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CMS 380 – Dr. Myers

Challenge Project 4 – Reflective Writing

1. Think back to how you felt at the beginning of the course. What were your expectations?

My expectations were to obtain a better understanding of Simulations using programming. I expected my python skills would improve, as I had never worked with the language before, and hoped I would gain useful real-world skills which I would be able to use in jobs, personal projects, or research in the future.

2. Tell a story about a topic, problem, or assignment from the class that challenged you.

How did you respond?

Before in probability and statistics, I had issues with understanding the binomial equation. When we started using binomial distributions in this class, I was scared and frustrated. However, because we applied the distribution, and worked with it hands-on I was able to understand it and apply that knowledge throughout my classes.

3. Tell a story about an interaction you had with another person because of this class.

This class helped me get closer to Hiroki and Noah, as well as other classmates which I regularly studied with. In the first day of class, I did not find the classroom and joined online, and talked to Christian Huber for a bit. We ended up agreeing to work together as a team, which led to the formation of our squad. This group helped me immensely with the class, as I

was able to feed off of my group-mates knowledge. I would not have understood some of the material without their help and am thankful for the opportunity to have worked with them throughout the semester.

4. Other than programming, what have you learned from this class that you can take forward into your other classes or post-Rollins work?

This class has given me a great understanding on the mathematical distribution behind queues that often represent real world processes. I feel like I could use the knowledge I gained from this class to tackle problems such as how to organize a system and could evaluate the best alternative using my programming knowledge. I didn't expect this Simulations class to be what is it but am taking so much more knowledge with me than I expected I would.

5. What has been your experience on learning during the pandemic, whether that was in-person or remote? What did you find most challenging? What (if anything) worked well for you during this time?

My experience on learning during the pandemic was very good. I got tricked at one point, as I switched to online for a few days and did not continue paying enough attention to class because I kept getting distracted. This was certainly very challenging, as I felt like I was behind. However, I was able to catch up by reading all the material and asking my group partners for help.

6. What are your thoughts on online vs. in-person education? Do you think there are positive aspects of online teaching that we should incorporate into our regular classes?

I think the class recording, and the testing environment from online education are beneficial.

A lot of teachers shifted from timed exams to longer take-at-home tests which provided harder questions which really tested my understanding on topics. In person exams are a stressful environment, and do not always represent one's mastery of a subject.

7. Metacognition is the act of thinking about your own thinking. **The single most important skill you can develop in college is self-awareness about your own learning process.** What have learned about your own learning as a result of being in this class?

Being in this class, I learned enjoying the topics being studied is paramount for success in a class. Myers made the material engaging and gave the class real world examples of how to apply theoretical concepts. This made the material more interesting and engaging, and I often spent hours on projects while having fun. I genuinely enjoyed what I learned in this class, and I believe this has made me learn the topics in an infinitely better way. I find it much easier to learn about topics I find interesting and genuinely like and appreciate Dr. Myers for providing such an environment.