

Engineering problems cannot be solved solely through technical means. Engineering problems have a large impact across human, societal, and organization environments. Throughout my time at Iowa State I have taken general education courses that I have connected with engineering to see the greater impact on what I will be doing as an engineer. I will be going over two courses in this reflection, SOC 1340 (Introduction to Sociology) and MGMT 3710 (Organizational Behavior).

In SOC 1340 one of the main takeaways that I had that related to engineering was that everyone comes from different backgrounds. Some people grow up in different places and each place comes with a unique set of challenges to overcome. I have applied this knowledge when thinking about requirements for my engineering projects. I will consider more groups of people from a variety of backgrounds rather than just one specific person. I also connected sociology to cyber security with how user data is stored by companies. In society it is widely accepted that companies have to store their data to be able to use their products, but companies will often store more data that is strictly needed to provide their customers with a good product. I think society can try to stand up to these companies and try to keep their personal information more private.

In MGMT 3710, I learned about how important business goals and team dynamics are in an organization. When making an engineering design/decision, it must factor in the business goals and the ability of the team to be a good decision. When I make engineering decisions now I will make sure the bigger goal is incorporated into the decision to confirm that what I am doing will help contribute to the overall success of my team. I will also factor in the team dynamics, like how much workload our team already has or what skills our team is good at to better decide a better direction forward on certain tasks.

Overall, SOC 1340 and MGMT 3710 gave me an improved perspective on society and organizations and how I can apply my knowledge to make better decisions as an engineer beyond my technical skills. I will apply my knowledge of societal backgrounds when creating requirements for an engineering project and I will apply my knowledge of team dynamics and business goals to help me make more informed engineering decisions.