

Claudia Athens

CPR E 494

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General Education Reflection

My current career goals revolve around me completing my B.S. Computer Engineering in May 2019 and starting full-time at John Deere in its Engineering Development Program shortly after. I will simultaneously work towards my M.E. Computer Engineering. Together, these will help me further my career and my engineering knowledge. It is my current ambition to rise to the ranks of senior engineer and eventually into engineering management. These experiences will help me develop technical skills. I will not get to where I want to be unless I also develop “soft” skills. That’s where courses like my general education courses come into play. As part of my general education education, I took ENGL 201, HIST 221, HIST 222, HIST 383, and JL MC 477. In this reflection, I will focus solely on HIST 383 and JL MC 477 because the other courses I transferred in from DMACC in high school. The interesting engineering problem I would like to address is actually working in the engineering field with diverse people. My general education courses have taught me about other cultures histories and how that can help others be more respectful and empathetic to other people.

HIST 383: Technology, Public Science, and European Culture, 1715-Present taught me about another part of the world. As my course in international perspectives, it gave me insight into how the continent of Europe came to be. The course discussed topics from everything from the Renaissance up until more recent events like the end of the Cold War. This course was

helpful because it was a reminder that while I don't get out of Iowa much, there is a lot else to the world. America is not at the center of everyone's world, and the people I will work with might be from other countries. These other places will have a rich history and possibly different traditions and holidays. It's important to respect that for other people. Engineering is becoming more of an international field, and engineers need the skills to address that challenge.

JL MC 477: Diversity in the Media is teaching me about the different cultures and histories of the diverse groups in the United States. In particular, some of the units we have had are about the LGBT community, the African American community, and the Asian American community. It's important to welcome all groups of people and many companies have policies concerning diversity and inclusion. This class has helped me understand empathy and be more empathetic to other groups. Understanding the struggles minority groups face puts a different perspective on things. When people are more empathetic in the workplace, there will be less conflicts at work and I would imagine people will be more successful in leading. Especially nowadays where there are clear racial tensions across the country and people in support of reducing LGBT rights, it's important to know how to work with others whether they have a different background from you or are from another country.