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MIT Program
09/30/2024

ENDORSEMENT ESSAY

Reviewing my coursework, I am confident that my academic background has provided a comprehensive and strong foundation for teaching in the social studies endorsement area. My studies span key areas, including U.S. history, world history, economics, political science, and other social sciences, each contributing to a deep understanding of the subject matter. However, I recognize the need for further coursework, particularly in Pacific Northwest history and geography, which I plan to address in the coming year.

In U.S. history, I have completed courses covering major eras from pre-European contact through the 20th century, such as “American History to 1877” and “U.S. History 1820-present.” These courses, complemented by studies in multicultural and women’s history, have equipped me with a deep understanding of the events and movements that have shaped the nation, enabling me to approach history education with an inclusive perspective. Although I have a solid understanding of world history, I will focus on expanding my knowledge of the Pacific Northwest. To this end, I will enroll in “American Indian Treaties: Historical and Contemporary Analysis” during the Winter quarter of 2024. This course will explore the treaties between American Indian Tribes and the U.S. government, focusing on their historical and modern implications. This will deepen my understanding of the region’s history, which is essential for teaching students in this area.

I will also take “GIS: StoryMaps and Apps” to meet the geography requirement during the Winter quarter of 2024. This course will develop my skills in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), particularly in creating StoryMaps that combine spatial data with narrative elements. These skills will enable me to teach geography in a way that is both engaging and relevant to students. Additionally, I will take “Asylums: Institutions of Social Control in American History” in the Spring quarter of 2024. This course will allow me to earn eight social science credits while exploring the history of institutions like mental asylums and prisons. It will provide a unique perspective on how society has managed social problems, enriching my approach to teaching social studies and ensuring I meet the necessary credit requirements.

In conclusion, while my coursework has provided a solid foundation for teaching social studies, I am deeply committed to furthering my education in Pacific Northwest history, geography, and other social sciences. By enrolling in these additional courses, I am determined to be fully prepared to offer my students a rich and comprehensive social studies education that draws from both local and global contexts.