

This philosophy course has been different from anything I have taken in the past. It was more writing intensive than my other cybersecurity course. It also forced me to think about elements of society and/or people that I would not have previously. In this paper, I will outline the three topics I have gone over in this course that have changed me the most.

The first topic that I thoroughly engaged with was that of Google's Street View implementation violations in the United States and abroad. Street View was implemented in a way that disregarded all cultural factors and many laws. This was done in favor of profit on Google's end and they never truly suffered any consequences from it. In this assignment, I used the deontological philosophy perspectives to show just how unjust the company's actions were. This philosophical view means that one should never use a person to attain their end goals, but rather should always view people as sophisticated equals with backgrounds and experiences one does not know from the surface. A safe way to ensure fair and just treatment to nearly anyone is to follow the golden rule and treat others how you wish to be treated. I also used something I am very familiar with in this assignment with that being comic books. There is a story in which Superman encounters a new group of "heroes" that conduct their crime fighting in a way that is much different from his own. This group elects to take out the criminals of the Earth permanently by executing them rather than locking them up. This, just like Google's implementation of Street View, shows a blatant disregard for the authority, cultures, and laws that countries of the world have in place as well as viewing people as a problem rather than equals. I already shared Superman's views and knew that it was wrong to focus on a singular goal more than its impact on people, but this takeaway truly cemented these ideals, and going forward in my professional career, I will never compromise someone's rights or identity in order to ensure security or to implement new technology.

The second topic that changed my worldviews would be discussing the need for a law like The General Data Protection Regulation from the EU in the United States. I learned about the safeties and protections granted to the European citizens with this law that allows them to have more control over their data and makes companies responsible if it becomes compromised. I think the citizens of the United States would benefit largely from a similar law like this and one should be created in the future as the country and world become more and more digital. During the completion of this assignment, I used a philosophy that I was not previously knowledgeable of. I had heard of Confucianism in the past, but I did not know that philosophy focused on not disrupting people from their roles in life. These could range from working at a factory to being a single father. The General Data Protection Regulation and laws like it better protect people and their ability to perform their roles in life than if these laws were not in place. I had never previously viewed problems from the Confucianism philosophical perspective, and I always will be going forward to ensure that my actions will not inhibit the duties of a worker or parent. It is not morally justifiable for one persons' action to inhibit the lives of others.

The third topic I encountered that had a profound impact on my perspective was the fifth Case Analysis I completed. This assignment was about the ethics of whistleblowing, and it included an example of whistleblowing from the Iraq War. The article I read stated that these United States soldiers did not get positive identification on the targets before firing. The individuals harmed during this event were innocent and one of them was a journalist with a camera. The soldier interpreted his camera as a weapon and asked command for the permission to fire. The video also shows the people desperately crawling to escape before the soldiers open fire again and again to ensure they are eliminated. I first encountered the Contractarian philosophy during this analysis and its perspective is that society is made up of many mutual

agreements to roles. This can include being a whistleblower and if one did indeed expose information at the cost of breaking their contract with their government it would be justified because they are fulfilling their duty to society within that social contract. This is a very complicated and debatable topic with many nuanced takeaways depending on one's views. My takeaway was that, while in the past I always thought loyalty and social contracts made to country and organization should be placed above societal contracts, now I would expose information from these entities if it meant that I would be making a difference and fulfilling my duty and social contract to the rest of society. People have the right to know what is going on with their governing body because it directly affects their lives.

The assignments completed in this course exposed me to many problems I previously never gave much thought such as technology violating privacy and culture, the need for data protection laws, and whistleblowing. Without the class, I would have never experienced this, and I will reflect on the assignments in the future when making career or life decisions. In conclusion, I have learned many new perspectives and gained new knowledge during my time completing this course and my thoughts and worldviews going forward have been altered to reflect that.