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IST 210

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Self Introduction/Bio

Hello!

I’m Chris, a Multidisciplinary Engineering Major, Minoring in IST. I’m in my final semester and fully expect to graduate this May with my Major and Minor. I chose the engineering degree because I’ve always been a sort of engineer by personality. I like to tackle challenging problems and create/design solutions for them that are competitive, effective, and novel.

My experience in IST-related subjects comes mostly from school. I’ve programmed in Python, C++, Java, and used programs like MatLab which I understand are derived mostly from Python. I’ve worked extensively with Raspberry Pis and Arduinos, the latter of which has its own language though I don’t know what base it is derived from. I have some simple experience with databases, though this is more from the user side than the developer side, as I do a lot of tasks within data bases when at work.

I started this minor because essentially to fill a hole in my education due to my transferring from another school after 3 semesters there. I had a lot of credits transfer, and my student loan situation demands I be full-time to receive the help I need, so a minor to fill in the rest of my schedule made a lot of logical sense.

As for interests outside of school, I’ve been making custom knives for a long time by hand, which (for me) entails the complete designing of all parts and their fitment, choice of materials, and the fabrication and manufacturing of the whole piece, from start to finish. The only processes I don’t perform myself are heat treating of the steel blades, and a few finish options which I must ship parts out for. All the materials are raw stock, and I cut everything out, shape, refine, and finish the parts all on my own. I use mostly hand tools, with a few machine tools, those being a drill press, a ceramic cut-off wheel, a bandsaw, and a small ceramic belt grinder.

Knifemaking aside (which I’ve been getting really burnt out on, actually), I spend a lot of time outdoors fishing whenever I can, using fly tackle or conventional tackle, depending on the situation and the presentation I want to make. I prefer to spend my time in saltwater, as the gamefish there tend to be bigger, stronger, and more numerous than in freshwater. Due to my location, I have to spend some time in freshwater, as it’s not practical to drive so far to the sea. I enjoy smallmouth bass in the Susquehanna river around Harrisburg, but much prefer striped bass, bluefish, snook, redfish, jack crevalle, and most any other strong saltwater fish that’s willing to take a fly or lure.

I think that about wraps it up for a simple bio so far. I’m looking forward to the rest of the class and all it has to offer!