

End of Course Reflection

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PHIL355E: Cybersecurity Ethics

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This semester, I was privileged to take Cybersecurity Ethics with Professor Andrew Garnar. This class was very informative a good way to think about cybersecurity in a whole new light. In my past 2 years studying cybersecurity I mainly thought of cybersecurity as networking, coding, routing, and all the frameworks in cyberspace. During this class I was able to hold discussions on actions taken by big businesses and talk about data mining and the need for privacy and confidentiality when dealing with businesses. We also talked about the social contract and other topics that deepened my thoughts on the morality of cybersecurity.

First, I want to go over professional ethics in the workplace. This topic really made me think because I never really thought about the ethics of cybersecurity, more so the technical aspect of it, therefore my scope on what cyber entails has broadened. The discussion board then also helped with watching the ted talk. I knew that there were algorithms monitoring our behavior on social media and YouTube, but I never thought about how they kept adding extremes to keep the audience watching. I will use this knowledge moving forward to experiment for myself and see how the algorithm works in person. Regarding professional ethics, I want to take what I learned from the ACM and IEEE guides to stick with me.

Second perspective is not so much on modules, but on the concept of our discussion boards. Although they were only for our assignments, the discussion boards opened my eyes to many different alternative viewpoints, which then led me to think about why someone might have differing mindsets compared to me. Now I am always game for good discussion, but I never really find that in college discussion boards – many times they feel somewhat boring and only there to complete the task at hand. I am glad to have gained nuance and a better appreciation for discussion boards in class. Since I had already mentioned it, in the Ted Talk

discussion board (DB4), there was one take who was completely against the removal of influences in regard to voting. They said that there is no need for censorship because they are a big proponent of freedom, which is plentiful on the internet. I would like to retain this knowledge and be able to use it

Lastly, I would like to delineate the work in module 1 back to the article we read “Even cheating dirtbags deserve privacy”. I found it funny because of the title, but this one really had me thinking. Although I don’t condone cheating and cheaters, I have come to accept that everyone does need their own space and privacy. Usually, my psyche would not consent to that, but sometimes even criminals and dirtbags need to live their lives without feeling like the Kardashians where everyone is watching their every move. Coming from a Confucian standpoint, everyone has their own path, and everyone’s path is a stream leading to the river we call life. People are still human and deserve basic rights that every other human has – in and out of the workplace.