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Dr. Myers
Simulations
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Reflective Writing

1. My expectations of the course were set quite high. I remember hoping that the course was going to be challenging and engaging. I knew what to expect from Dr. Myers generally because I had taken a class with him before. I knew I liked the lecture structure and was ready for the cohesive notes that I knew would come with that. I expected there to be less “hand-holding” than in the first course I took with Dr. Myers and I expected myself to be able to handle that. Overall, I feel my expectations have matched up fairly well with the reality.
2. I was so thrilled to see the FastPass+ project on the list at the beginning of the semester. I remember looking forward to it a lot. When put into action, I found that the programming and topics surrounding it I did not fully understand. It took a lot of extra research for me to completely understand each of the elements of this project and to put into action the priority queueing model. I responded to this challenge by turning to peers and research in order to figure out how to work out the barriers I was facing.
3. The classroom is on the third floor of Bush, which really does not seem like a big deal, except for the fact that one has to walk of three flights of stairs in order to get to the classroom. Every morning, I would get to the top of the stairs and wait outside the classroom with Jenny, Griffin, and Jacob and have to take a good 5 or 6 minutes to breathe heavily because of the stairs. Jenny and I would always joke about how many stairs there were and how, theoretically, by the end of the semester we should be fit enough to not be dying of lack of oxygen by the time we reached the classroom. Alas, the stairs have yet to prove that theory correct. The interactions and bonding we all had at the top of the stairs are little things that made me look forward to the class.
4. This class has taught me how to time manage like no other. Spreading the work over a 2-week period was both a good thing and a bad thing for me. As a master procrastinator, I found myself waiting until the last minute for at least two of the projects and those times did not work out well for me. So, in a couple of the sprints, I would do no homework for one week and then be swamped with homework the next week. I would end up being way over stressed for no reason other than the Sprint was due the next day and I had a lot to make up. This class taught me that in order to succeed on massive projects, they must be started far in advance. I also have never taken a Stats class so learning the math and doing the proofs behind the statistical math in this course was so interesting and I learned so much about that. I’d also like to add that my meme knowledge has increased thanks to Dr. Myers. The memes, photos, and little jokes that Dr. Myers includes in his lectures and homeworks made this class all the more enjoyable.

5. I was in person for this class. I would say that my learning experience has been overall fairly positive. In this class, especially, I found it easier to pay attention since it was in person. For my courses that only met online, I was consistently distracted by other things in my room like my phone or small things on my desk that I would play with. I'm grateful that Simulations was in person so that I had less of an opportunity to get distracted. Not only did I get distracted easily, I also found myself being way more tired at the end of the day. Some days, I had no time to get up and out of my desk. Those days were the worst, where I felt as though I was always glued to my desk doing homework. A good thing, perhaps, that's come out of this semester is that I've gone completely digital, from my notes to all of my homework. Even my costume designing drawings I did digitally. I've really enjoyed finding ways to stay electronic and keeping all of my school things in one place (my computer) has been so helpful. With iCloud and the Apple OS, it's so easy to have a seamless transition between my computer, phone, and iPad. Now I sound like an ad for Apple. I assure you, I'm not, just passionate about my products.
6. I think there are positives to each, but I've found my in-person experience to be much better. Without actively making an effort, it's almost impossible to connect with teachers and friends over an online course. I found that when I did make an effort, I was able to create relationships with my teachers but without group projects or break-out rooms it's almost impossible to connect with fellow classmates. I think having the opportunity for online teaching is really helpful when students are sick or have a family emergency and their family lives far away. The online resources are helpful when one can't physically be present. I was lucky enough to be able to make the choice to be in person. I'm so grateful that I'm able to keep up my close relationships with my friends, I can't imagine feeling separated from that.
7. This class has taught me that I tend to think more conceptually than concretely. What I mean by that, is that I found that I was really good at understanding concepts of the course. I felt that I understood and learned the mathematical portions of this class easier than the actual programming. I found myself being able to understand what I needed to do for the program and the steps to execute the right outcome, but I had a lot more trouble putting those thoughts into code and executing the actual typing. I think I've learned that I need to put more focus on programming projects going forward since I tend to understand the lecture and the notes fairly quickly.