

end-of-course

May 17, 2024

— title: "End-Of-Course Reflection" type: "Reflection" date: 2024-05-15 description: | We reflect on our learning, engagement, and achievement over the course of the semester. objectives: - Reflection publish: "true" —

1 Instructions

- [Download this notebook](#)
- Open the notebook in an editor of your choice (I recommend either VSCode or JupyterLab).
- Delete the first two cells of the notebook (i.e. this one and the raw cell above).
- Briefly review the goals you set for yourself in our [goal-setting activity](#) at the beginning of the course. You can find your goals on Canvas.
- In the **The Data** section, replace the blanks with brief responses.
- In the **What you Learned** and **Reflecting on Goals** sections, write down your reflections on your learning, achievement, and presence in CSCI 0451 in the provided markdown cells.
- Take some time to reflect on your responses so far. When you're ready, move on to **propose the letter grade** that you feel best reflects your learning, participation, and achievement in CSCI 0451.
- Submit the notebook as a PDF on Canvas.
- **Make an appointment with me** (use the link posted on Canvas) in which we will discuss your learning in the course and your final grade.

There are lots of ways to render Jupyter notebooks as PDFs. The simplest way is to run this at the command line, after you've navigated to the location of the notebook:

```
jupyter nbconvert --to pdf end-of-course.ipynb
```

2 CSCI 0451: End-Of-Course Reflection

Donovan Wood

2.1 The Data

In this section I'll ask you to fill in some data. You don't have to give precise numbers – approximate, conversational responses are fine. For example, when I ask “how often did you attend class,” good answers include “almost always,” “I missed three times,” “about 75% of the time,” “not as often as I wanted,” etc.

2.1.1 Presence in Class

- *How often did you attend class?* (e.g. “almost always,” “I missed three times,” etc.) Always unless I was sick
- *How often did you take notes on the core readings ahead of the class period?* I missed once or twice, but if I had the time, I would read through
- *How often were you **prepared** to present the daily warm-up exercise to your team, even if you weren’t actually called?* Every time due to social fear
- *How many times did you **actually** present the daily warm-up to your team?* Only once surprisingly, I rarely got drew on.
- *How many times did you ask your team for help while presenting the daily warm-up?* None
- *How often did you learn something new from a teammate’s presentation of the daily warm-up?* Often, most of the time, at least one person took a different approach to a problem so it was interesting to see how they solved it.
- *How often did you help a teammate during the daily warm-up presentation?* Only once or twice, most times everyone was really prepared.
- *Did you contribute a question for our guest speaker?* If we are talking about the WIDS speaker, then yes.

2.1.2 Presence Outside of Class

- *How often did you attend Student Hours or Peer Help?* I employed Bell’s help a few times on occasion
- *How often did you ask for or receive help from your fellow students?* Not often, which looking back on it, I should have done more.
- *Did you regularly participate in a study group outside class?* Not really, outside of our project group, I did not interact with my peers as much as I could have.
- *How often did you post questions or answers in Slack?* Only through Dming Professor I interacted on slack (outside of project proposals) However, if I ran into an issue with a blog post I’d scan through slack to see if anyone else had the same issue.

2.1.3 Assignments and Effort

- *How many blog posts did you submit?* 7 (Potentially 8 if I can get my last one in)
- *How many of your submitted blog posts are at each of the following feedback stages?*
 - No revisions suggested: 7
 - Revisions useful: _____
 - Revisions encouraged: _____
 - Incomplete: _____
- *Roughly how many hours per week did you spend on this course outside of class?* Roughly 20 or so, some blog posts really stumped me and took way longer than anticipated.

2.2 What You Learned

At the beginning of the course, you may have expressed an interest in focusing a little extra on one or two of the following four categories:

- **Theory:** mathematical descriptions of frameworks and algorithms.
- **Implementation:** effective coding and use of tools in order to implement efficient machine learning algorithms.

- **Experimentation:** performing experiments to assess the performance of algorithms and clearly communicating about the results.
- **Social responsibility:** critical analysis of sources of bias and harm in machine learning algorithms; theoretical formulations of fairness and bias

Did you choose to focus on any of these categories? If so, what did you do in order to pursue your interest?

