

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC Requirements

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Contemporary Moral Problems Book Reviews
Seventh edition
Chapter One- Ethical Theories

Semilla, Christopher

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Date March 03, 2000

Agency Christopher Resurreccion Semilla Fund

Payor

Nature of Collection	Account Code	Amount
1 Copyright 0	628	₱ 200.00
TOTAL		₱ 200.00

Amount in Words Two Hundred And 00/100 Pesos

<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	Drawee Bank	Number	Date

Received the amount stated above.

NORMA C. HUMANLAG
Collecting Officer

NOTE: Write the number and date of this receipt on the back of check or money order received.

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CLAIM SLIP

Copyright Applicant/s: Christopher R. Semilla

Class of work: 0

No. of applications filed: 1

CLAIM DATE: 4/3/09

Comment: Unpub

Received by: MR Santos

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 1 “Egoism and Moral Scepticism” by James Rachels

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn the definition of Egoism
- I expect to learn what Psychological and moral egoism is
- I expect to learn new fundamentals on ethics

Quote: “He would behave no better than the other”

Book Review:

The first part of the chapter is about the story of the “legend of Gyges”. Gyges was said to be a shepherd that found a magical and powerful ring in a fissure that was opened by an earthquake. The ring was believed to be powerful because anyone who would wear the ring would become invisible and undetected. Since it was Gyges who found the ring, he became invisible and he can go anywhere without anybody seeing him. Gyges used the power of the ring to perform unethical and evil actions. He went to the royal palace and killed the king and Gyges also seduced the queen. He seized the throne and became the new king of the royal palace. In this story, Glaucon explains morality. He said that that are two rings that were given to a rogue and the other one to a man of virtue. Glaucon explains that both of them will do things that are pleasurable to them. The rogue will do anything to increase his wealth and the man of virtue will do mischievous acts and even sleep with different women because they are undetected. Glaucon explains that the moral of a man can change when they know that they are powerful.

There are two kinds of egoism, psychological and ethical egoism. Psychological egoism is the view that all men are selfish in everything that they do. On the other hand, ethical egoism is by contrast. A normative view on how men ought to act. It is the view that, regardless of how men do in fact behave, they have no obligation to do anything except what is in their own interest.

What I have learned:

I learned things about egoism. I learned the fact that both kinds of egoism are pleasurable to man but surely, it will affect all of us. It will take out all our morality and will just do things that is of self interest.

Integrative questions:

1. What are the two kinds of egoism?
2. What is the view of the author about psychological egoism?
3. What is the view of the author about ethical egoism?
4. In doing the psychological egoism, will there be no more peace?
5. How do we know if we are selfish or not?

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 2 "Religion, Morality and Conscience" by John Arthur

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn the connection of morality to religion
- I expect to learn how to know what is good from bad if we have no religion
- I expect to learn the importance of religion to morality and vice versa.

Quote: "God rewards those who follow His commands by providing them a place in heaven or by ensuring a happy life on Earth"

Book Review:

What is the meaning of morality and is it necessary with religion? For me, morality is just distinguishing the good actions from the bad actions. Our morality comes out or is seen in just given situations. For example, I found a wallet with cash that fell off from another man and nobody saw it except for me. I will then decide on what action to perform, will I return the wallet or will I just keep it since nobody else witnessed it. Situations like this are very crucial. It is because we are also tempted to get the cash but we also think what if someone else saw us. On the other hand, religion is just the worshipping of your god or beliefs. We worship our Gods to ask for help and guidance especially when we have problems. We also thank our Gods for the good fortunes that we receive in our lives. So going back to the topic, what is the connection of religion to morality? In my opinion, we need religion because it is the first and only way on where we learn what is good from bad. It is where we learn what to act on certain things that happen everyday in our society. When I was born, I have no idea of how the world looks like and I also have no idea on what is good and what is bad. But since I was baptized, I became a catholic. I learned to define what is good and I consider it as the basis and fundamentals of my morals today.

What I have learned: I learned that there is somewhat a connection from religion and morality. You learn your morality in your religion.

Integrative Questions:

1. Is religion important to us?
2. What is the connection of religion to our morality and conscience?
3. What is divine command theory?
4. How does religion and morality differ?
5. Will it affect our lives?

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 3 "Master and slave morality" by Friedrich Nietzsche

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what master morality is
- I expect to learn the difference of master and slave morality
- I expect to learn how it can affect us as a person

Quote: "God rewards those who follow His commands by providing them a place in heaven or by ensuring a happy life on Earth"

Book Review:

According to the author Friedrich Nietzsche, he argues that a healthy society should allow superior individuals to exercise their "will to power," their drive toward domination and exploitation of the inferior. For me, master-morality says it all. Coming from the root word master, means powerful, best, highest and strength. Master-morality for me is like those of the presidents of each country. Master-morality emphasizes these attitudes because they are considered to be superior and they can govern all of those that are under the master. Presidents are considered to be the highest form of figure for every nation. They are the one who decides, gives laws and leads towards a better nation. If there is master-morality, there is also a slave-morality that calls for weakness, submission, sympathy and love. Nietzsche says that inferiors should allow their superior to rule and command tasks on them in able to have a good and healthy society. It is because a great person or leader has already mastered his morality and already knows how to handle people under him.

What I have learned: I learned the meaning of master and slave morality. I was also able to define the two and how it can change us.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is master-morality?
2. How does master morality and slave morality differ?
3. What attitude and character does a superior show?

