

General Education Reflection

Nick Battani
CPR E 494

During my time at Iowa State, I had the opportunity to take Politics of the Middle East (POL S 350), Women in Science and Engineering (BIO 307), and Russia Today (RUS 375X). The other two required general education classes were filled by AP history courses I took during high school, one of them coming in as POL S 215. All three of these courses have shown relevance to my engineering degree and will most likely help me in the future.

POL S 350 and RUS 375X focused on relevant problems that are facing their respective regions today. This is important because as an engineer it is our responsibility to solve problems and help people. Being able to identify problems around the world that are currently affecting communities helps to generate ideas for solutions for said communities. The in-class discussions that were held in which different sides were able to voice their opinions on the different subjects helped to develop communication and listening skills that are essential for an engineer to have.

BIO 307 was a great class for learning about the issues that face women in the engineering workforce. As someone who does not identify as a woman, it is important for me to understand the challenges they face so that I can be a better ally. It was also interesting to participate in the discussions, as they provided perspective but also helped to build clear and concise communication skills when it comes to sensitive topics.

All in all, the general education course I have taken at Iowa State has helped me to succeed in becoming a well-rounded engineer who is able to communicate effectively and identify problems in the world.