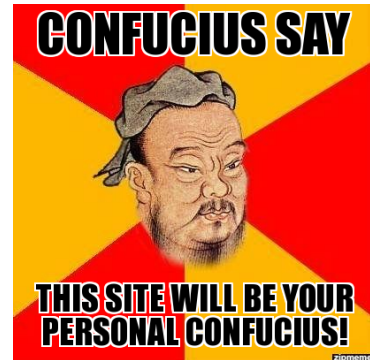


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Confucius say... Go Tartans!

Project Description

Our website will be a one stop location for CMU students to find information courses, which is provided by other CMU students and decide their course plan. It will be the Confucius of CMU students! The goal of this project is to help gather all the useful information about courses circulating on the web (facebook groups, discussions among students, etc) in one platform that will facilitate the process of decision making regarding the course plan of students, depending on several criteria, such as difficulty, workload, combination of courses in a semester and personal opinions.



Scenario

Students will be able to register to the website using their AndrewID and will have to verify their account by email. When a student visits a course page, they will be provided with detailed information about the course such as: course description, contact information about the instructors, ratings of the course in several aspects (difficulty, expected workload, prerequisites, cross listed course numbers, intensity, material availability, TA support quality) and comments from students who have taken the course. One of the most important functionality of this platform is that students will be able to check if their course plan for the upcoming semester is a good idea, depending on the evaluation and rating of the courses. The system will show an overall overview of the combination of those courses and, in case the plan is not ideal, suggest alternative courses to balance the result.

A student that wishes to evaluate a course will be able to do so, by rating the course according to different criteria and providing comments about their experience. The data collected by the evaluations will be processed into the overall rating of the course. Also, the comments submitted by the students will be viewable in the page of the course.

Finally, there will be a forum for discussion of specific matters. Students will have the option to create threads for different subjects of conversation and optionally tag the threads to a specific course.

Features

In order to implement all the functionality described above, several technologies will be used. First and foremost, most of the information regarding the courses, such as course description, syllabus, contact information of the instructors, existing course evaluations, as well as the authentication by AndrewID, will require connection to CMU's SSO.

Of course, another major module of the platform is the algorithm that will suggest alternative courses to the students, which will need to take into consideration the context, difficulty, workload and other factors. The goal is to embed a video description for every course, presenting an overview of the class. Another technology that will be used, is a framework for tags for the courses and forum discussions and a search mechanism throughout the platform. Also, email will be used for account verification and notifications for following threads.

Finally, we will use frameworks to provide responsive design for good cross platform visualization.