4. Should we show a master morality in the situation of our country today?
5. What is will to power?

Christopher Semilla

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Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 4 "Trying out ones new sword" by Mary Midgley

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what Tsujigiri is
- I expect to learn the culture of Japanese samurai
- I expect to know the importance of a Japanese sword to their emperors

Quote: "To respect someone, we have to know enough about him to make a favorable judgement"

Book Review:

For every country and every nation, we have our own religions and cultures. Culture is defined as the way of life by our ancestors and we should also continue it for the next generations. Other countries may have shocking cultures and some cultures might be acceptable to the eyes of the people. Culture shock is how they call it when we can not accept or do not like the culture of other people. According to the example of Mary Midgley cited, Japanese samurais had to try out ones new sword to a chance wayfarer. The tsujigiri or crossroads-cut may be immoral to us. A samurai sword should be tried out to know if it was working properly; it had to slice from the shoulder to the opposite end at a single blow. Otherwise, if it had not worked properly, it can injure his honour, offend his ancestors and even let down his emperor. This kind of culture may be really shocking and unacceptable to the eyes of the many but it is only them who understand their culture. The author also said that we can ever understand any culture except our own. Before going into judgments to other cultures, we should know enough about them and understand them clearly before we say anything or comment on their cultures. I think if I were going to criticize ones culture, I am going to criticize my own culture which I really know. Therefore before jumping into conclusions about other cultures, I need to know the purpose or significance of why they are doing it.

What I have learned: I learned that I should respect and obey other cultures as much as I respect mine. We consider culture as holy or important so we should not criticize them.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is tsujigiri?

2. Why is culture important?
3. Is it still given importance nowadays?
4. Why should we respect other culture?
5. Who can judge other culture?

Christopher Semilla

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Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 5 “Utilitarianism” by John Stewart Mill

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what utilitarianism is
- I expect to learn its relation with morality
- I expect to know the importance of happiness

Quote: “It may be objected, that many who are capable of the higher pleasures”

Book Review:

According to Wikipedia, Utilitarianism therefore, can only attain its goal of greater happiness by cultivating the nobleness of individuals so that all can benefit from the honour of others. In fact, Utilitarianism is actually a “standard of morality” which uses the happiness of the greater number of people as its ultimate goal. For me, it means that the greatest happiness is when there is a greater number of people that is happy over with something. Greatest happiness can not be accumulated by just ones self. I have to think first if the majority will be happy on what I will do before I can also become happy. In Utilitarianism, greatest happiness is when the majority of the community is satisfied. An example that I can cite is, when I plan to work abroad I can help my family in covering the expenses and bills and I think I would be happy in that situation but majority of my family is not in favor of me leaving them all alone. This example would not be the greatest happiness for us because it was only I that was happy with my decision while my family is not.

What I have learned: It became clear to me that happiness is not just about having everything in my life. But the greatest happiness is when a greater number of people will become happy also and meet their pleasures.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is utilitarianism?
2. How can we attain greatest happiness?
3. What is pleasurable?

4. How does it differ from happiness?
5. Who can judge if something is the greatest happiness?

Christopher Semilla

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Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 6 “The debate over utilitarianism” by James Rachels

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what utilitarianism is
- I expect to learn its relation with morality
- I expect to know the importance of happiness

Quote: “The utilitarian doctrine is that happiness is desirable, and the only thing desirable, as an end; all other things being desirable as means to that end”

Book Review:

Classical utilitarianism- the theory that Bentham and Mill defended can be summarized in three stages. First, actions are to be judged right or wrong solely in virtue of their consequences. Nothing else matters. Right actions are, simply, those that have the best consequences. Second, in assessing consequences, the only thing that matters is the amount of happiness or unhappiness that is caused. Everything else is irrelevant. Thus right actions are those that produce the greatest balance of happiness over unhappiness. Third, in calculating the happiness or unhappiness that will be the caused, no ones happiness is to be counted as more important than anyone else's. Each person's welfare is important for Mill. This chapter says that right actions are those that produce the greatest balance of happiness over unhappiness. But how can we know if our actions are right? The question what things are good, and what things are bad have different meaning. I may be doing some things that makes me feel good but I have to put in mind if what I am doing is right. There are just some things that don't let you feel good but still is the right action. Hedonism is the idea that happiness is the one ultimate good and unhappiness is the ultimate evil. Then it also mentioned the difference between act Utilitarian and rule utilitarian. Act-utilitarian would tempt to bear false witnesses against the innocent man because the consequences of that particular act would be good; on the other hand rule-utilitarianism states that don't bear false witness against the innocent is faithfully adhered to.

What I have learned: I learned about the topics that were debated in utilitarianism. I also learned about act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is act utilitarian?
2. What is rule utilitarian?
3. What is hedonism?
4. Is hedonism always at the good side?
5. Are consequences all that matter?

Christopher Semilla

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Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 7 "The Categorical Imperative" by Immanuel Kant

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what categorical imperative is
- I expect to learn about good will
- I expect to know the importance of good will and how it will affect my self.

Quote: "Intelligence, wit, judgment and any other talents of the mind are without a doubt good and desirable in many respects but they could also be bad and hurtful when the will is not good."

Book Review:

What is good will? In my opinion, good will is the ability to do what you think is right and acceptable. According to Kant, intelligence, wit, judgment and any other talents of the mind are without a doubt good and desirable. By contrast, it says also that it can be extremely harmful to others when the will is not good. An example that I can cite is the president of some country. A president was able to reach his/her place because of his/her powers and of course they are surely intelligent people. Some presidents are really smart and bright but they are not using it for the good will, instead they are using it to do evil ways and actions. They are using their strong influences and power to seize the money of the whole country. In other words, some people are given great intelligence but they are not using their talents for good will. Some people wanted to have a peaceful and organized country but they do not have the talent to do it. So, these kinds of people are the ones that have the good will but the problem is that they lack the talent that is needed to make their country peaceful.

