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General Education Reflection

I was fortunate enough to enter Iowa State with over 9 credits of general education courses already applied to my program. This made it so that I could spend my Freshman year focused on engineering centered coursework. This means that I only had to complete English 314 or technical communications and 2 higher level general education classes.

I chose Religion 358, Introduction to Islam as my first general education class at Iowa State. I have attended private Catholic schools from a very young age, so I thought it would be a nice change of pace to learn about another religion other than Catholicism from a more non-secular perspective. I learned a lot not only about Islam, but about its history and the people who practice it. This class gave me a much greater appreciation for the wider world and how religion fits its way into the lives of many and shifts their perspectives on the world, others, and the meaning of life.

History 396C, Global Historic Topics was my second general election class. For the semester that the class was offered, the professor that was teaching it chose mankind's ventures in flight as the topic. I have always been interested in planes and man-made flying machines since I was very young, so I was interested in getting a comprehensive understanding of the

entire history of flight from its beginning to the modern age. It was insightful to see how both war and fear of others play into the innovations into flight and how this unhealthy competition leads to many problems for the constituents of countries. Using flight as a way to explore the relationships between nations and their innovations is a unique spin on the development of technologies such as airplanes.

Both of these classes taught me various things that I would not have learned or been exposed to in the core cybersecurity classes. I am grateful that I took both of these courses not only to diversify my knowledge and college experience as well as give my brain a break from technical and coding classes. They have given me a unique perspective on the world and people around me.