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PHIL 355E

Reflective Essay

 This course specifically has been an interesting part of my college career. This is my third time enrolling in this course because it is a major requirement and a second time completing it all the way through. It has been a thorn in my side however, I can say I have gained a lot from this course. Although the course load on top of whatever I am doing at the time in my personal life never seems to mesh… this semester has presented me with the most challenges. I can appreciate the professor being lenient and allowing me to execute the assignments to the best of my ability. Ultimately, throughout this course, I have learned an immense amount about ethical theories and concepts, along with developing new ways of thinking from them. The theories we covered have encouraged me to use some of the ethical concepts covered outside of class in situations I experience in my own life. The three topics we discussed that I think have stuck with me the most are the *code of ethics, whistleblowing, and privacy.*

 *The code of Ethics* stood out to me because I assumed that all companies would follow the same code of ethics. Although I was aware of the greed that tends to fuel many companies to operate in the fashion that they sometimes do, not all companies follow a code of ethics that put their employees before their own reputation. My entire perspective of ethics has changed as a result of this course not that there was a lack of understanding, but now I can analyze with an open mind. My main takeaway from the code of ethics module is that companies can indeed practice ethics but can still have ill intentions. It made me put perspective that I will be in the workforce very soon and I would not want to be a part of a company that places their needs above the wellbeing of the people that work for them.

 The topic of *whistleblowing* I found to be interesting. I find the topic to be very black-and-white, yet it seems to be a conflicting topic for others. I understand the effects that whistleblowing can have from a business point of view. Being outed and possibly having your reputation tarnished while also having the potential breach of privacy. Sometimes an ex-employee may blow the whistle out of spit of the company, maybe because they lost their job so they expose the wrongdoings of that company. Other times people may blow the whistle and leave voluntarily because they find the dealings of that company to be unethical. I think what stood out to me the most in this module is the internal moral battles people faced. I learned that you should not let anyone or anything sway the moral code you abide by. Wrong is wrong and no amount of money or titles should sway you or your moral compass. I think that internally the damage is greater if you choose to go against what you believe is right. Someone can one day blow the whistle on you if you are in a position of power and choose to operate with only your interests in mind and harm others as a result. I will certainly carry what I have learned from this topic with me into my professional journey and more importantly my personal life.

 Lastly, the topic that impacted me was privacy. The topic of privacy is very interesting to me because I have always been a private person. I think that privacy is a right and in only rare occasions should that right be stripped from us. I have always understood that even though privacy is a right certain aspects of privacy remain out of our control and that often center around the government or other entities we sign up for. Social media and sights especially tend to breach that privacy and we unknowingly agree to it due to a lack of competence on our part. My takeaway from this topic is to be cautious about what I agree to and most importantly, read. Read the terms of the agreements or else I cannot be upset with the data collected as I physically consented most of the time.