What I have learned: I learned new things about categorical imperative and I understand now clearly the concept of good will. I also realized that if you have a talent, then use it for good will and not for evil ways.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is categorical imperative?
2. What is good will?
3. Are talents always without a doubt desirable?

4. How do we know if what we are doing is good?

5. What is evil for others?

Christopher Semilla

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Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 8“Happiness and Virtue” by Aristotle

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what happiness is
- I expect to learn about virtue
- I expect to know how man defines his happiness

Quote: “For to such persons, as to the incontinent, knowledge brings no profit; but to those who desire and act in accordance with a rational principle knowledge about such matters will be of great benefit”

Book Review:

According to Aristotle, he argues that all human beings seek happiness, and that happiness is not pleasure, honor, or wealth, but an activity of the soul in accordance with virtue. There are also two kinds of virtue, moral and intellectual. Moral virtue comes from training and habit, and generally is a state of character that is a mean between the vices of excess and deficiency. On the other hand, intellectual virtue produces the most perfect happiness and is found in the activity of reason or contemplation. For human beings, we define happiness when we have lots of cash and when we get the material things in life. For Aristotle, this is completely wrong, He defines happiness is not measured because of wealth and fame but rather living a life with virtue. In my experience, I some friends that gets everything they wanted like clothes, shoes, money and many more. Even if this person gets what he wanted, they are still not contented with what they have because his parents are not with him, his parents are working abroad to give the things that are pleasurable to their sons.

What I have learned: I learned that you can not buy happiness. No matter how rich you are, it depends on how you become happy in your own ways. Wealth is not the only thing that matters the most.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is happiness according to Aristotle?
2. What is moral Virtue?
3. What is intellectual virtue?
4. How does this two can affect our character and moral?

5. Is having a good fortune and good financial resources the ideal happiness for Aristotle?

Christopher Semilla

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Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 9 "The Nature and Value of Rights" by Joel Feinberg

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn what nature and value of right is
- I expect to learn its relation with morality
- I expect to know the importance of rights with human beings like us

Quote: "It may be objected, that many who are capable of the higher pleasures"

Book Review:

What is the value of rights? For me, the word right is defined as the power and freedom to do something that you like. You have the authority to perform something that is legal. Joel Feinberg discusses about the nature and value of rights. On the first part of this chapter, he pictures to us a place called now nowheresville where there are no rights. He told the readers how to leave and how things are done in a place where there are no rights. As a human being, having our own rights would be very significant to us. I cant imagine a world or place having no rights at all. If a person does not have any rights, then he/she would just be following the rules and regulations that a superior would tell them to do. They don't have authority to tell how they feel or share their feelings to the superiors. In our country today, we are being ran by democracy. It means that ordinary people have the right to join and participate in any government activities. If they decide on something, the mass of people should also agree first. Ordinary citizens have the right of speech, means that they can let their voices be heard. Even up to the smallest thing that we would like to tell the government can reach them by speaking our own voices. As you notice, it is why there are so many protests and rallies going on because they know that they have freedom of speech.

What I have learned: I learned the meaning of right. I also value now everything that I can do because it is my right to do moral things.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is right?
2. How is it significant in our life?

3. Does everyone have right?

4. What is nowhereville?

5. Who is Joel Feinberg?

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 10 "Taking Rights Seriously" by Ronald Dworkin

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn how to take rights seriously
- I expect to learn how to use rights morally and legally
- I expect to know the importance of rights with human beings like us

Quote: "In most cases when we say that someone has right to do something, we imply that it would be wrong to interfere with his doing it, or at least that some special grounds are needed for justifying the interfere"

Book Review:

On the first part of this chapter, Ronald Dworkin discusses about the rights of citizens. The author is saying that if people have the right to do something, then it is wrong to stop or interfere with them. For example, in our country, we the right for free speech, then it is wrong for the government and other people to stop this kind of exercise to this rights. It simply means that if other people are doing their rights to protect other peoples rights then what is the use and purpose of stopping them? What is wrong is that when we join other organizations or rallies that offend other peoples right then that is the right time to stop them. It is not good to hinder with other peoples right so that is the only time to inform other people to stop what they are doing. It is also said that there is a difference between saying that someone has the right to do something in his sense and saying that it is the right thing to do. Other things may be right for other people and some things are just not morally right in the eyes of other. An example I can give is gambling. To other people, it is really morally wrong because you wish you can spend your money on other things more worth it. Gamblers on their view, maybe it is their happiness to do it because it is their on money so no one can tell them to stop what they are doing.

What I have learned: I learned that taking rights seriously is focusing on citizens and how they exercise their rights. Every one of us has the right to do something and no one should hinder us from doing it.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is right?
2. What is Kantian?

3. Who is Ronald Dworkin?
4. What idea does Dworkin believes in?
5. Is it right to obstruct with other peoples right?

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 11 "A theory of justice" by John Rawls

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn the theory of justice
- I expect to learn more about justice
- I expect to know the importance of justice to our lives

Quote: "Thus we are to imagine that those who engage in social cooperation choose together, in one joint act, the principles which are to assign basic rights and duties and to determine the division of social benefits."

