

HUDK4050 Reflective Essay

When integrating all my ICEs, ACAs and EDM assignments, I got a sense of achievement, feeling that I did learn and complete something in this course and I did enjoy the whole journey.

I majored in Applied Psychology during my undergraduate and in Educational Psychology program currently, data analysis is always an essential component no matter in understanding research papers or in conducting research myself, and data mining is undoubtedly a useful tool to do all these things. More broadly, it is important to equip myself with the capability of data analysis or to cultivate “data mindsets” in this era of big data. That was the reason why I selected this course.

Throughout this semester, we got involved a lot in data mining, including Regression, Classification, Clustering, PCA, SNA, etc. Also, I started to approach Python, a language that I expect to learn for some time. The combination of theories and practical exercises (ICEs, ACAs) is particularly helpful, the former prepared me a theoretical base to apply them in practical exercises, and the example in exercise in turn promoted my understanding about what situations and what problems could be solved by the methods I learned. One challenge I perceived is that, there is a gap between dealing with sample questions in class exercises and practical problems in the real world. Even though we know how to apply the data mining methods, the data in the real world is more complicated than I expect. For instance, my group members and I spent a long time understanding the data source in ACA1, extracting the related information and making them tidy. Being creative is also significant, learning data mining methods is

just one of the components, analysis methods serve the questions being come up, after all. To think actively is what I learned from the EDM assignment, which is also one of my weaknesses. Lastly, I am grateful to my group members, no one in my group has coding backgrounds, but we made efforts together and overcame many challenges. Though there are lots of deficiencies in our group assignment, we take small steps and tried our best.

I was not so ambitious when I decided to take this course, I regarded it as a challenge for myself, but actually it was more friendly than I thought, the course was structured clearly, every exercise, assignment led me to move forward, step by step. It's a good beginning that I equipped myself with some data mining theories and coding skills in this course, so in general, I would say I achieved my goal. I did not fully explore all of the online sources provided in the coding exercise, but I think they would be good resources for me to learn further, and to puzzle some of my confusion. Currently, my area of focus is Intelligent Technology in Educational Psychology, and I plan to participate in related research or work in educational technology company in the future, so data mining will definitely help and I am looking forward to learning more about this. Last but not the least, what Professor emphasized in the first class is enlightening for me: we should know our advantage is that we know both education and data mining. I could not say I have already known EDM, but it is important to keep in mind to identify my own advantage and play my strengths.