

General Education Reflection

I have taken a lot of different classes during my time at Iowa State. A lot of those classes fell in some way under my major in computer engineering. But I also took advantage of branching out from my major and taking some gen-ed classes to broaden my perspective of knowledge. Taking these classes allowed me to meet people that I would not have normally meet in my engineering classes and pushed me to take a different approach to problem-solving.

One of the first gen-ed classes I took was HIST 202 or Western Civilizations II. I always love to learn about history, especially about other countries' histories. In Public school, we had a lot of American history so going in-depth on early European history was extremely insightful. Going in-depth on the cultures of the many countries in Europe in a way that once we got modern times towards the end of the class, I really felt like I have finally put the last piece of the grand puzzle together. realizing why things ended up how they are in the present day. As the class went by many time we reflected on a piece of machinery that vastly changed Europe for better or worse. It goes to show just how much you can cause cultural changes with a bit of engineering.

A year later I took another gen-ed class that I extremely enjoyed, MUSIC 302 or Western Cultures Masterpieces. I wanted to know more about classical music just to grow some understanding and appreciation for it. I loved this class so much, beyond just listening to masterpieces in music, we also learned the cultural reasoning for such pieces. I was really swept away, Dr. Sturm forced us to branch out of our comfort zones in music and take a chance on music that we may not have even tried before.

Plus this class got me into going to symphonies. Something I Still love doing and can appreciate more now that I have the relevance behind the pieces. For engineering lessons, in a very non-technical way it taught me to appreciate what I have and to take note of the people in the past. Not get stuck in your ways, always be willing to try something new. You might find you like it better than you would have thought.

Toward the last semester at my time here at ISU. I took a psychology class about Motivation, PSYCH 314. This class was simply all about why we do the things we do. It was an extremely interesting class, as more recently I have been trying to improve myself, trying to change habits for the better spending my time. That way I can get more

of things I want done instead of having an endless backlog of personal projects. And this class honestly helped with that, there were a ton of insights of various aspects of the mind, and knowing those aspects allows you to be aware of the reasonings of my own actions. Making it possible to change some of those actions. This has allowed me to become a better engineer one that waste less time therefore has become more knowledgeable in my craft.

Overall, I'm really happy that I branched out and mixed up the classes I took for gen eds I really felt that they furthered me as a person in my knowledge of those subjects. As well as improving myself as a person. All this comes together to making me a better engineer. The lessons learned will no doubt be invaluable in the future to come. So look forward to the future experiences of my life and what the many lessons I can learn from them will be.