Book Review:

John Rawls theory states that there are two principles of justice. The first principle involves equal basic liberties, and the second principle concerns the arrangement of social and economic inequalities. According to the author, these are the principles that free and rational persons would accept in a hypothetical original position where there is a veil of ignorance hiding from the contractors all the particular facts about themselves. The first principle states that each person is to have an equal right. All human beings should be treated equally and fair and we must also know how to treat other human beings morally as well. Some people in our country are not being treated fair enough. That is why we do not hear their voices. I think it will degrade them because they are not treated as any other human beings. What is always given importance are the ones influential and powerful. The second principle means that economic resources should be distributed equally among its people. Our country has so many economic resources but it is not properly distributed amongst us. Some people receive much, some people receive less, some people receive totally nothing and some just gets enough. This is the reason why there are people feels hunger and thirst. They are not being given importance by our government. What I think we should do is to look for places or people that do not receive enough and help them in their lives. We should also help one another to reach their goals.

What I have learned: I learned the two principles of justice. I also knew that here are really some people who are not being treated fair and equal.

Integrative Questions:

1. What is theory of justice all about?

2. What is the view of the author about justice?
3. What is the first principle?
4. What is the second principle?
5. What is more helpful to us?

Christopher Semilla

ITETHIC

Book: Contemporary Moral Problems

Book Review: Chapter 12 "The need for more than justice" by Annete Baier

Library Reference: N/A

Learning Expectation:

- I expect to learn the need for more than justice
- I expect to learn how it can be applied to our lives
- I expect to learn new fundamentals on justive

Quote: "He would behave no better than the other"

Book Review:

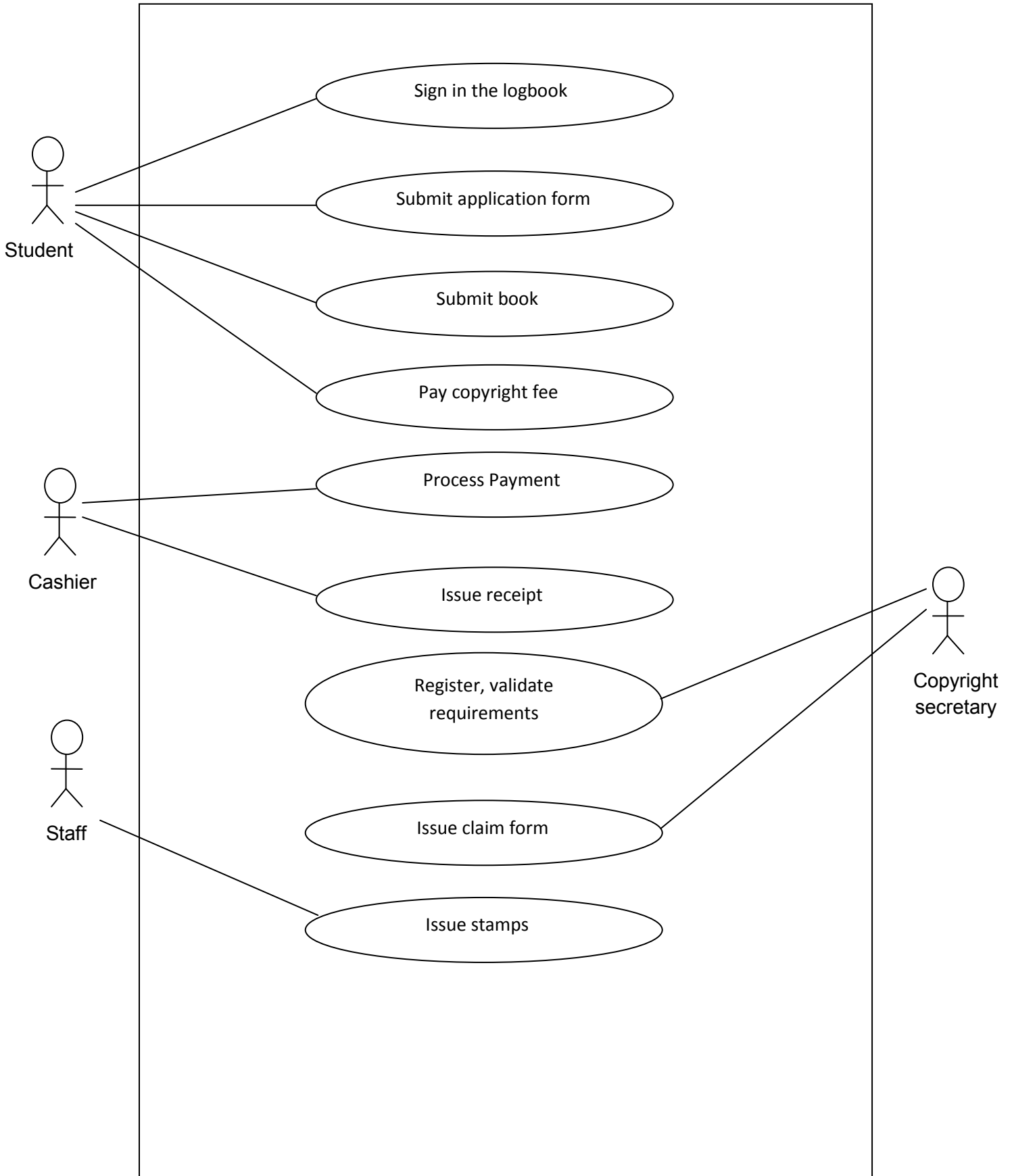
According to the author, "care" is the new word buzz. It is felt concern for the good of others and the community with them. Most men think that they are more caring compared to women. This idea I think is not an issue. The word "caring" can be done my any people, old or young, male or female. Men claim that they are caring because they are the ones who are working hard to cover the financial bills of the family. They also care a lot about their wife and children that they won't let anything happen to them. If something bad happens to their family, it is the father who will get hurt the most. Women also claim to be the care perspective. Maybe because it is the women who give birth, and takes care of her children and household chores. It is not measured to weather I care better because I do more things than you do that shows caring but it is on how you define the word care. The word itself could mean a lot. A person should use the word in a moral way like performing the action to show concern to your community. A bad way of using the word "care" is when you only think of your benefit. For example, a person just cares about money, this way the word care is not being used properly and morally and in fact you are using it in an evil way. The essence of care should always be there so that all of us will do the same thing.

