Personal Reflection

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As a student from arts department, I spent most of my study time reading papers and writing essays. So, at the beginning of this course it was hard for me to catch up because the course content was far beyond my knowledge and the course logic was quite different from other courses. With all these unsure and worry, I successful complete this semester's course feeling fulfilled.

This course somehow changes my way of thinking. The first shocked me was the video showing the process of redesigning the shopping cart. That case made me recognize that if we want to address a problem effectively, we must empathize with people who encounter the issue and fully understand their user journey. From then on, I begin to think a problem from different aspects, trying to understand the real needs of the audience instead of according to my own experience. Besides, computational thinking is also a new thing for me. It makes me pay more attention to data and looking for patterns of a problem. How to think like a science student with logic and support affects me a lot during the course.

In addition to thinking perspective, I also acquired lots of knowledge from practical aspect. The whole day workshop at the beginning of the course still pops in my mind from time to time. It opened a new world for me and introduced me a new language. Back then I thought HTML and CSS was so difficult that I would never handle them. While, with more knowledge I acquired, I gradually formed a general idea of the digital world which made the learning process become much easier. When I learnt JavaScript, a more complex world shown to me and later JQUERY, API, etc. was taught. I realized that the more I learn, the more I need to learn.

Now, I have a deeper understanding of working with computer. I know that building a website is more than putting some elements in a page, it needs systematic logic and lots of pre-work, like defining the problem, organizing web structure, dealing with data, information visualization, etc.. People working in this fields not only need to master professional knowledge but also need to be T-Shaped talent so that they are able to address issues properly. This drives me to study harder as well as broaden my horizons. Although I know that there is still a long way to go for having a deeper understanding in this field, I believe what I learnt from this course can help me seize more opportunities in future job hunting.

In terms of the learning goals of future, I want to learn something about Python. Python is so popular in mainland China these years that even primary school students learn it, which make me curious about what it is and what the difference between Python and JavaScript. Besides, I wish learning Python can help me become more competitive in job hunting market.

According to my search, Python is great for backend web development, data analysis, artificial intelligence, and scientific computing which are hot these years. I'm especially excited to learn about AI, either because it is cutting-edge technology or because I cannot wait to design an AI product basing on my own ability.

Overall, knowledge I learnt during this semester make me fulfilled and arouse my interest in exploring more new things. I believe I will learn faster and better thanks to what I acquired already.