COM110 Fall 2023 | Derin Gezgin | HW8

[Midcourse Feedback] This homework is actually an opportunity to get feedback from the learners in the class as well as to offer some ideas of learning methods to try during the second half of our class.

[1 20pts] What has been most helpful for your learning in this class (book, moodle, ipynb LABs, ipynb HWs, codingbat.com, lecture notes)? Why does this work for you?

For me, the most helpful resource to learn and practice the class material has been the LABs. LABs are great opportunities to practice the -mostly- theoretical knowledge I learned in the classes. Moreover, because every LAB has a theme/focus, they allowed me to learn about different usage areas of the class material. I'd also like to mention the programming assignments. They are similar to LABs, in which I explore the sample usage of the class material.

[2 20pts] What does your instructor do that helps the most to learn or understand the material? Why does that work for you?

I think the class notes are a handy resource for understanding the class material. They have a simple explanation (schematics when needed) that can explain complicated concepts (like Object Oriented Design) more simply. Also, as I said in the previous question, LABs and programming assignments are helpful for me to practice the knowledge that I have. Lastly, I'd like to mention the helpfulness of the professor during office hours, in which he answers all of my programming-related questions.

[3 20pts] What most interferes with your learning process and why?

As someone who always reads the relevant chapter before the class, because we're not following the book completely (we skipped chapter 4), while reading by myself, I face many examples related to that chapter that I have to skip. In this case, I'm skipping most of the narrative in the chapter, and most of the chapter exercises that involve knowledge in chapter 4. This is not a massive deal for everyone in the class, but for me, this can sometimes mean skipping most of the narrative in the chapter, which results in half-learning some of the concepts the book covers.

I'd also like to mention that in some cases, I spend a lot of time figuring out what is intended to ask us or the exact expectations. I got the point that we won't have specifically tailored instructions in real life. In some cases, in LABs or Programs, the explanations or the questions are so vague that rather than practicing the programming concept I have to learn, I try to figure out what's asked or specifically wanted.

[4 20pts] What would you like to see or study that we haven't covered yet?

I'd like to see the usage of API requests in the class in which we can connect to an API and make requests from it by the "requests" library. I'd also like to learn how to code a telegram bot that will text me when some other condition is True in my Python program. Lastly, I'd like to see data exploration concepts using the "pandas" library in Python and modify the datasets according to my needs. In the class, all the data we used (in .csv or .txt files) came ready. I want to learn how to bring the first form of raw data to that format.

[5 20pts] Typing more or reading/watching more doesn't always lead to better problem solving and programming skill but practicing the thinking and process does. Which of the following methods would you be willing to try (circle only those that you may try in the next 48 hours)?

1. (a) read the text section listed in the syllabus and take notes before it is covered in class
2. (b) review your class notes (or the instructors) right after class or later that night
3. (c) when you are reading programs from the text or the instructors LABs, programming code, read only one cell at a time and paraphrase what you think it will do in your own words before running it and moving on. (make a mental model of the code cell that you run in your own head)
4. (d) give yourself a mini-lecture of a lecture or class (you can practice with a classmate)
5. (e) start working on the programming assignment the day it is opened in moodle and then attend the Monday night TA session ready with any questions or issues you have

Even though I generally read the text section listed in the syllabus before the class and complete its' exercises (a), it'll be something I'll do in the next 48 hours before the class. A new idea I got from here is to give myself a mini-lecture about the class material covered in the previous course (d). I think that I'll see its benefits when I try it. It'll allow me to cover every detail in the class notes and explain them in a simple way that I'll be able to understand.