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Foundations of Programming Python

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Foundations of Programming Python – Reflection

Prior to taking this class I had dabbled into trying to learn python programming on my own. For me having a structure around my learning is one of the main reasons I signed up for the foundations class, along with the ability to ask a more experienced person questions when needed to enhance my learning. I also knew I wanted to sign-up for University of Washington’s Python certificate program so taking the foundations class also helped me to meet the requirements to enter the certificate program. I feel that the learning structure for the class was well suited for my needs and has prepared me for the certificate program.

Since I had learned a decent amount of syntax on my own, having the ability to watch the youtube video lectures in advance was pretty useful. Week one’s lesson and assignment of using the command line to run python files was pretty useful. It wasn’t something I had learned in my self-study of python. I had been mostly been using different IDEs to code. I enjoyed week 3’s assignment of learning to read, write, and append information to a text file. Starting week 6, I found the course to be more and more of a challenge in a good way. I was very focused on trying to master functions, classes, and object oriented programming. I know I still have a long way to go in my learning experience but I believe this course gave me a good base in objected oriented programming. I know that a good amount of modern programming languages use this structure so it was good to get introduced to it.

Overall I learned that with programming it’s not necessary to memorize everything. In the beginning you’ll spend a lot of time trying to look up the correct syntax for coding something. After a while of continuous practice it’ll just become natural. Obviously the more practice and resources you have available to help you learn the better. Also, another key thing is the reuse of code. I learned if you’ve already created code once there’s no sense is trying to re-write it over…copy and paste/edit as needed. I look forward to learning more python with the certificate program starting in January 2018. I’ve also started the journey of learning Kotlin another programming language.