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BUS 1050

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Signature Assignment: Personal Renaissance

In today's society we are surrounded by business, it has established itself in our economy and it does not seem to be going anywhere. Just like we are involved with the concept of business today, there had to have been the foundations of business, we can refer to it as the historical events or situations that enabled business to become what it is now. Concepts that are useful to us now did not just randomly form and exist, but rather they took a lot of trial and error along with the challenge of building a structure that incorporated various viewpoints to emerge. Thus, throughout this course I found myself applying these concepts into modern business and allowing them to a certain degree incorporate and affect my everyday life. Once I allowed this, my attitude towards this course changed drastically.

Various concepts that were discussed throughout this course; critical thinking, labor and capital, social responsibility and ethics, etc., really left me questioning on which side of these concepts I stood on.

The very first reading in this course was regarding critical thinking, it never occurred to me how much we actually rely on critical thinking to be able to interpret between right and wrong and the actual impact on a business. With it being the first

reading, it threw me off completely on the fact that I entered this course believing that I would in the end have a better understanding of how businesses worked in our society today. I soon realized that for us to have the successful businesses we have today there had to have been a foundation to build off, that allowed us to be where we are now. Critical thinking changed my viewpoint on ethics and really made me analyze my decisions to see if I was unbiased or unethical depending the circumstances. It might not look like much, but critical thinking can be applied to various decisions situations, that is why it is an essential element in business to have because it will allow your business to make the tough decisions without losing focus of the logical facts.

The concepts of labor and capital discussed in this course left me uneasy in the fact that it was possible to lose yourself in the world of business especially as a worker. In the reading Mike Lefevre: Steel worker by Studs Terkel, it expressed how a worker truly feels unappreciated at work and never-ending labor does not allow the individual to see his work through to the end. These concepts are very present in our society today, I find myself wanting to enter the workforce but not losing myself in the process. I was always under the belief that we should do a job that we like and in the long run we can expect it to pay off, because the reality is that no one wants to do a job that they do not like. We find ourselves “needing” and “having” to do jobs that we do not necessarily like in order to make a living. It never occurred to me that workers could be “alienated from their products”, allowing them to become less valued the more they produced. I would have assumed that businesses ethical meter would show them that having an appreciated worker created higher productivity for the overall business. This where I

believed that ethics would help avoid a business in entering heavy production without appreciation.

I always thought that businesses were always focused on what was ethical for the overall business and that they were willing to be socially responsible at all times for society. But I've come to find that businesses are constantly surrounded by money that allows them to cloud their judgment and rather than strive for society and their organizations growth they walk the path of money. In the reading Jacob Needleman, Philosopher by Bill Moyers, Needleman expresses that the flexibility and convenience of money has driven us to lose a great deal of human relationships. Being drenched in money only allows us to travel the path of pursuing for more. We have entered a stage in society in where we are constantly dependent upon money and society revolves around it. Before entering this course, I was aware that money made things possible, but I did not know to what degree we were actually dependent on it. I have always relied on money as a source that allows me to fulfill my needs, but I have not allowed it to be a source that I can rely on for my wants. That is where I really have to see society or easily those around me with a different perspective, because whether I like it or not money drives our society and businesses.

The structure of business is not something that can be easily broken down and accommodate everyone's viewpoint, it involves various concepts that in reality you must choose a side in. The foundation of business will have you question your own way of thinking and will possibly push you to question your ethics, but in the end, you will grow as an individual if you are able to take something new from learning these business concepts. Though I found myself questioning various concepts throughout this course,

once analyzed closer I got a better understanding of how “close minded” I really was entering this course. Once I came to this realization it allowed me now to analyze various perspectives in business to a further degree and really enjoy researching the complexity hidden under various business concepts.