## Goals and Expectations

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Last semester, I registered an account in cnblogs.com, which is a Chinese blog platform, in order to share my college study notes and communicate with those program veterans. After I upload my file, I found that my blog appearance is default and there is no decoration at all, unlike others whose blog has a clear UI, an exquisite dynamic background, and some intricate interactive animations. I was attracted by these fine pages and I wonder how to achieve such effects. I was told by the website’s administrator that I can design my blog’s appearance by writing CSS and Javascript, which I have no idea how to do. In that case, I chose this course to learn how to design an attractive website.

More than that, in the past, the network is always a tremendous vague project to me. As an example, In China, people cannot access certain websites like Youtube, Instagram, and Wiki, so we have to use VPN to jump outside the wall. However, although I know I need to do that, I do not know how the wall and VPN works and why I can access foreign websites by using VPN. Another instance, which is actually the problem I am dealing with right now, is that after installing our school’s VPN software, I cannot connect to RPI’s VPN and cannot open certain websites as well, even my laptop shows that I have connected to the WIFI. Similar to these circumstances, I have faced dozens of network problems in the past. When I searched for tutorials to solve these strange problems, I would see a lot of complicated and unfamiliar terms, like TCP/IP, DNS, and subnet mask. As a computer science major student, I think I should learn these things since I can take advantage of these skills to widen my circle of competence and to have a better understanding of computers, which, in turn, would reinforce my original skills. For instance, if I need to use python to do some web crawler job, by learning the components of a web page, I would know exactly which part contains the information I want.

Beyond that, I heard from my friend who took this course last semester that Professor Plotka not only teaches website, network, and server-related stuff, but also teaches entrepreneurship strategy, and would invite some popular IT companies’ employers for the guest lectures. I believe that by taking those classes, I would at least have some simple ideas about how to predict the future trend, catch the opportunity, and get users’ needs precisely, which would, in turn, help me to come up with some viable business solutions. This kind of ability would be good for my future career.