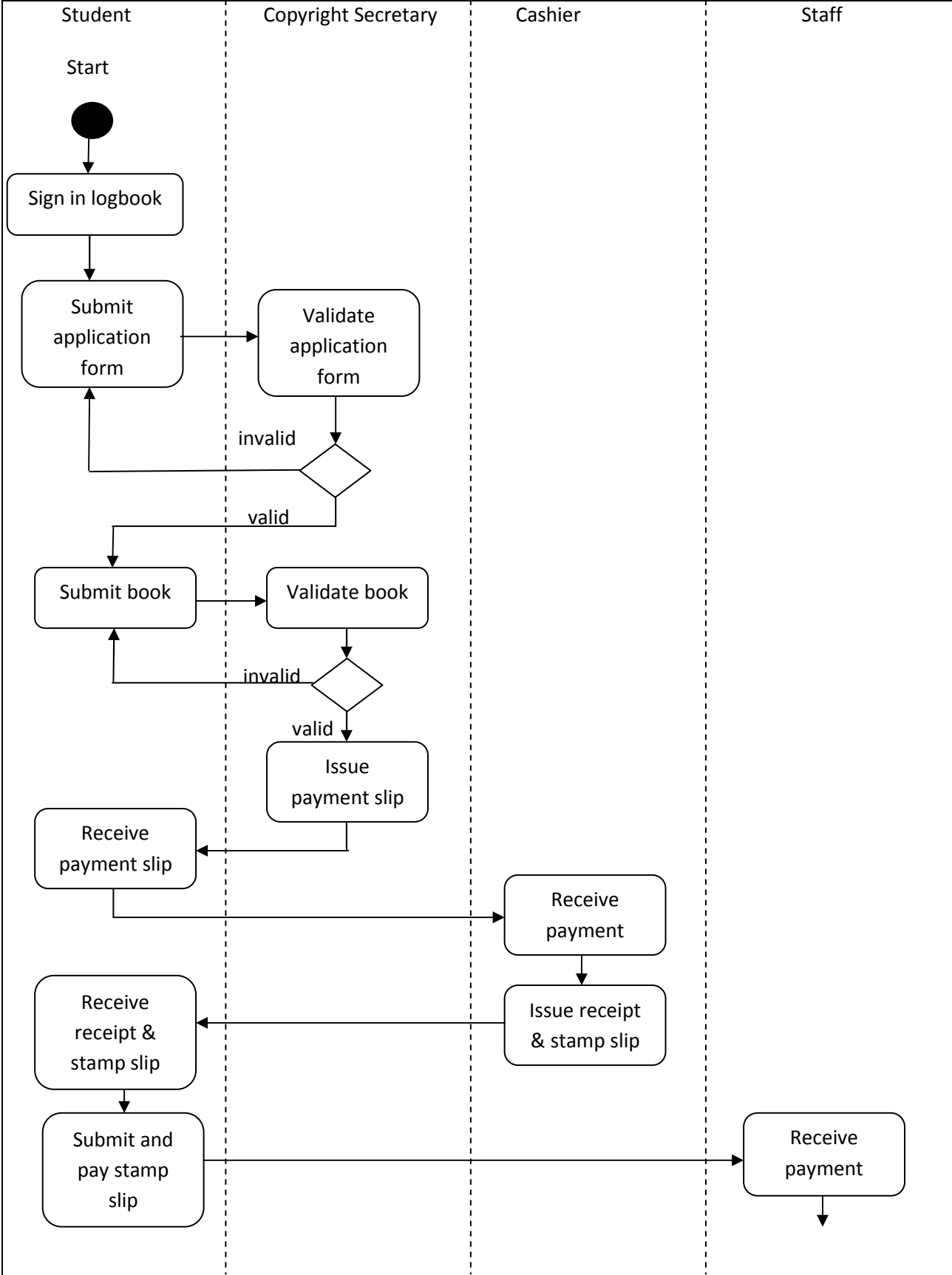
What I have learned: I learned that all of us should perform our actions in a caring way. In this act, we can show our concerns even to the people that we do not know.

