Personal Reflection

This bioethics course has left me with an abundance of material that will contribute to my moral understanding in life, one subject being ethical theory. I favor Aristotle’s virtue ethics the most out of the theories we studied. In learning about each, I felt that both Kantian and utilitarian ethics were at too far of extremes for me. I enjoyed the idea of Aristotle’s focus on eudaimonia, and the flourishing of human life and character. It was especially the idea of working on yourself to become a virtuous individual that caught my attention because I feel that just being, or striving to be, a virtuous person will usually lead you to make good decisions. This is an ethical standpoint that I plan to bring into my life moving forward, especially in the field of nursing. I. hope that having my own understanding of virtue within myself can lead me to making the best decisions for my patients.

The genetic enhancement unit, although short, was the most interesting to me. This use of technology baffles me, and the fact that much of this genetic engineering is even possible is quite amazing. I have a passion for maintaining health and helping others, and this path of treatment is something that seems too absurd. The ability to help those with medical conditions through genetic therapies is acceptable, but there is too high of risk for such technology to be misused for those striving for “perfection.” It was also interesting to me because I felt as though this unit was the one that was the most behind in moral understanding compared to the speed of advancement. This unknowingness is what drove me to ask myself more questions about the topic and formulate where I stand on the issue. This was the subject that I felt most compelled to possibly look further into.

There were two particular readings that changed my thinking on certain issues. One was Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral.” I am fairly new to my faith as a Christian, and I felt as though I had to be a supporter of pro-life just because “the Bible says so,” but I never really had a solid reason why. This reading gave me a much better understanding of this argument and why it can be valid, even without using religious doctrines. I felt that I finally understood something that was always so confusing to me. The other reading that left my thinking very impacted was “A Chronicle: Dax’s Case as it Happened.” As someone who intends to be a future nurse, this gave me a great perspective of why patient’s rights even exist. I felt for Dax in this tragedy, and that sympathy can go a long way in treating a patient. It helped me to understand why one may want to refuse treatment, and how important living a normal, unimpaired life can be for many. I expect to come across this reality of severe trauma in a patient someday in my career, and I will have Dax’s case as a basis of understanding in how the patient may feel and how I should advocate for them.

Overall, this class has given me a lot of useful information that I feel will actually apply to my life. I can see how many issues that were once cloudy are much clearer to me now, as I have gained a greater understanding and ability to formulate my own views on a number of difficult topics.