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Student ID

After spending six years in the military I came to The Evergreen State College with a strong sense of leadership, personal courage, and responsibility, and chose to use those attributes as the foundation for my continuing education. I had a desire to continue working on my leadership skills, as I felt that it was what I was best suited for. I began taking politically based classes which started with an introduction into geopolitics. I began to see the world from a new perspective, which was how cultures shaped their world view. This acted as the springboard into world religion as my academic emphasis. With religion as the focal point of my education, I chose to study this in a unique manner by looking at the world's religions through two perspectives: history and philosophy. By doing so, I have obtained a firm grasp on both the cultural perspectives of people across the world, and how these people see the world around them. I have also studied religions through the scope of time and how religions have impacted the world culturally and geographically.

From a historical perspective, the approach to world religions has helped me develop many transferrable skills. After my time in the military working in group settings, academia was my first opportunity to work from an individual standpoint. Each quarter at school I was set with the task of doing an extensive amount of research into the history of religions, cultures, and regions, enabling me to build a solid foundation in my ability to conduct intense research. With this research I created and presented unique arguments in a clear manner through research papers sometimes as long as 25 pages. Through this, I manifested a strong ability to synthesize separate topics into something new, and persuade through logical and analytical reasoning, that my standpoint was correct. My capacity to think objectively and approach problems with an open mind was my strongest ally in this endeavor.

Studying the religions of the world through philosophy was more abstract than studying them through history. From this approach I was able to build upon my ability to analyze critically by attempting to understand world views other than my own. This gave me the opportunity to solve problems from perspectives that I was previously unaware of. Through courses in religious philosophy, I also approached ethics from various cultural perspectives, giving insight into the differing laws and governances of the world. This was also where I built upon my oral presentation and communication skills. I gave numerous presentations, on average 15 minutes long, where I became proficient at speaking in front of large crowds. During my senior year I studied Chinese as a foreign language allowing me to go more in depth into my interest of Chinese philosophy and culture. My application of the Chinese language goes beyond the field of philosophy and also enables me to communicate with a more diverse audience.

Overall, my time at The Evergreen State College was an incredibly rewarding experience. I have gained skills that will be of use to me in all future endeavors, both academically and professionally. Through the constant challenges that have been presented to me, I have built a strong sense of motivation to overcome all struggles. Through studying world religions I have come to the belief that we have more in common than what is assumed and have gained an understanding and appreciation of cultures all across the globe. With what I have gained from my time in college and the military I will take with me as I move forward, giving me a unique opportunity and responsibility to act as a bridge between people.