Ethics Philosophy

I will interpret my ethical philosophy by analyzing how each concept in a few chapters aligns with my existing personal and professional ethical standards. We all have unconscious thoughts, biases, and actions that we pay so little attention to that we may feel ethics is irrelevant. This is the first ethics course I've taken in my collegiate studies, and although it makes perfect sense as a major requirement, I honestly hadn't thought of taking one before. As we saw on the first day of class, many of us, me included, had misconstrued what this class's curriculum would entail. I, too, was expecting a more law-oriented class. Unexpectedly, I've found myself learning new concepts I am grateful to have been exposed to.

Of the values listed in the text, a few ring particularly true to the way I live my life, including professional values, logical values, sociocultural values, and instrumental values. Consistency and competency rank highest on this list because they apply to every aspect of my life, both personal and professional. I find these two aspects crucial to becoming proficient at anything. In my professional life, I value innovation greatly because of the concept's progressive nature. I believe we as humans are obligated to do anything we can to truly help society. I've come to value hard work naturally, as I've been self-supporting since I was 17 years old. As for instrumental value, well, I'd consider my degree from Jackson College, as well as my future degree from Wayne State, to lead me to a career of even more value.

That said, it is easier to see the correlation between my values and the normative principles of applied ethics. I seek personal benefit, so I have the resources to prioritize social benefit, benevolence, and paternalism. Whereas the principles of harm, honesty, lawfulness, autonomy, justice, and rights come more naturally to me.

Now let's look at an example of how functional and moral obligations may clash in my professional life. When I worked for Dunham's Sports, mice were often seen eating the candy at the register, or we received moldy/wet clothes from the distribution center. As an apparel team coordinator, I was responsible for drying and cleaning the clothes or throwing away the candy bars the mice had torn through (while keeping the rest in the box, on display). Eventually, I resigned; it became mentally exhausting to sacrifice my moral obligations to maintain sanitary standards and commercial transparency to meet the functional obligations my boss required of me. How about a personal example? One such decision that I often think about, and often regret, is the day I sold my cello for rent money. I'd paid $20 for that cello; my orchestra teacher sold it to me when she retired it from her student collection. I'd taken great pride in owning two string instruments that I knew how to play. However, I sold it to a music shop for $350, and I had to pay for a place to live.

Ok, so why does all that matter? I've often called myself a contradictory individual, in the sense that I can understand two extremely conflicting points of view on a matter or that my personalities conflict in a way that makes me struggle to fit in. That's how I'd describe my ethical philosophy: the inability to fit into particular categories, with the ability to explore a

multitude of matters others may not comprehend. Everyone practices duty-based ethics, whether they understand it or not. However, a consequentialist approach is crucial for a neurodivergent person like me because we must understand the consequences of our actions and see them play out to grasp the difference between right and wrong. Nevertheless, I'm highly partial to a utilitarian approach because I prioritize efficiency and usefulness as necessities for success, as well as the highly useful utilitarian decision tree. Diving further, rule utilitarianism may be suitable in near-uncomprehensible cases where there truly is no good or bad.

My philosophy is varied and shows multiple personalities because that's how I view the world. I see the study of ethics as unpredictable chaos, and practitioners are responsible for making sense of the storm. Your ethical philosophy should keep maturing, gaining deeper understanding with each case you encounter.

