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Evergreen State College

Endorsement Checklist Essay

A Diverse Class in a Diverse World

Throughout my tenure in the world of education I have taken a plethora of courses and accumulated a wide range of knowledge that will greatly support my ability in the classroom. My hope is to teach history, and the courses I have taken represent my planned approach to history; it is an approach of diversity and truth, an approach that wishes to challenge historical myth and place history as the very real and diverse story that it is.

One of my favorite courses I took during my time at Saint Martin's University was Dr. Brian Barnes' course "History of American Immigration" which looked at the diverse struggles and historical contexts that drove immigration to the United States and looked at the unique struggles that face immigrants and their descendants. Our classrooms are filled with these diverse stories and struggles and taking the time to teach about these things will allow students to both understand their peers and the greater context of America, but also demonstrate the diversity of history opposed to the classical American myth traditionally presented to our students.

Dr. Barnes also taught another wonderful class focusing on American history after 1945. We spent much of the course not only learning about the cultural and political developments of America through the time period, but there also was a heavy focus on the gradual expansion of the power of the unitary executive within the American government that started with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. The focus on unitary power is deeply important and relevant in our current national climate as constitutional liberties and law are being superseded by the power of the unitary executive right now.

Another course deeply relevant to the teaching of history that I thoroughly enjoyed was Dr. Keri Graham's course entitled "The History of Sexuality". This course not only places queer life into the historical context that is largely ignored in all classrooms, but also taught how gender roles and how thoughts toward sexuality has changed throughout history. The most important part of this, to me, is the placement of queerness in history. I wish to show to my students that queerness is not a new phenomenon, and queer people have in fact always existed. This will help influence diversity and understanding in the classroom and will help marginalized students feel comfortable and safe in the classroom and feel represented in history.

The only things that I am lacking in my coursework are the required credits in geography and economics. My plan to remedy this gap is to take the relevant courses at Evergreen during my tenure there, before I finish my MiT. Once accepted into the program, I plan on meeting with an Evergreen academic advisor to help me find these courses and work them into my schedule in the most helpful and streamlined manner possible.

I have of course taken more relevant courses, and I could write all day about how each specific course has shaped my approach to the classroom, but I believe that the selection I have provided above demonstrates the key emphasis of my teaching plans; an emphasis on diversity and inclusion. I want my students to see both history and the world for what it is, a truly diverse place in which we can all see ourselves.