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ENGL 3379.W01

2/17/17

HTML/CSS reflection

After completing 6 HTML/CSS sections and projects, I can confidently say that I am more competent at HTML than before. A steaming endorsement, to be sure. In all honesty, I felt confident enough to complete the tasks that were required of me during the projects, but I would not say that I am competent enough that I can now handle a website’s CSS without constantly referencing some CSS stylesheets and guidelines. Granted, I do not know how much more you could ask from a breakneck-course in CSS that can be completed in one sitting.

As for a more in-depth reflection on these tutorials, I found it overall pretty simple most of the time. Very rarely did I feel like I was in over my head when it came to what I was asked to do. However, that also meant that rarely did I feel challenged or hard-pressed to find solutions. It would not necessarily be ideal for Codecademy to make their course difficult, but if the tutorials are too easy, then it doesn’t feel like you are actually learning what they are trying to get you to learn. This became particularly apparent on the last (sixth) project, where the CSS was given, and all you had to do was add what they explicitly told you to. To be fair, if somebody were truly driven to master HTML/CSS, they would pay much more attention; or, would simply look to learn from a more complete tutorial.

Very rarely throughout the course did I become frustrated. But when I did, it was because I missed something very small (like a bracket), and couldn’t identify what the issue was. Another small issue that occasionally popped up was that the instructions weren’t clearly defined, but there also wasn’t a helpful tip. On the flipside, my best moments regarding these courses were when I had a challenging issue, and managed to solve it by myself. Additionally, the feeling when you complete a lesson (that can take upwards of 30 minutes) is extremely satisfying. Watching the lessons all come together in a cumulative project that builds upon itself is very rewarding.

For the future, I feel like these modules are an excellent stepping stone. Not that I’m confident enough to take on website management right now, I feel like I have a good foundation of knowledge to build on. Presumably, I will be using these skills on my blog website to fool around creatively, while also injecting my personal style into the blog. I would definitely like to learn more about how HTML and CSS overall, so that I could have a deeper toolkit. Clearly there is a much larger pool of information that I am not privy to just from a brief Codecademy tutorial, and I would not be opposed to more lessons over time. Specifically, I would like to learn about the process of how specific web pages that I used every day are created using HTML. These lessons felt like I was drawing the curtains back, and learning about a world that I always knew existed but had never actually seen. I would like to see more of that world.