At the beginning of this course, I was honestly a little scared. I was unsure of what to expect and I was unfamiliar with some of the topics that we were going to discuss. I enrolled in the class because it is a requirement for nursing majors, and now after finishing the class I understand how much these topics and our discussions will help me make decisions regarding my future patients. This course opened my eyes to very real ethical dilemmas and how different people act in relation to a particular ethical theory.

Out of the ethical theories that we discussed; I mostly favor Aristotle’s ethics. I do like certain aspects of Kant’s Moral Philosophy and some points made in Utilitarianism. However, Aristotle’s theory is much more flexible and seems to be more fitting for the world we live in today. The golden mean in this theory is trying to hit the mean between two vices. These vices are excess and deficiency. I view this as not doing the wrong thing, but also as not trying to be so perfect that it goes wrong. The middle of these two things is the mean that should aim to reach. We don’t always have to be perfect, but we should never aim lower than our goal. I think that this is an important concept to keep in mind, especially in my upcoming years – find the means between your vices and you will succeed. More than just vices, you can extend this concept further and use it to help set and reach goals.

With the topics that we discussed, the topics of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide changed some of my thoughts on the issue. In eleventh grade, I wrote a research paper on this topic and since then I have had mixed feelings on how I feel about it. I still have mixed feelings on the topic, but after the readings, videos, and in-class discussions, I understand certain views on the issue much better. I can now better see why individuals in certain cases would want this to be an available option and why it maybe should be available to them. I also see how drastically fully legalizing the issue could create even more issues and controversies in the United States. After watching the video about the woman in the Netherlands I know where I think the line should be drawn on this issue, but I still have mixed feelings on whether I believe it truly should be an option or not. This is a very real issue that I could possibly face as a future nurse and I now have a better understanding of what all the issue entails.

Learning is something that I value greatly and throughout this course, I have learned many things and have expanded my knowledge. I really enjoyed this class and the type of environment that the class was held in. Being able to hear other’s thoughts and opinions during our in-class discussions helped me better understand other people’s views on certain issues. Ethics is a very complex, yet interesting topic that I look forward to learning more about throughout my journey of becoming a nurse.