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<div align="center">Self-Reflection: Bodnar</div>

For this CMSC 500 Artificial Life Topics course, I have assigned myself an A. Throughout the year, I engaged in class numerous times by taking notes, talking to my peers, and making sure to ask questions when I did not know things. I attended all classes that I was not away for meets for and made sure to try and pay attention for the whole time. In the beginning when there were a lot of new phrases and keywords, I made sure to write them down and frequently review the ones that I was not so familiar with. If there were unfamiliar concepts that came up in class that I needed a refresher on, I would make sure not to just sit there in silence but instead ask for more clarification; this was most evident during the parts of the class where biology was very prevalent. Although I took a lot of notes and talked in small groups, one thing I could do better is speak out in class-wide discussions instead of holding back and simply listening to everyone else contribute. This is something I have been working on in all of my classes over the years, not just in Artificial Life.

Another part of the course that I put evident effort into was the readings on Perusall. I tried to comment at least three different times per piece. I did not hold back when I did not know something and read through everyone's additions to the text, questions, answers, and comments alike. I opened and read the texts multiple times and did not just attempt to read everything in one go; this was easier to do when the texts were longer. Likewise, I oftentimes reread the papers and articles over a couple of days to make sure I did not skip through any important ideas or topics, which also conveniently served as a refresher closer to class time.

In addition to doing work on my own, I attended office hours when I needed help setting up my code, which happened when we were starting the MABE 2 projects. I also attended office hours for small problems I could not figure out on my own, like how to add to the self-evaluation. Along with that, I made sure to attend my self-check-ins and fill out the papers (except for the first one because I think I forgot). I tried to complete them accurately so they reflected on what I did well and what I needed to work on.

Towards the end of the year, during the final project, I chose documentation because I had originally struggled with that on a Windows Computer. I made sure to read the papers that would help with that and also asked questions when I needed help and clarification. In addition to adding documentation directly into MABE2, I created a PowerPoint to go along with it. At the end of the year, I was also able to relate one topic we had covered in class, neural networks, to my machine learning class where we also did a small coverage of the topic. I thought it was cool to see that the idea came up in both classes.

Throughout the term as a whole, I often rewrote and rechecked my code, writing, and notes throughout the year. This is most evident in my correction to the implementation of tournament and roulette selection during the Hackathon, where originally I was unable to get the code to run but had written a great deal of tournament and roulette selection code. Later on in the term, I asked Aparna to share a bit of her code and I retried the attempt again, this time a little closer. In the end, I worked on it a few more times to try and implement the selections, however, they were still unsuccessful. Despite this, I believe that my grade should be an A because I put a lot of work into the class; I enjoyed learning about Artificial Life and attempted every assignment because I like the challenge.