Ethics in a Global Society

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Assignment #4 – Course Learning Journal

The journal is a written reflection of your learning journey while working in each course. The Learning Journal integrates the essential elements of the course within your professional field of interest. The objective of the course journal is to produce a degree of acculturation, integrating new ideas into your existing knowledge of each course. This is also an opportunity to communicate with your professor insights gained as a result of the course. The course learning journal should be 3-5 pages in length and should include the following sections:

1. Introduction –Summarize the intent of the course, how it fits into the graduate program as a whole, and the relevance of its position in the curricular sequence.

2. Personal Growth - Describe your personal growth–how the course stretched or challenged you– and your progress in mastery of course content and skills during the week and through subsequent readings – what new insights or skills you gained.

3. Reflective Entry - Add a reflective entry that describes the contextualization (or adaptation and relevant application) of new learning in your professional field. What questions or concerns have surfaced about your professional field as a result of your study?

4. Conclusion – Evaluate the effectiveness of the course in meeting your professional, religious, and educational goals.

**Introduction**

This course on Ethics in a Global Society at OGS is an important course for students, not only to contemplate their own ethical approaches but also to consider the ethical approaches of others that they may engage with, which could be different than theirs. It is important to have cultural awareness in general, and this is also the case with ethical considerations from different cultures. Though there may be similarities in ethical principles between cultures, the contextualization of morals and ethics may be different. For ethics in a global society, the shared similarity should bring us together to navigate the ethical challenges of AI.

**Personal Growth**

I have taken courses in ethics before and have thought about ethical considerations in theory and in practice, as a professional and as an individual. I have noticed that I and Christians throughout history have often thought that they were doing the right ‘Christian’ thing but actually fell short or completely missed the Christian thing to do. For example in the history of Christian America, white churches have been one of the racist institutions in the U.S., and I imagine that they were thinking they were doing right. The thing of it is, is that there seems to have been a disconnect between Christian beliefs and Christian behavior, such as that of the issue of ethics, of how to derive an ‘is’ from an ‘ought’, or how to put into action our beliefs. I am recognizing that embedded in Christianity is an ethical system, for example;

Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:31

Be kind and compassionate to one another. Ephesians 4:32

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. Romans 8:5

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5: 22-23

There seems to be an expectation that even though we are still in the flesh, we as Christians are to live in the Spirit, which seems to relate to the Christian ethical system. I found the quote from L.S. Keyser on Christian Ethics, “the science which treats of the sources, principles, and practice of right and wrong in the light of the Holy Scriptures, in addition to the light of reason and nature.” (Keyser, 2012), what stands out is the “principles and practice”. This puzzling thing is that even the Christian racist thinks their principles and practices are in line. However, it is clear by the ethics of the Spirit their practices are not in line with Christian ethics.

**Reflective Entry**

I took the opportunity to examine the ethical implications of healthcare artificial intelligence during this semester. I have been aware of AI and the ethical challenges it may bring, but I really didn’t set time aside to learn more about it and to think through it. This course allowed for that opportunity. I have been in the healthcare analytics field for quite some time, and seen the technology change over the years, and how that technology helps improve work efficiency and patient care. We are in the early stages of AI with narrow AI, which has already been implemented in healthcare and data analytics. What we are seeing at this stage are some of the issues with AI, such as AI delusions (odd responses), the black box (unknown how AI arrived at a recommendation), and the data issue (unclean data informing AI, garbage in garbage out). These all have ethical consequences, and I am beginning to realize that these ethical issues have real consequences.

As a sociologist of healthcare, these AI issues and ethical concerns need to be a major priority for us bioethicists, government, practitioners, and patients because we are quickly moving to general AI. We really need to work through these issues before general AI because the ethical risks are much greater with general AI to narrow AI. Ethics has probably been a concern within healthcare throughout history from various aspects of care. In modern history of healthcare ethics there has been more institutionalized, professionalized, and developed, which has caused changes to the healthcare system and promoted better human rights. With the era of AI, it is concerning because of what is being given to AI is more autonomy from humans, machines do not have inherent universal ethical principles as humans do. Do we trust the machine to do what is right? Do we trust humans to do the right thing implementing AI?

**Conclusion**

Ethics in a global society is needed for us to be able to deal with the ethical challenges of AI in general and healthcare AI. The ethical considerations of AI are something that we need to be concerned about, in particular, social scientists who could provide stakeholders valuable insight that would help them navigate one of humanity’s biggest challenges. This course of Ethics in Global Society, has allowed me to begin to look into the ethical concerns surrounding healthcare AI.

WORKS CITED

Keyser, L. S. (2012). *A Manual of Christian Ethics*. Literary Licensing, LLC.