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Reflection on General Education At Iowa State University

My journey through general education at Iowa State has been surprisingly relevant to my engineering studies, even when some of my courses originated at DMACC. Each class offered a unique perspective that I now notice informs the way I approach engineering problems and solutions.

ANTHR 201, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, taught me that humans are diverse and what seems "normal" in one context may be completely foreign elsewhere. In engineering, this translates to recognizing that solutions I design might seem obvious to me but may not work for everyone. It reminded me to consider perspective, context, and adaptability when creating systems.

ECON 102, Principles of Macroeconomics, showed me that money, markets, and behavior are complicated, unpredictable, and often more psychological than logical. This awareness has made me more conscious that engineering solutions exist within larger economic systems. I now consider feasibility, cost, and human factors, not just technical correctness.

MUSIC 102, Introduction to Music Listening, demonstrated that art and structure can coexist. Music has rules, patterns, and logic, but creativity comes from knowing when and how to bend them. In engineering, understanding the fundamentals allows me to innovate thoughtfully rather than blindly follow procedures.

SOC 134, Introduction to Sociology, highlighted how interconnected society is and how actions ripple through social systems. Even small decisions can have broader consequences, emphasizing the importance of ethical and socially aware engineering. Understanding this broader context makes me more thoughtful in design and problem-solving.

Together, these courses have taught me to think critically about context, systems, and consequences. They reinforced the importance of continuous learning, seeking outside resources, and questioning assumptions. While they were not engineering classes in the traditional sense, they have enhanced the way I approach problems, communicate ideas, and consider the ethical and social impacts of the solutions I create.