

Robin Bartels

MiT Endorsement Essay - History

My undergraduate education at The Evergreen State College has provided me with a strong foundation to teach history. Its interdisciplinary approach allowed me to explore history, power, social movements, and culture from multiple perspectives. Through coursework emphasizing critical thinking, primary source analysis, and historiography, I have developed a deep understanding of historical events and their lasting impact on contemporary society. These courses have prepared me to teach early U.S. history, the Founding era through Reconstruction, and 20th-century history.

Additionally, *Reinterpreting Liberation: Third World Movements and Migrations* strengthened my ability to teach U.S. multicultural history and women's history. This course, along with *Middle East/South Asian Studies* and *Latin American Studies*, deepened my understanding of how marginalized communities have shaped history. Examining social justice movements, intersectionality, and systemic inequalities has enhanced my ability to teach history through a diverse and inclusive lens while connecting U.S. history to broader world developments.

Despite this strong foundation, I recognize areas where I need to further develop my expertise, such as Pacific Northwest history and civics. While *Introduction to Pacific Northwest Ethnobotany* touched on regional studies, I plan to expand my knowledge through additional coursework or independent study. Similarly, while my studies in *Political Economy* and *Current Economic and Social Issues* covered elements of government and economics, I aim to deepen my understanding of U.S. civics to strengthen my teaching in this area.

Beyond formal coursework, my professional and life experiences have also contributed to my content knowledge. My background in political economy has sharpened my analytical skills, essential for teaching history and social studies. Additionally, my leadership roles in fast-paced work environments have honed my ability to communicate complex ideas effectively, manage diverse groups, and foster an inclusive learning environment.

To address any remaining gaps, I am committed to continuous professional development through further reading, coursework, and collaboration with experienced educators. By combining my academic background with real-world experience and ongoing learning, I am confident in my ability to provide students with a comprehensive and engaging history education.