252 Narrative

Hey Morgan! This is just an overview of my busy semester to start.

Going into the semester, I knew it was going to be a challenging year. I declared ISAT to start my sophomore year, so up until that point I only took gen ed classes. I knew I was behind in major credits, so I had to start taking all major courses. I could only get into 4 fall semester, but I was able to take 5 for spring. Not only did I take my 5 major classes, but I was a TA for an ISAT class, and was pledging a fraternity. So, from the start of spring semester, I was busy practically 24/7. I was basically on campus everyday from 9am-4 or 5pm. This was either in one of my 6 classes or catching up on homework I wasn’t able to do the day before. From there I had obligations into the night every day. As you would imagine, the weekends are even more time consuming. After a couple weeks I was voted pledge class president by my peers, meaning I was in charge of the whole class. So, if I wasn’t somewhere I had to be, I was either doing homework, sleeping or eating. On MWF I had a 9am, TT I had 10ams, and the weekend I would have to wake up early in the morning. Over the course of the semester my body was drained. I would volunteer at the local Harrisonburg middle school on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8am as well.

My expectations going into this class was that it was going to be a chill course where I could just learn the basics of how to code. I knew from some of my friends that took the course kind of how the layout is. I was definitely interested in learning what it was about, but going into the class I didn’t know if it would be right for me. I thought your two questions on the first day of class was a very cool concept. I could tell you were just interested in exposing us to the world of coding and seeing if we could see ourselves doing it in the future. I think it is a very modern skill to know. I told myself I would at least know the basics to see if I would be further interested in it. So, in the beginning of class, I was doing the intro badges. The easy beginner tutorial ones. With the attendance points too, I was doing enough work to keep myself in line with the other students, and keeping an eye on my overall grade. I expected to get in A in the course because I wouldn’t have let myself not be able to earn enough points. I started to fall a little behind towards spring break, I missed a couple of classes. I was physically drained and it was starting to affect my school work. Spring break saved me. I was planning on catching up on sleep, and more importantly getting ahead in all my classes. And it did allow me to when corona hit and we didn’t go back to school. At this point I got your email and did not revisit the badges. I figured if I was ever interested, they would still be there, right?! I had a conflicting class with our scheduled WebEx, so I decided I was just going to do some code and answer the two questions. I have a friend who is pursing IKM, and she was willing to help guide me through some projects. So, my time spent in this course was basically practicing writing code and understanding it. One of my favorite ones was a rock, paper, scissors game where you enter your choice (rock, paper, scissors) and press enter and it tells you if you won, lost, or tied. Some math equation ones. They’re on my GitHub jinksyd. I feel successful that I was able to mess around with coding and create some projects. I enjoyed being able to create a working function. I feel as if I failed a little because I did not do an outstanding number of projects. But I had fun while doing them with Claire’s guidance. I also think I have the two questions answered. I think I could be pretty decent at it, I enjoy it, however I don’t think I can see myself making a career out of it. I would be interested in pursuing it online to a degree to learn more, but probably not more than that. I feel like it would be a good skill to know, maybe even a side job or something. I feel as if I am too social to be a programmer, and I like more concrete directions than having many options. I’m very interested in production systems, and am thinking of pairing it with environment. But who knows! I haven’t taken environment yet. I thank you for being a cool dude and caring about the students more than just a grade. It was a pleasure being in this course even though we were only in person for half of it.

Lastly, for the grade. Like I said before I feel as if I was going to be able to earn an A have we stayed at school. But given the circumstances and the number of projects I posted; I would be grateful for anything in the B range. Have a great summer and I’m looking forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,

Dean