General Education Reflection

General Education Courses

1. ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics
   I would say that this class has not impacted my engineering education. I believe though, that this class can be helpful to someone with interest in it. It does help gain perspective on impacts of engineering projects and is useful, but not to me.
2. ENGL 250: Written, Oral, and Electronic Composition
   This helped me develop my skills as a writer, and explainer. It helped me because now, though not the best, am better at explaining topics, ideas, and reasoning in different forms.
3. SP COM 212: Fundamentals of Public Speaking
   This helped me because being an engineer doesn't mean only working with and for other engineers. We also have to be able to present and explain to people, problems and our solution to them. I am now better at this skill that will help me relate and speak to groups about engineering topics
4. SOC 134: Introduction to Sociology
   It helped me realize that even in engineering problems, we need to take people into account. That people are very influenced by the things around them. Going into most problems that deal with people, I now have this in mind and continue to account for peoples influence on things and vice versa
5. TSC 220: Global Sustainability
   This didn't help me a lot. Software engineering doesn't have a whole lot to do with sustainability practices. I am not going to have to deal with that topic. However, it would be helpful to almost every other discipline in engineering. I do believe it gave me a perspective on sustainability issues.
6. ENGL 314: Technical Communication
   Like SP COM 212, this class was meant for engineers and other technical professions to be able to convey ideas in a clear and concise way. I now have this skill set, to a certain degree. It helped me realize how people read and interpret engineering topics, and how I can better relay information to my specified reader/user/.
7. Relig 220: Introduction to the Bible
   This class did not really help me in my engineering education. It was not meant to help me there, but it did help me see that different viewpoints and perspectives exist for almost all things
8. RELIG 210: Religion in America

This class had the same impact on me that RELIG 220 did. IT helped solidify that there are a lot of different perspectives in the world on the same issues.

Current Goals

Short Term

My short term goals are mainly in place to get me on my feet and able to go into the job world with some experience, money and ambition. I separate this main goal into a couple of stages. Stage 1 is graduation. That seems very redundant to say, but I put that in place so I don't think too far ahead and lose track of where I'm at and what the immediate task at hand is. When I am graduated, or the second stage, I will have a degree and 2 internships under my belt. The place I interned at will most likely offer me a position, and another place already has. This gives me a nice safety cushion, so I can see if that is really what I want to do, or to use it as a stepping stone. Right now, I don't know what exactly I want to do. By that I mean, I'm not sure what specific discipline or position I want to pursue in software engineering. So my short term goal is to graduate, then find a job to use as a stepping stone and as inspiration to go into the world of software engineering with ambition.

Long Term

As I see it, long term goals, in terms of time, are at least 5 years in the future. It isn't so much in my nature to look that far ahead. I don't know where I'm going to be at. I don't know exactly what I;m going to do. Because of that, I like to keep myself open. This will help me look out for and seize opportunities when they arise. There are a few fields that seem interesting to me. Audio programming, app development, and data science are ones that I might want to pursue later on in the future. So having this in mind, my long term goals are to hone in on what I am ambitious about and look for opportunities to work on them.

Impact Reflection

Learning Reflection

Through general education classes, I have gained knowledge and intuition on other aspects of engineering outside the technical ones. With this knowledge and intuition, I can better evaluate both mine and others engineering solutions. One of the limitations is that it doesn't help me at all to formulate new ideas. That is not really how engineering works in my opinion. To expound. These general education courses are to teach about these specific topics. Their secondary outcome happened to be an influencer on my evaluation and perspective. That can help in evaluation, but because a lot of solutions are based off of engineering principles, they don't help to create solutions. I mentioned

perspectives. This is what I use to help me evaluate engineering solutions better. There are other perspectives to consider in whether or not a solution is good or how good it is. Because these solutions impact people both in the intended way and in not intended ways, we sometimes forget to consider those impacts we do not see directly. I now have more inclination to consider those impacts, if they are negative or positive, and if the good impacts outweigh the bad.

Impact on Thought Process

In reality, I wouldn't say, that all of my classes help me think better at all in my engineering classes or in problems pertaining to the engineering domain. However, that's not to say none did. There were a few that have influenced me to some extent. The way they influenced me was not directly to help me be a better problem solver or to increase my technical knowledge. They did help me become a more well rounded, and thus, better engineer. I also am able to look at and think about problems pertaining top engineering differently. As mentioned when talking about each class, I stated that I gained a new or better perspective in a few of them. This perspective mainly helps me think about how this problem or solution is going to affect eh world around me. Affecting people, economics, culture, and implicitly society is what I think about know on top of the technical questions.

Other Dimensions to Consider

The reality is that engineering is a very small domain in relation to every structure and practice in the world. Because of that, engineering mixes in with these. Engineering both affects, other parts of the world, and is affected by other parts of the world. So when anybody is engaging in engineering practices, if that specific problem relates to anything outside of engineering, they have to consider dimensions about those things. Being influenced is not much to consider because if it doesn't affect the quality of your software, then its fine. The other thing is that when influenced, projects and engineers tend to pass on that influence into the domain(s) that are affected by that project. So the real thing to look at here is how we are influencing things outside of ourselves. The biggest dimension we have to look at is a societal one. With a lot of advancements, we have been able to connect people through social media. That is software that has had a major impact. Also, security is another one. Security is always an issue, but software is an even bigger deal. Also, when software makes things more efficient, it usually makes things cost less. Going further, this indirectly impacts the economy. These are the major dimensions of consideration, but there are more as well. Engineering is able to influence culture, society, and economics in ways we are still figuring out. Knowing this and learning what exactly tro consider and how to address it are some things I've learned in my general education.