* What were your expectations coming into this class?

Before this class I knew nothing about coding except for the small amount I did in ISAT 215 and from using R studio in the ISAT statistics class I had taken the semester before. I ended up dropping ISAT 215 because I could not keep up with the class. It ended up being a good decision on my part, but I got little coding experience because I did not complete the class. In my statistics class I enjoyed the coding in R studio because it made sense to me. My statistics class made me excited to code in this class, but also nervous because I felt like it would be challenging. I expected that coding would be difficult, but I did not expect that this class as a whole would be difficult because I had heard from pervious students that it was not challenging. I guess I can say that my expectations were to learn how to code or at least get a general knowledge of coding.

* What learning goals did you set for yourself?

The goals I set for myself consisted of simply getting through the class. I already knew before I started that I did not want a job where a computer screen rules my life. Although, in every class my goal is to come away from the class with some sort of knowledge whether it be a life lesson, useful fact, or anything that can help me grow up into the best person I can be.

Learn something – a lot of classes you simply memorize stuff for a test then forget everything after you have taken it

* What did you actually do? List the tutorials and websites you used/visited. Estimate the amount of time you spent outside of class.

Syllabize, Envirotrix, Commando, Git & GitHub, and Hello, Python!

I visited a few websites to begin the hello world assignment in Python, but I did not save them, so I really do not know what websites I visited. I think I could estimate that each of the assignments above took an hour or less except for hello, Python one which took longer, and I was assisted in completing it by another student in the class, Cole.

* How did your goals evolve over the course of the semester?

Over the course of the semester I feel like I got a good general knowledge about the beginnings of coding and how it works. At the beginning of the semester I never answered any questions in class because I do not like to try the speak up unless I am sure of myself. Something that has to do with sociology probably makes insanely scared of being wrong when I think I am right. So, I only speak up when I am almost sure that I am correct. Part of the way through the class I began to understand how coding works a little so I started speaking up in class and getting the answers that you would ask right. I guess that made me want to code more so outside of class I started to attempt the assignments you had for us on the “code 4 your life” website, but a lot of the stuff I did didn’t get saved because frankly I don’t really know how to post things onto GitHub. Also, a lot of the times I tried to do things and follow tutorials, I would get stuck. I asked a few people for help and a lot of the time no one in the class could help except for Cole who helped me put the one hello world that I finished onto GitHub. So, at the beginning I did try to code and to learn, but after spring break I really lost all motivation especially with all of the coronavirus stuff going on. I went back home to my parents how mostly to save money on food because my mom buys everything I need. My dad is currently deployed.

* In what ways did you feel you were successful?  Please refer to specific, concrete artifacts that would serve as evidence of your successes.

Some of the only times I felt successful in this class were when I answered a question correctly in class and when my GitHub had my hello world program for Python up there. I feel like I did get a good general knowledge of coding even with the little coding I did. I swear I did more than it looks. There were many times that I began something but never committed it and then it disappeared. An example of this would be my Fizzbuzz program. I did not write the program on my own, but that day in class that you asked to copy someone else’s code I did. Unfortunately, I did not know and still do not really know how to get things on my GitHub. I do feel like I learned something and that is the basics of coding and how test driven development works in the coding world. Also, I had no idea that there were so many methods of coding and different programs you can use to do it.

* In what areas do you feel you failed to achieve your goals? Please reflect on what you think you have learned from your failures, and what, if any, plans you have to address those issues in the future.

I should have asked for more help when I got stuck. I feel like I would not have gotten as discouraged to code if I had come and you for more help. I feel like I did not give this class as well of a shot as I could have, but then again, the class did get cut short because of the unforeseen circumstances of the pandemic. Although, I am not trying to make up excuses. I am disappointed in the amount of work I did for this class. I did not put my focus on coding because the class was quite relaxed, but at the same time I really enjoyed how nonchalant you were and how you just wanted to make sure that we were doing okay. The amount that you cared meant a lot to me even though I did not reciprocate the same amount of care back into the class.

* JMU's Mission Statement is to produce "educated and enlightened citizens who lead meaningful and productive lives."  Do you feel more educated?  More enlightened?  Less so?

All in all, I do feel more educated maybe not enlightened. I am a big user of the saying “You learn something new every day” and every class I believe I did learn something whether it be about specifics on how to code or more broad topics like the coding world. I may not have remembered everything I learned, but I am sure the important things stuck and the things I do not remember I can always learn again another day. I am glad to have another semester almost completed.

* How have your activities this semester contributed or detracted from your knowing yourself better and having a better grasp on what you want to do in the near or distant future?

This semester was full of more gen eds and major classes that I did not want to take but had to because of ISAT. I understand the need for gen eds, I just wish I could finally start learning about the stuff I want to learn about. I really interested in the environment and biotech sectors. None of the classes I took this semester included those, so, throughout the semester, I was pretty unmotivated. I did not get the best grades this semester in result of my motivation levels and then after online school started, they dropped even lower. I had more time on my hands for sure but doing homework at home has been challenging for me. I am sure it has been for everyone, but I wanted to include that just because it definitely affected me. I am a part of the archery club at JMU, but I do not think the club affected me in any way. I am not sure what I can and can not say, but I party on the weekends for sure. I do not think that affected me too much either though. I think my downfall this semester really had to do with the level of motivation I had to do my work. I have not mentioned yet that I am also a BIG procrastinator which is my downfall most of the time. Although, I work quite well under pressure despite the stress it causes.

Writing this out honesty really helped me understand why I did not do as good this semester. I am really excited for next semester though because I think I will want to do the work for my classes or at least have an easier time forcing myself to do it.

* What grade would you like for me to report to the registrar for you, and why?

We all know that everyone wants an A. I know that I do not deserve an A and it would be selfish asking for one. I believe I deserve a C because I did the bare minimum of the amount of work required. Although, the question you asked was not “what do you think you deserve?” It was “what grade would I like you to report?” The grade I would like for you to report is a B. I did an amount of the work required and came to class everyday unless I was sick. I participated in class and came to some of the Webex meetings. I attempted to learn how to code and decided that I did not enjoy it or want to do more in the future which is what you asked of the class the first day, so I believe I did enough in and outside of class to be given a B for ISAT 252.