Name

Instructors’ Name

Course Title and Code

Date

My Observation

**Essay 1**

Write a 150 word Observation by telling us what you think about my friend Caryn:

I have this friend; let's call her Caryn, who told me this:

"I went to hotel in LA, and thought it wasn't a good hotel. I went to a travel advice website and submitted a review that said that this hotel was terrible. A day later, I was contacted by the hotel. The hotel manager saw my review, and looked up my email address in their reservation system. He offered my $500 to delete my review. I took the money."

Tell us whether you think that Caryn’s decision to take the $500 would pass Kant’s Categorical Imperative test. You have to figure out her maxim behind her decision to agree to this deal. Then tell us the anonymous version of that maxim. Then test that maxim – what would happen if everyone acted from that same maxim that she did?

Hint - How many people doing just what Caryn has done would it take until people stop trusting what people say on travel advice websites?

**Observation**

Caryn’s decision to take the $500 would not pass Kant’s Categorical Imperative test because it does not represent the absolute condition which should be fulfilled in any case. Caryn is acting according to her maxim of getting compensation from the travel websites or hotels. The anonymous version of the maxim is that people would start speaking ill about the services on their websites and would get the money as the compensation for taking their review back or even sharing positive feedbacks. If everyone acts in the same way as Caryn, the people will try to earn money through such means or the travel websites would not allow the people to share their reviews. Even if only ten to twenty people act in the same way as Caryn, people will stop trusting what others say on travel advice websites. They would not believe the reviews but trust their own experience.

**Essay 2**

Write a 150 word Observation by telling us about your answer to this ethics question:

Ashley has a good friend, who will sell her a car at a very low price. The price is low not just because they are friends, but really because the car was stolen last year. The friend wasn't the thief, who stole the car, but the car has now become the friend's car and the car also has a new title (also illegally accomplished already). If Ashley agrees to buy the car, she gets the clean title and Ashley cannot be linked to the theft, too. Ashley does agree to buy the car from her friend.

For the purposes of this Observation, assume that neither Ashley nor her friend will get in trouble for participating in this deal. They will never get caught. Focus on the ethical question, not the worry about the law. The ethical question is: Did Ashley does something morally wrong here?

Could Ashley’s purchase of the stolen car pass the Categorical Imperative test?

Put another way; would everyone doing what she did be something that could be part of the Kingdom of Ends?

If she did do something immoral, put into your own clear words exactly why her decision is immoral. Or, maybe you think Ashley isn't morally wrong here -- but give reasons why it is OK, despite what the other students against Ashley's decision would say. **Observation**

Ashley has done an immoral act by purchasing the stolen car, although it cannot be proven as stolen and Ashley can also not be associated with the theft of the car. Ashley’s purchase of the stolen car cannot pass the Categorical Imperative test because she is not following the absolute condition which needs to be fulfilled in any case. She is only acting according to her maxim which may not be beneficial for other people of the society. Putting the scenario in the other way, everyone doing what she did would not be something that could be part of the Kingdom of Ends. It is because the situation would give rise to other unfavorable conditions, instead of fulfilling the purpose of Ashley. She has done an immoral act in the way that being aware of the fact that it is stolen and the owner would have been searching for it while bearing the loss; she should not accept it just because she would not be blamed for it. I do not think Ashley's decision is ok because she can also become the victim of the scenario and feel miserable.