

COMM5961- 2019

Self Reflection

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I still remember the first pre-course workshop we had in September. That was the first time I had ever encountered coding, html, CSS and JavaScript etc. I was so scared and stressed after that day of workshop. It is because I have a quite demanding job but I am a full-time student at the same time. I was afraid that I would not have enough time to practice coding and understand the course materials outside class, and I am not good at computer at all.

However, I really wanted to learn the skills because of my personal experience. I am passionate about cooking so I opened an Instagram account called Tristaste in 2016 to share my recipes, and later a YouTube channel to publish my recipe video productions. Then, I worked at a media company called Day Day Cook when I graduated from Journalism & Communication in CUHK in 2018. I quitted the job since I think that my thoughts and attitudes towards cooking are different from the company. Since then I have been dreaming that someday I can create my own recipe website. I can work for myself with my own concept and creations.

Apart from that, when I tried to look at the website data when I was working there, I recognized that I lack knowledge about website statistics and data management. That was one of the reasons why I believe I should study a Master program about media to better equip myself with essential skills at the workplace.

Therefore, reviewing all these experiences, I decided to stay in the course and make the most of my Master study. I am now very happy that I did not give up at the beginning. Although I cannot say that I can master all the skills taught throughout the course, I have learnt the basics of design thinking, how to build a website and how to manage data etc.

I am especially impressed by the concept of design thinking taught in the course, which is a way of thinking that I was not used to and yet very useful. I realize

that there is so much to do before a final product, website or application can be launched. For example, we have to think from users' perspectives and conduct a user journey mapping to understand their needs and obstacles first, then find out their pain points and see how a new product can cope with the problem. Afterwards, we need to create several prototypes and carry out different kinds of usability tests to improve the product. More importantly, data needs to be collected after the product has been launched so that we know what problem do actual users encounter in daily usage, and think of solutions to improve. The entire process is seamless and systematic. In addition to the final website for the course project, I am sure that it is useful for my future career.

For the most difficult part of the course, to me it should be JavaScript. I remember when we were asked to build a game using JavaScript, I was so worried that I might not be able to hand in the assignment. I found a tutorial from online and spent three days working on the game assignment. Although it is a very simple game, I felt satisfied because it was not easy for me. I think this is also the charm of coding. We need to spend much time on writing some mysterious code and not knowing whether the content or function will show up. Sometimes symbols or lower/ upper case letters can cause error, which is very hard to recognize.

Therefore, when the final Tristaste website is done, I felt so happy! I did not use the Bootstrap templates and I built the website using Pingendo, because I want it to look the way I want. Although the design may not be professional and delicate enough at the moment, it is the first website that I have ever made and I am personally satisfied with it. After this course, I will keep revising the course materials and spend more time to enrich the content of this website. I really hope that someday it will become a mature recipe website with regular active users.

Lastly, I would like to thank Professor Suen for your teaching. Thank you for introducing new topics, thinking methods, useful applications and tools for us throughout the course. I find them all useful and I have already used some of them for my work now. For example, I use Airtable to store and manage product information for my boss, and use the gallery view to showcase products to our clients. This course is really practical. Thank you!