

CPRE 494: General Education Reflection
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Throughout my undergraduate studies here at Iowa State University (ISU) I have been able to learn about a variety of topics related to Computer Engineering, but I have also been able to learn about non-engineering related topics. One of the most impactful non-engineering classes that I took was Leadership Studies 322: Leadership Styles and Strategies in a Diverse Society. In this class, I learned about some of the many different leadership styles and tactics. This class has provided me with the confidence and tools necessary to lead diverse groups in any of my future endeavors, along with helping me understand my own strengths and weaknesses so that I can use them to my advantage. This is by far the most impactful class I have taken for learning to be a leader.

Another class that gave me a new perspective and helped expand my knowledge was Classical Studies 273: Greek and Roman Mythology. In this class we read and analyzed Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. Through the analysis of the stories, I learned about analyzing stories from the past and how myths like this intertwine within the culture of a society. By comparing my interpretations of the stories with others interpretations, the large range of perspectives that may have formed from one source became clear. Knowing this, I will better be able to maintain an open mind when working in groups and will be more likely to try and figure out other perspectives on issues I experience.

Aside from learning about the different perspectives and cultural influences of stories spread within a culture, I was also able to gain a better understanding of the influence of politics on a culture in my Russian 375: Russia Today class. In this class, we analyzed many different topics and events that are relevant in contemporary Russia's history. This included looking at the major cultural shifts and events throughout

Russia's history. Learning about these shifts has helped open up my perspective on what people fight for and, to a degree, what drives people to make the choices they do. All of this will help me prioritize what I think is important throughout life and help me remember that everybody's background is complex and may be completely different from my own.

With all the non-engineering focused topics I learned about here I Iowa State, I will be a much more conscientious person and be able to try and find new perspectives in what I am working on. It will also motivate me to try and understand why people do what they choose to do, and give me the ability to lead in my teams to the best of my ability.