**Reflection**

Originally, I presumed that this cybersecurity course would provide me a straightforward lesson on ethics. I thought that course would teach me general knowledge on ethics that related directly to my course of study as a cybersecurity major, such as describing how cyber professional conduct should be in the workplace. I had a preconceived notion that the scenarios taught in this course would be similar to asking, why not maintaining confidentiality is unethical? I thought that my assignments would probably be encompassing quizzes, discussion boards, etc., throughout the spring semester. I was surprised with how in-depth the course was once I read the syllabus. Not only would I have to learn several different ethical theories but apply real-world examples that rely on me thinking critically about how each ethical module related to the ethical theories shown on blackboard. Although this course pushed my boundaries by analyzing scenarios, the ethical theories that I learned could easily apply to my future occupation are utilitarianism, contractarianism, and ethics of care.

First, people will often have to form difficult decisions that compromises their core values. As I explained in the previous paragraph, my foundation on ethics was that things were explicitly black and white there were no gray areas for maintaining ethical behavior. I naively believed that my ethical choices would benefit all those affected by them. The consequences of my decisions and actions would be positive for all parties involved unless one of the parties committed a felony. But the ethical theory utilitarianism challenged my preconceived notions. I learned that the ethical theory of utilitarianism is derived from consequentialism. Utilitarianism essentially means that people should center their choices and actions on the greater good. Regardless of the actions and decisions, I made I need to keep in mind that my choices will support the majority rather than a small minority. Initially, I thought that the ethical theory was harsh since I innocently believed that my actions would positively affect all parties involved. I have never been in a position to make a choice that benefitted the majority. The class example for this theory put things in perspective for me and aided me in thoroughly analyzing assignments that could possibly go along with utilitarianism. The example about saving five people than one person from getting killed illustrated that it is best to be conscious about producing more contentment than doing nothing and triggering agony for all parties involved. My takeaway from the ethical theory utilitarianism that although I will have to confront difficult decisions, I should always be mindful of doing something that is in favor of the majority. I can apply this theory to my job as a digital forensics analyst since I will have to choose to proceed with my investigations if the offender becomes a viable threat to a majority of people.

Next, my initial understanding of contractarianism is that it involves an agreement between individuals and/or other parties. But contractarianism is an ethical theory that is established on an assumed contract between all parties involved. Although contractarianism seemed easy to understand in theory, I had problems analyzing the ethical theory regarding the veil of ignorance. My understanding of contractarianism expanded once I had to analyze an assignment several times before I could fully comprehend the ethical theory. The concept of veil of ignorance was out of realm for me because it was expressed as meaning that I should consider the harms and benefits of social structures. In my moral reasoning assignment, I refrained from mentioning the veil of ignorance since I originally thought that it meant that I should only outline the benefits. I had difficulty with trying to incorporate it into my analysis even though it was explicitly stated in the prompt. Once my professor gave me more insight on the veil of ignorance, I felt more secure about resubmitting the assignment. My professor stated that the veil of ignorance means that I should consider both the harms and benefits of social structures, not just one part of the theory. My takeaway on the veil of ignorance is that people choose a specific social structure that benefits them more than others. Regardless of the circumstances that somebody experiences in the future, the choice that they made will be permanent. Also, that contractarianism is imperative to consider the moral obligations that businesses and other entities has towards individuals. I can relate contractarianism to my future occupation because I have a moral obligation to society to utilize all legal avenues to investigate devices.

Third, I did not know that Confucianism was a moral theory that would be discussed in this course. Before I read about Confucianism, my mind went straight to it relating to the religion practiced mostly in China. This course expanded my view on the ethical theory. The short story analysis and readings gave me a better understanding of Confucianism. The theory is based upon the roles that a person assumes once somebody chooses a specific path. People choose specific conduct in regard to engaging with friends, family, professors, and supervisors. People are more relaxed with family and friends because they have a personal relationship with them while others mostly have a distanced relationship with their superiors. My takeaway is that Confucianism shows us that roles I assume throughout my life will be different in the environments that I encounter. In the future, I have an obligation to assume the role of the occupation that I decide to do and do my work effectively.

Thus, throughout the spring semester, cybersecurity ethics taught ethical theories that can apply to my future occupation. The ethical issues that I had to analyze are relevant since I may have to encounter issues concerning data privacy, cybercrimes, etc. since my major is cybersecurity. Throughout this course, my knowledge on certain topics and issues developed. I also was able to learn how to effectively respond to issues.