

General education courses have provided me with a different aspect than those of engineering and other basic courses taken over the course of my college career. Although they may not be as technical or advanced as some of the other required courses, they do a great job at giving us students the chance to learn about other topics that we may get to utilize in the future to tackle unique challenges. Realizing that not everything is meant to be thought of in the technical or logical way that a lot of courses teach provides us with out of the box thinking and may give us insight that other people may not have. This can be for simple reasons such as the information we learned becomes useful in particular situations or more complex in the way that they can connect those more technical classes together in a way that we can come to a solution that we may not have otherwise.

The first general education course I took in college was social psychology. This class taught me to understand the way people think, especially in groups, and use this to my advantage in scenarios where persuading or coercing someone is needed. This can be very helpful in the more legal side of cyber security engineering as dealing with people is inevitable and being able to efficiently and effectively convey ideas or strategies that may need to be incorporated is inevitable. Understanding the way people think is also very important as when defending the cyber space from attackers requires one to be able to see things from the attacker's side and use that to your advantage by stopping them in their tracks, before they can even get the initial advantage. Another class that I took and really enjoyed was world religions. This class taught the origins and practices of many religions seen today such as Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and some others. This class was super interesting and gave me a wide view on how different religions affect the way people may think as well as just providing an in-depth history of how they came to be. While this class is definitely not very relatable to engineering or problem solving, it provides another broad area of understanding on how all these different religions came to their beliefs and how they see the world differently. The reason this is helpful to me is because it allows me to look at situations from different perspectives, showing me that there is not just a singular view point and that if you shift your thinking, even a little bit, it may lead to a completely different outcome. This can also be related to the earlier mentioned class, social psychology, in the way that it is a lot about how people think, and understanding these social queues and ideologies is very important for conveying ideas efficiently and realizing there are many ways to shift your thinking to better prepare for any situation.