Ethics in a Global Society

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October 19, 2024

Professor

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Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements

1.Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the first week of the term. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

Course Essential Elements

1. Survey the history and significant development of ethics.

2. Understand ethics as the philosophy and methodology of behavior and the conducting of human activities.

3. Compare the different approaches of traditional ethical systems to Christian ethics.

4. Evaluate the secular ethical standards concerning current world events and respond with a Christian ethical application.

**Course Essential Elements: Understand ethics as the philosophy and methodology of behavior and the conducting of human activities**

The word ethics is derived from the Greek word ethikos or ethos, which has been translated as habits, and has to do with the standards of right and wrong behavior, action and conduct. Given the object reality of human interaction within the social sphere, ethics and morality are indeed a primary function of social interaction of human activity. Ethical thinking has been a framework of social engagement, the ethical ‘ought’ of living is translated into the ‘is’ of social life, it may not be fully transparent from the ‘ought’ to an ‘is’ but nevertheless was ‘is’ in the social world has been derived from an ethical framework of social-historical process (Cahn & Markie, (1998).

The branch of philosophy, moral philosophy, has a primary interest in examining ethical views and theories going back to ancient Greek philosophy to current-day moral philosophy, examining the ethical dilemmas of the day, but also various professionals in specific fields such as professional code of ethical conduct to ethicist in healthcare or technology fields. Thus, ethics is not only a philosophical pursuit but a practical pursuit of human endeavors as well as social ethics relating to social conduct and social policy. As ethical principles are professionalized, ethical standards come to normalize behavior, action and conduct of people within a social-cultural context. Normative ethics may fall short of actual ethical principles due to the ‘shortcuts’ humans take given their self-interest. For instance, American sociologists have a professional organization called the American Sociological Association (ASA), and the ASA has a Code of Ethics that lays out the ethical standards for sociologists (other professional organizations also have the association codes of ethics). Continuing with this example, let’s say a given sociologist follows the letter of the code of ethics in their work may be ‘ethical’ in this professionalized normative way, but may also be acting unethical in an ultimate way (for example informing social policy in a well-meaning way, but actually creating an unethical social policy).

Throughout time and history, human ethics seems to be a social construction (Cribb, 2020) based on time, culture, religion and thought. Given this, we should understand that ethics is indeed a human endeavor to drive human activity; however, given that God our creator has implanted certain characteristics of Himself within His human creation thus, all humans have a sense of morality that is an elemental shared basis from which humans have developed ethical standards and principles.

WORKS CITED

Cahn, S. M, Markie, P.. (1998). *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues*. Oxford University Press.

Cribb, A. (2020). *Managing Ethical Uncertainty: Implicit Normativity and the Sociology of Ethics.* Sociology of Health & Illness, 42, 21-34.