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Evergreen MiT Endorsement Checklist Essay

Throughout my educational experience, I am fortunate to have received well-rounded instruction in English literature. My professors at Western Washington University have supplied me with the novels and works of major authors who are well-known and represented in the standard English curriculum. However, they have also helped me to explore authors and conceptual works repressed by the conventional literary canon. These classes have allowed me to understand the importance of a fully comprehensive study of traditional works, and also the history behind them. To ask questions like, who is represented in these stories, who isn't, why? How can we ever properly understand a story, much less teach, if we don't understand the societal background of the author's world?

A class that really changed the way I read literature was Critical Theories of the 19th Century to the Present. In this class, we discussed the philosophical, linguistic, and social changes throughout that period, and how different theorists pushed against traditional narratives and opened up new ways of thinking. For my final paper, I dove into Chandra Talpade Mohanty's, "Under Western Eyes," which completely changed my perspective on feminism and Colonial Discourse. However, while I learned a lot more than I knew, I believe that there is so much more to seek out. That is why I will be taking a course dedicated to Tony Morrison and Audre Lorde's work in critical theories this spring.

Regarding gaps in my English literature education, my main goal would be to continue seeking out the works of people and groups who have been excluded from the field. Without these texts, we cannot truly consider our understanding of English literature a complete one. Of course, I also am an avid reader and am working through my own list of "150 classics to read before I turn 30." Between these tasks, I hope to continue growing a fully comprehensive understanding of the field. Learning and growing, I intend to continue my studies as an English student throughout my teaching career.