Looking back, I really tried to focus on Theory and Implementation. The most recent thing I can think of was during our final project. I tried to really dive deep into research papers, online forums, and basically any information that I could find in order to extend my knowledge on the project we were walking on. Using that knowledge, I would basically just mess around in a Jupiter Notebook trying to figure out how to implement the new information I had learned. If you actually look at the source code of one of the components in our final project, it is just hundreds of lines of code of me just messing around. It was useful though because we were able to take the snibbits that did indeed work, and apply them to our project.

2.3 Reflecting on Goals

For each of the categories below, replace the “[your response here]” cell with 1-2 paragraphs in which you reflect on the following questions:

- *In what ways did you **meet** your goals from the beginning of the course? Be specific: explain what the goal was and what you did to meet it.*
- *In what ways did you **not meet** your goals from the beginning of the course? Be specific: explain what the goal was and what the gap was between what you aspired to and what happened.*
- *If there’s any **context** you want to share about how you fared relative to your goals, please do!*

2.3.1 Blog Posts

According to my original goals from the beginning of the semester, I did technically achieve what I set out to do in the sense that I tried to complete as many blog posts as I could. That being said, as evident in above sections, I was unable to completely finish all of them, but the ones that I did finish I am proud of for the work I put behind them and the things I learned. One of things I did not want to do throughout the semester is sacrifice quality for quantity. Even though I did not complete the BIG GOAL of completing all of the Blog Posts I set out to do, the work that I have done thus far, I am proud of.

2.3.2 Course Presence (Participation)

This was one that I believe I stayed true to my original goal. There were definitely times where I could have participated more, but I believe that I did a good job of participating in class. I was always present, always prepared, and always ready to learn. I think that I did a good job of being present in class and participating in the discussions. I think that I could have done a better job of participating in the slack channel, but I think that I did a good job of participating in class.

As a note, much of this came from social anxiety! Haha, but on a realistic note, this class was one of the classes that interested me the most, and due to that, I was able to stay motivated and present in class.

2.3.3 Project

The project was great! I think the goals I set out earlier accurately reflect the outcome we were able to achieve. I stressed that I did not want to make the perfect trading model, but rather to learn and understand the process of creating a trading model. I think that we did a good job of achieving that goal. I learned so much about the quant finance world and the aspects that go into it which was what I wanted from the very beginning, even just going into the class.

I had a blast developing the model with my project partners and hope that it serves as a reputable foundation for the future of my career.

2.3.4 Other

Is there anything else that you want to share with me about what you learned, how you participated, or what you achieved in CSCI 0451?

I want to personally thank Professor Chodrow for the amazing semester and for believing in me. Originally going into it, I did not have the pre requisites for the class, but Professor Chodrow allowed me to join, on the condition that I would work hard and do what I needed to do to be ready to learn. I believe that was a huge element of the fun and success I found taking this class.

Thank you!

3 Your Proposed Letter Grade

Take 15 minutes to look back on your responses in each of the sections above. Then, make a proposal for the letter grade that you feel best reflects your learning, participation, and achievement in CSCI 0451. Here are some soundbytes to help guide your thinking:

*An **A** sounds like:*

- *“I am very proud of my time in this course.”*
- *“I have grown significantly in multiple ways that matter to me.”*
- *“I am ready to take the theory, techniques, and ideas of this course into my future classes, projects, hobbies, or career.”*

*A **B** sounds like:*

- *“I had some opportunities to learn more, overall I feel good about my time in this course.”*
- *“I am able to explain some new things or achieve new tasks.”*
- *“I can see a few ideas from this course that will be relevant for my future classes, projects, hobbies, or career.”*

*A **C** sounds like:*

- *“I often made a good effort, but I missed many opportunities to get more out of my time in this course.”*
- *“I might be able to complete some new tasks related to the course content, but only with significant further guidance.”*
- *“I don’t see any ways to take the contents of this course into my future classes, projects, hobbies, or career.”*

You might find that some of these soundbytes resonate and other's don't! Take some time, see what feels right, and don't be afraid to celebrate your achievements.

Your proposed letter grade in this section should be based purely on demonstrations of learning that you have **already submitted**.

Upon reflection, I feel that my learning, participation, and achievement in CSCI 0451 are best reflected by a grade of A.

I am beyond proud of the work and effort I put into this class. I learned so much about machine learning and the implementation of such. Before joining the class, I didn't even know if I would be able to have success in the class, and through hard work and determination I believe I have done so. I stand on the far end of Blog Post Points (as of this week) and I am proud of the work that I have achieved within those posts.

This class was foundational to the my future career as a quantitative trader and I hope to expand upon the work I have accomplished in this class.