Reflective Writing Assignment

PHIL 355E

Professor Nicol

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In this course Cybersecurity Ethics, we have extensively researched and performed many case studies about relevant problems in cybersecurity today. Using ethical tools we have also studied throughout the semester we have been able to not only look at these problems through a cyber security perspective but also through the lens of morals and ethics. This class has not only developed our skills as future cyber security workers but it has developed us as individuals who have a strong sense of their own morals and ethics.

Throughout this course we have done many studies on important issues in today's society. One of the most relevant and possibly the most controversial is privacy. More specifically how the large corporations and the government having too much information about us can be very problematic and sometimes even dangerous. When I first started researching this topic my view on privacy was much like other people. I didn't really care that these large corporations had my information because I liked the convenience of using their product. But as I did more research about the topic my perspective changed, I realized how important having your information private is. The main takeaway I got from this analysis of privacy was that having privacy is very important, as technology is becoming more and more a part of our lives maintaining a wall, so to say, confidentiality is very important.

Another topic that really made me think about my moral and ethical compass was cyber conflict. With the battlegrounds of war shifting towards cyberspace, many moral and ethical dilemmas are raised. Typically in wars we have seen in the past there have been rules set up in order to protect civilians. This has been very prevalent after World War II with the advancement of the Geneva convention but as war changes and the realm of cyber takes a large role there needs to be new rules put into place. Upon doing more research about the Iranian and Isreali cyber conflict occurring right now it seems that their anonymity and use of cyber attacks has made them think that targeting civilians will go without being questioned. The main takeaway I got from this analysis was that as the tides of war are shifting and the use of cyber capabilities becomes more prevalent, more regulations and rules need to be put in place to continue to protect civilians.

Lastly, another very important topic we discussed that I previously knew very little about was whistleblowing. We dove deep into the ethical and moral issues surrounding the topic and whether or not certain whistleblowers are acting out of loyalty or acting out of malicious intent. This was a very controversial topic and there were many different points of views from different classmates. My thoughts on the topic have definitely changed since I began conducting research on the topic and in scenarios such as the Edward Snowden case it's much easier for me now to see both sides of the story. The main takeaway I got from this analysis was that you have to have a strong internal set of moral and ethical standards to work in this field in order to know that what you're doing is right.

Overall this course was very beneficial for me to develop my own moral and ethical values as well as exposing me to modern and relevant cyber security dilemmas happening all over the world. I also developed my writing in this class as well, being able to put my thoughts about these topic down in a meaningful and efficient way has really developed me as a writer and as a student.