

## **HUDK 4050 Reflection Essay**

### **Introduction:**

As a Learning Analytics student, HUDK 4050 is one of the core courses which I have to take, so the degree requirements brought me to the course. However, I also choose the course with my interests and a strong will to gain analysis knowledge for my future career. I have a background in math and economy, which are my majors in my college. And I remember that I learned how to use Excel, add-in analysis tools in one of my econ courses. My expectations and learning goals for taking HUDK 4050 are to learn more methods of analysis, more analysis tools and apply them to real-world issues. During the semester, my objectives never changed but thrived with Lukas's instructions, which helped me a lot to get closer to my dream position. I still need to learn more about analysis to be a learning analyst.

### **Course experiences:**

Unlike other analysis courses I took before, the instructor allowed students to do data projects in two versions, with Python or R. What's more, the instructor gave students the freedom to work together or alone based on their learning habits. I had been attracted to HUDK 4050 since the first course when the instructor explained the course syllabus. Not only the novel teaching method Lukas used but also the rich analysis knowledge he taught us appealed and encouraged me to deepen further. During the course, I have learned how to use analysis tools to manipulate data, run regression models, do data classifications, and find data clustering. Also, the instructor introduced two interesting analysis methods, which are principal component analysis and social network analysis. All of that knowledge is my biggest take-away from this course.

The most challenging part of the course was the individual coding process, in which the instructor did not show students details but gave us materials and let us learn by ourselves. At first, I was very confused by the knowledge because of my limitations of coding background. However, I found that expertise points were easy to grasp with the instructor's resources. Besides giving students valuable learning materials, the instructor held office hours every week and regularly responded to us through email, which highly improved students with individual coding difficulties. As for me, I prefer individual learning, so I seldom attended the instructor's office hours. Instead, I learned a lot from Dr. Google and YouTube. Even though I have not applied skills to solve real-world problems, I believe I will do so in the future.

**Conclusions:**

After taking HUDK 4050, I have developed a better understanding of analysis methods like K-mean cluster, C-tree model, Bayes model, and logit models. Also, I learned how to use a confusion matrix to evaluate the model accuracy. The instructor's lectures raised my curiosity due to his humorous teaching style. For the most part, I learned from the instructor and a lot from my team members at the CEM project. Those pieces of knowledge are essential for my future career, giving me more confidence to play data correctly. After learning so many creative teaching methods and theories from Teachers College, I may also want to be a teacher with k-12 children in the near future.