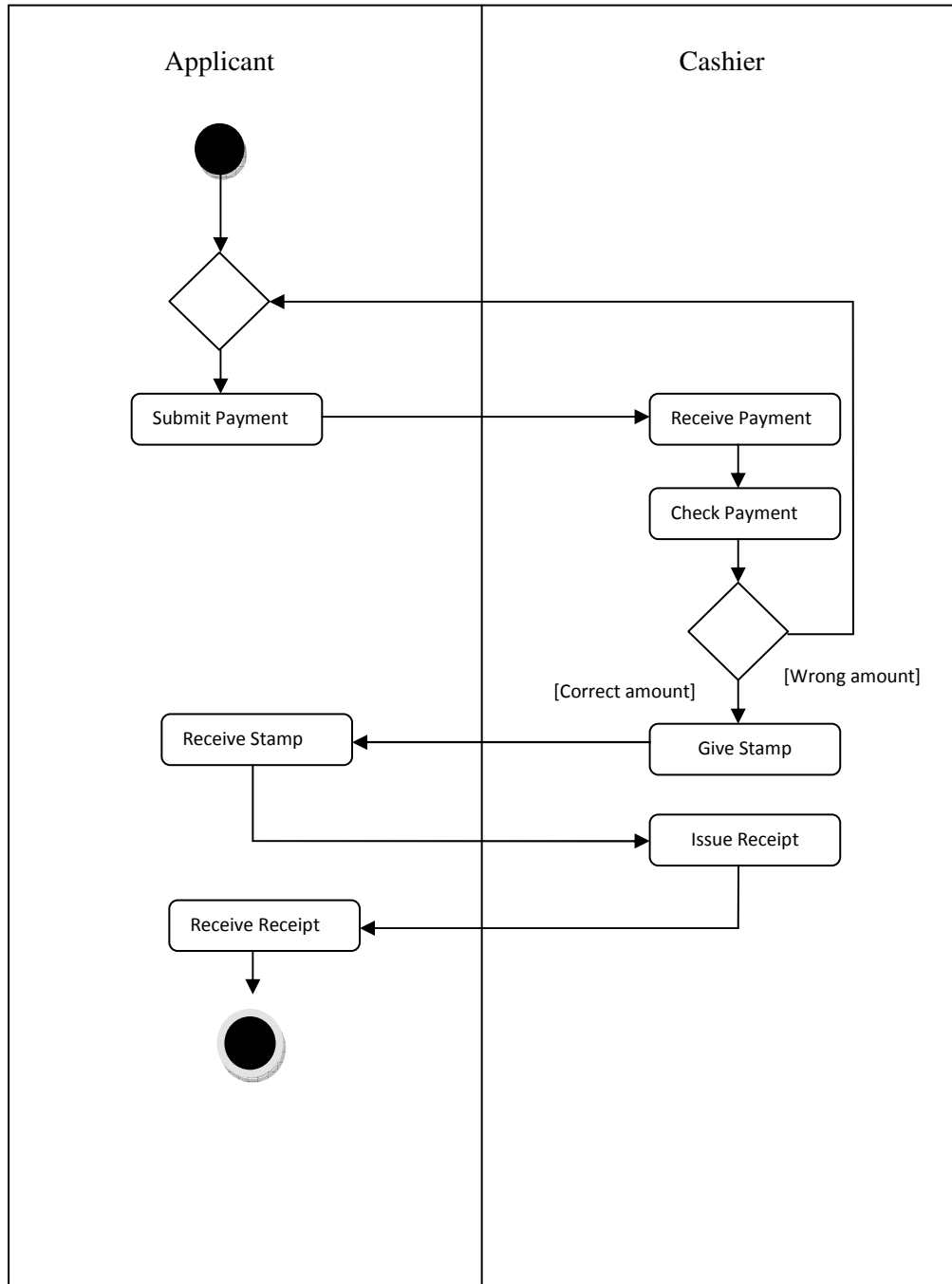
Pay Copyright Fee



Notarize Form



Stamp Payment



Submit Application Form