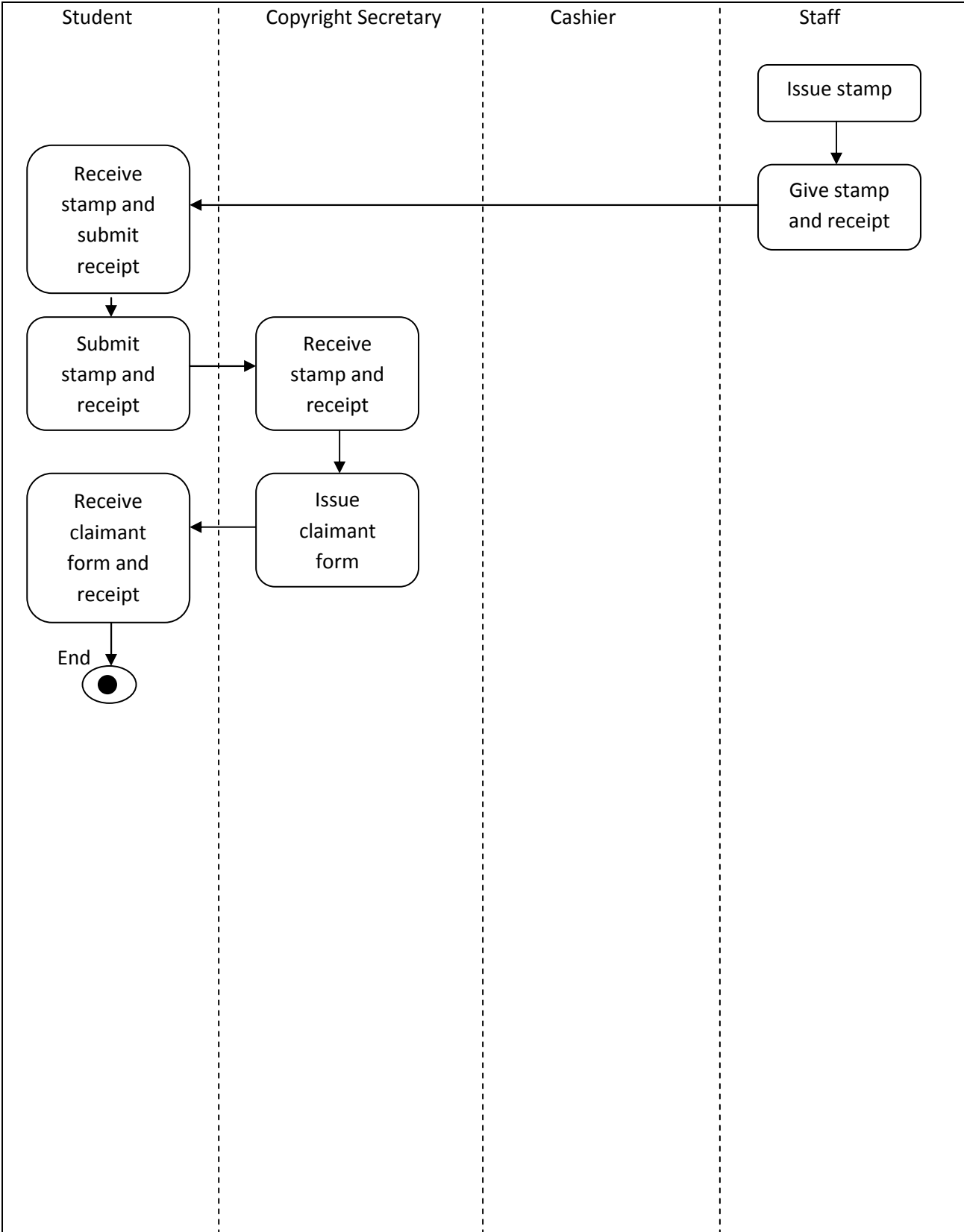
Integrative Questions:

1. What is care perspective?
2. Who is Annete Baier?

3. Who is more of care perspective men of women?
4. How can you judge if you are care perspective?
5. Is it going to be an issue to genders?







Use Case Narrative

Identification Summary

Title: Application for Copyright

Summary: The student will apply for copyright for his own book.

Actors: Student, Copyright Secretary, Cashier, Staff

Creation Date: February 26, 2009

Date of Update: n/a

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Christopher Semilla

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The student should fill up the application form.
2. The affidavit should be notarized.
3. The book should be complete.
4. There must be 2 copies of the book to be copyrighted

