

Ethen Brandenburg

PHIL355

5 August 2023

Reflective Writing Assignment

Throughout the course of PHIL355E also known as Cybersecurity Ethics, I have learned about many different moral standings and perspectives. The most notable perspectives or moral outlooks for me would be using the ethical tool called: contractarian or contractarianism or the way we live by using moral social contracts. I personally never knew that this was even part of the world or how people thought but after learning more about it, I grew to understand a little more. All the moral tools and case analyses that we have done in this class were all there to give us a practical sense of how to use those ways of thinking. It gets us in a certain mindset so we can be more objective than subjective like how we are naturally. But contractarianism sticks to my heart a little closer than probably most. The main reason behind that is I work as a contractor in the IT industry. So that means I am always either changing jobs or changing what I do but only after that set contract is up, or so I thought. See with contractarianism the people have a moral obligation to keep a social contract but when you are working as a contractor there is no moral obligation from the company you are working for. This makes things a little more tricky when it comes to job security and all.

This class has also taught me how to look at stories through a more analytical lens rather than a subjective or even a judgmental lens. For instance, before I studied this class I always

thought people pretty much thought the same and not from different perspectives. Well, I was quite wrong in many ways because people think in different ways but they also can think in multiple ways as well. I have run across a few people that are contractarian but also use other forms of moral reasoning in order to run their businesses. From what I have gathered from this class is that every person thinks in a different way and that is what makes us human and very interesting.

Finally, I have also noticed how people can think one way and act differently according to their way of thinking. Just like in my case analysis of contractarianism with the society that has a cure for cancer and the other that does not. I think the world is just like that too, where one country has something another country might need but does not necessarily want it due to other circumstances. This gave me a great insight into my life because there are things I want but in all reality would those things help me fulfill my greater purpose in life? Well probably not because most of those things are just wants and not needs.

Overall this class was very informative and interesting when it came to the ethics behind certain ways of thinking. I greatly enjoyed the class and some of the work, even though it was a lot for my schedule I did manage to push through and complete most of my assignments. The one takeaway that I would grab from this class is to always be open minded and be able to learn and debate different ethical standpoints and understand where all of their thinking comes from.

Link to portfolio:

<https://sites.wp.odu.edu/ethen-odu-cyse-portfolio/phil355e-cybersecurity-ethics/>

