Reflections

Team takeaways:

* Communicated through Slack the entire class
* Had multiple channels setup – general and then a presentation/resources section where we’d post the slideshows or links to our recordings
* Never had a set-in-stone leader, most things were decided by group majority. We used slack polls, we communicated ideas together and discussed scheduling, etc.
* Some opportunities did come as far as “stepping up” since I was able to teach on a week that wasn’t assigned to me because my presentation was fortunately ready a week early on the same week we had some members bail
* It was nice to not have to take charge so much because everyone was active and voiced their opinions. There wasn’t a “teeth-pulling” feeling like there has been in other courses. The members that dropped were flaky from the start, so it didn’t have too much of an impact on us.
* Speaking of flaky, that was one of our biggest communication challenges. The entire group worked well with coordinating things but we had difficulty reaching out, or hearing back, rather, from those who weren’t as active. We just continually reached out and helped one another with topics and questions later on.

Due dates:

* I tried to give myself due dates but I didn’t honor them. I waited to do most of the work until the last few weeks. If I’d taken more of a hold I might’ve been able to finish the final project in less time than it took. Even though I didn’t have a concrete idea of what the final project would be when the class started, it would’ve been nice to start thinking of it sooner.

First I want to touch on what some of my old ideas were:

* Have to have a textbook to learn effectively
* Have to have weekly check-ins and grades to measure progress/learning
* Have to learn topics from the ground up to use them

Openness to new ideas

* Learning on my own vs reading a textbook. There were topics I was required to learn this semester that I didn’t have any experience with. Not having a textbook, not having that safety net, was a scary feeling. In most classes there’s something to blame if you’re not picking up on the material – the textbook didn’t explain it very well, my group didn’t participate, nobody taught this to me, etc. There are a million excuses. This class makes you take ownership of your own learning. You’re either going to pick up the basics or you’re not. It requires more effort than a lot of other classes I’ve taken and at the end you realize that while you still only have a very rudimentary understanding of these topics, you can at least learn more about whatever you need to. There’s nothing that tells you these two plugins don’t talk nicely. This class taught me it’s okay to spend hours figuring out a problem.
* Scheduling discussion amongst group towards end of class, being okay with ideas presented about the schedule. Open to allowing others to lead.
* Found examples of animations I wanted to replicate but they were written in jquery which I then had to translate into JS. (stars)
* Most classes I’ve taken a leadership role in, so it was nice to contribute with a team where ideas were shared and we talked things out instead of a single person making most decisions due to either lack of participation or people being nervous about presenting their ideas or not having read through any assignments.
* This is intimidating! Sometimes it felt like a waste of time and other times I was grateful for the basics I was learning. Overall a very humbling experience. You go through classes thinking everything is simple or at least do-able. Even the tough classes have tutors and means of finding the answers in text books most of the time. But the real world is different. There’s nobody there holding your hand and if you can’t do it they’ll find someone who can. Learning to apply principles and understand how things work together was most important. The hands on practice and application turned out to be very important too in understanding and applying MVC. There are a ton of different ways to change styles or manipulate a page, whether it’s hardcoded CSS or via JS. This class helped me understand best practices of when and how that’s possible.

Internship topics:

* While it helps you learn, once you’re out there you recognize all the skills you learned don’t necessarily translate. This class was strictly CSS with no jquery or bootstrap. My internship shies away from using strict CSS unless absolutely necessary and is requiring I learn jquery and bootstrap.