Main Success Scenario

1. The Copyright secretary will release receipt for payment
2. The accounting will release stamp slip

Alternative Sequences

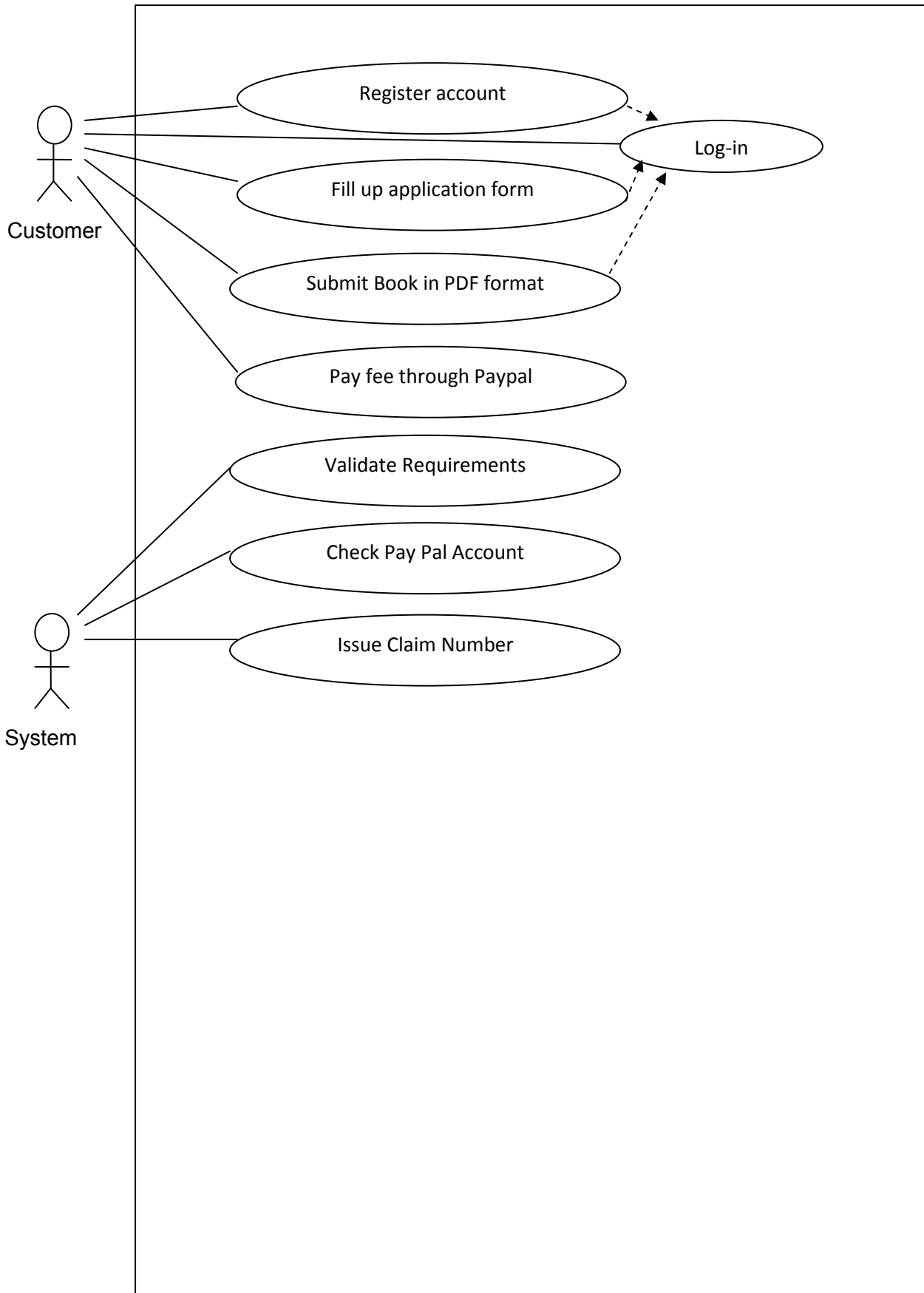
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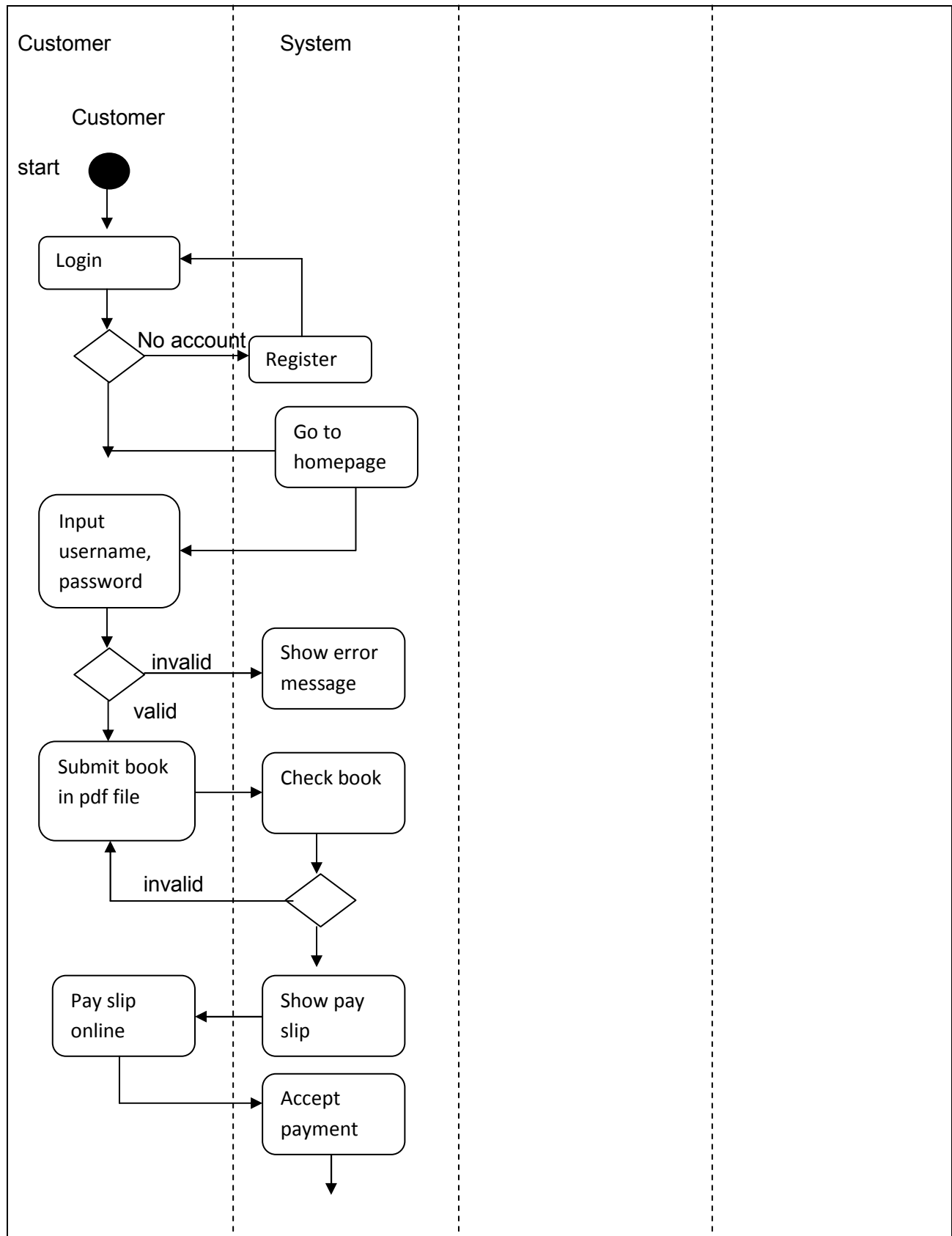
Error Sequences:

