**Personal Reflection**

When I first started to take the class, I thought it was only about “coding” and designing a simple website. “If I have learned HTML, CSS and JavaScript, this class will be a piece of cake.” However, I might have been too “positive” and “blind”. Now the class has come to an end, and the most important thing I’ve learned from the class is not “coding” nor designing my own website, but the way of thinking behind every design.

I majored in engineering in my undergraduate school and I always consider “finishing the task” as my ultimate objective. I just follow the rules and apply what I’ve learned without thinking about “why”. This thinking habit accompanies me all along. When I was doing my Problem Set 2, the puzzle, I designed a calculator because I thought it could solve almost all basic “puzzles” related to numbers and perfectly applied the coding skills I learned at class. However, when I saw the good example my classmate did, the Hong Kong food finder, I realized the difference. I designed the calculator just to apply my knowledge of skills. I ignored why it should be designed with all kinds of online calculators already existing. Coding is more like a tool and it should be applied based on the strategy, the “why”.

Therefore, I focus more on the design thinking process before I design my website. In addition to applying the skills to solve the problem, defining the problem is the issue that needs to be solved first. Why the product needs to be designed, how to define the target users, how to find their pain points and define their problems, all these insights bring me with brand new ways of thinking. Stand in the position of users and emphasize their feelings, define their problems and then come up with the solution.

At the same time, the evaluation is also important. With evaluation and feedback, the process becomes a closed-loop system, which can be refined to better meet the ultimate objective. This also provides me with insights on how to assess outcomes of my design.

The competition in job markets has been more severe than before, which requires competitors to arm themselves with a larger variety of knowledge and skills. From this class, I have realized the importance of being a “T shape” talent, and I have taken actions to head for the goal by preparing myself with the design thinking and also the skills. Even in making other decisions, I also apply the design thinking process, which will save time and effort for me to get to the expected objective.

In addition to theories, this class provides me with precious practice experiences. For the future, I expect to get a job in the Internet industry or become a strategic planner, as I am more interested in the former research part and enjoy defining the problems and designing user journey map. I believe that design thinking will always accompany me and influence every action I take in the future.

A skill learned might be forgotten in a period of time if not practiced enough, but a way of thinking is like a habit, which can last for a long time and change one’s life. I believe developing a good way of thinking is even more important than mastering a skill. This class really helped me a lot.