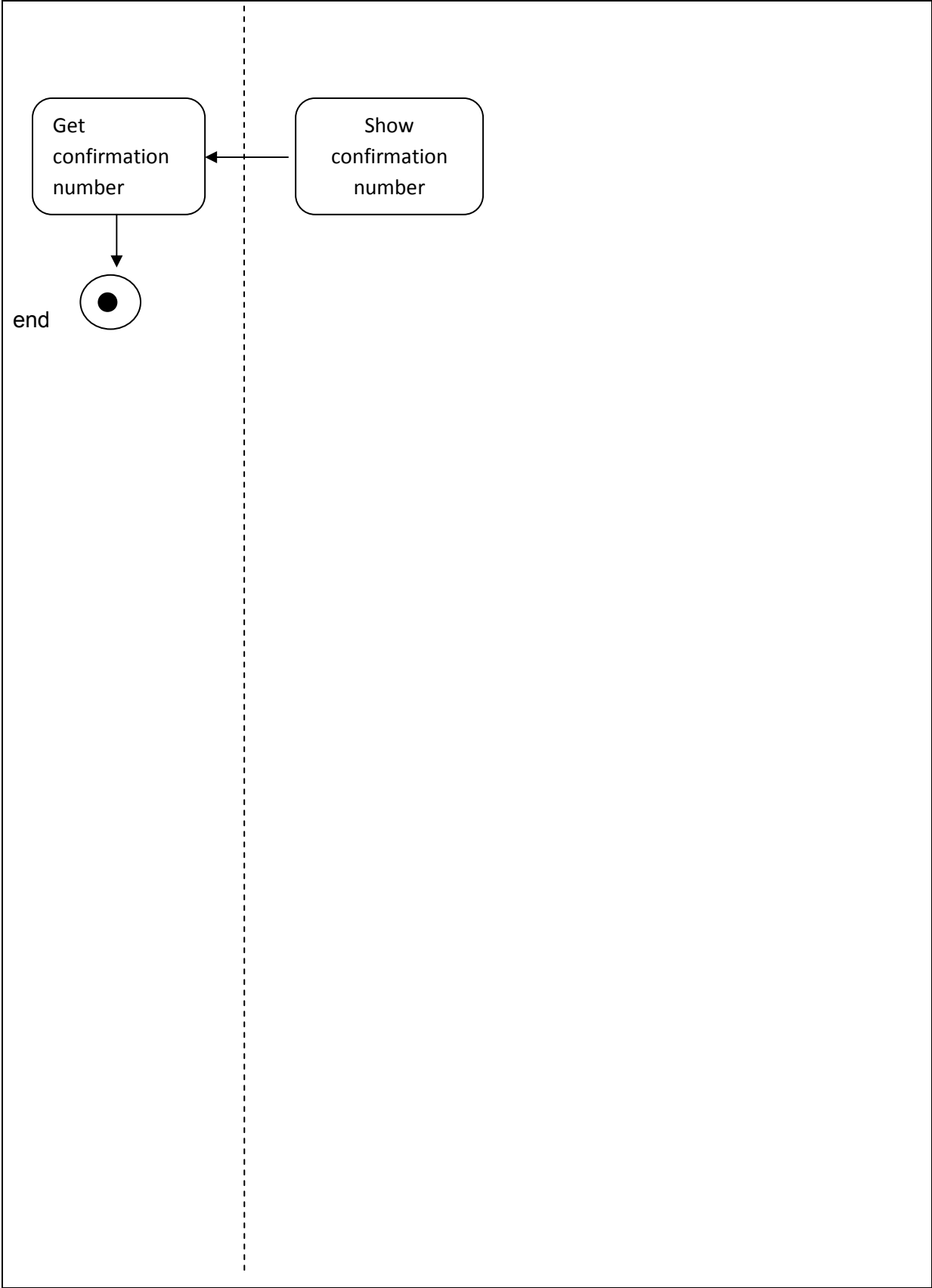
1. Incomplete Application Form
2. Affidavit is not notarized.
3. Incomplete book requirements.
4. Incomplete number of book copies.

Post Condition

1. The copyright secretary will issue a claimant form that means you can claim your copyrighted book in a month.







Use Case Narrative

Identification Summary

Title: Application for Copyright

Summary: Online application for copyright.

Actors: Customer, System

Creation Date: February 27, 2009

Date of Update: n/a

Version: 1.0

Person in charge: Christopher Semilla

Flow of events

Preconditions:

1. The customer should have an account.
2. The book should be in PDF format.
3. The student should have credit card/paypal account.

Main Success Scenario

3. The system will allow you to upload your book.
4. The system will show payment process.

Alternative Sequences

1. Incomplete registration

Error Sequences:

1. The book is not in PDF format
2. No credit card/paypal account

Post Condition

1. The customer will receive a confirmation number for claiming the book.