

Personal Narrative

Published Date : May 4, 2013

Author : vaughajx

1. Expectations and Goals for ISAT 252:

To begin the class I did not have any particular goals in mind. Rather, I was taking this class to see whether I enjoyed programming, if I was any good at it, any whether I would consider continuing programming in future. I expected 252 to teach me programming basics allowing me to write, edit, and review code in future. Moreover, I also expected to learn more about my personal interests in programming and whether it was something I wanted to continue learning in the future.

2. How have the above goals and expectations changed over time?

Over time my goals and expectations within this class became more specific. I began to better understand programming and how I could best use my resources. I began setting goals to complete certain online tutorials, watch particular videos, and complete certain tasks. Within group projects I set tasks to complete based upon my skill level and how I could benefit my group. Because of no prior programming knowledge this began as busy work such as project research, creating repositories, and populating files. As my knowledge grew, however, I began to write, edit, and review code. Expectations of myself changed from completing mundane tasks to more important roles within group work. I now have aspirations to start my own independent project this summer continuing my progress as a programmer.

3. Account for time spent on this class

As stated above I spent a lot of my time completing online tutorials such as codecademy and w3schools, and watching tutorial videos. To keep track of various commands and functions learned I began creating a spreadsheet populated with my new programming knowledge. I also spent time learning to use Github and Gitbash and completed the appropriate tutorials. As my knowledge really began to grow I helped a friend edit his webpage. Lastly, I completed tasks assigned to me within group projects applying my newfound knowledge of programming.

4. What did I accomplish?

Throughout the semester I was part of several successful group projects. Within each of my groups we completed the projects assigned which included a mpg to kpl converter, Google Maps classmate locator, and a beer enthusiast website tailored toward local bars. In each of these groups I considered myself to be a valuable team member completing various tasks such as research, creating repos, writing and reviewing code, and populating files. Personally by the end of the semester I have learned basic Javascript and some HTML. I am also fairly adept with GitHub and GitBash. I am now comfortable with the process of developing a website or app which includes, brainstorming, paper designs, to writing code. Lastly but perhaps most importantly, I now have set up my development environment so I can work on programming projects for the future.

5. What did I learn about myself

I was surprised by how much I learned about myself through this course. Firstly, I learned that I enjoy coding and particularly working towards a final project. Although my skill level is still not astounding I plan to work on a project this summer to further my knowledge of programming. I enjoy the creative freedom of programming and the reward of slowly seeing an idea develop from paper to a working product. Moreover, I learned that I enjoy a balance of structure, deadlines, and creative freedom within my work. I found myself relishing the idea of programming on my own terms at the beginning of the semester but then found myself getting less done at the end of the semester. This was due to the fact that I prioritized work for graded assignments within other classes because it has been assigned by a professor and came with strict deadlines. Work and goals I set myself however, came second to other professors' assignments and often did not get completed if I had a lot of work within other classes. It is for these reasons that I often found myself thinking that I am perhaps a more productive worker when given deadlines and grades. Also, by taking the weekly self evaluations I realized I work far more productively with written goals in mind.

6. What goals/plans/changes do I intend moving forward?

As stated earlier I plan to work on a programming project this summer to become more proficient at programming. After the summer I considering taking more programming courses within ISAT or simply learning more programming within my own free time. I also plan to set myself weekly goals in future to become a more productive worker, this may also include a timetable of work/study hours.

7. How does this style of class work for you?

Firstly, I thoroughly enjoyed this class and working with Dr Benton. The class structure would have worked a little better for me if we were given assignments with due dates other than just the projects. This is because I often found myself either procrastinating or putting other class assignments before programming. This was due in part to the fact that 252 had no grades or strict structure. I also found myself at times wondering what work I could do to be most productive in the class. For this reason I would have preferred to have a list of assignments and/or homework so I can be sure that I am putting in the right amount of time. The creative freedom did however, allow me to enjoy programming a lot more and not feel pressured to rush work. So overall I would have preferred the class to be a mix between what it was and how other classes are structured.

8. What grade do I deserve and what do I want reported to the registrar.

After looking back at the semester and seeing what I have achieved I am proud to say that I can wear the title of a basic programmer. This class has helped me build a foundation for my future programming and has made me appreciate the work that goes into websites, apps, and other programs. I believe I worked hard throughout the semester although there are a few things I would liked to have improved or done differently. As a whole I think my work effort warrants a B+ but I would love to have an A reported to the registrar. I will be pleased with either grades. I also want to thank Morgan for his time and efforts for making 252 an enjoyable and informative course.

ISAT 252 Narrative

Published Date : May 3, 2013

Author : shealyzr

1. This semester, for this class at least, my goals were very simple. Learn as much as I can, so by the end of the semester I would either be able to create a cell phone app or/and a webpage of my choosing and have a running knowledge of the software's and devices employed in their making. I already had knowledge about computers, which gave me a lot of bolster and confidence that I would complete these goals by the end of the semester. When I first signed up for this class, I was excited to learn about programming, where the class would take you step by step and "learn the ropes".
2. As soon as winter break started my expectations for the class remained but became muddled after the groups first assignment. As the year progressed my expectations became more opaque and I can honestly say there were many times where I felt like I was learning more about deep breathing than about any type of computer programming. My hope that my computer skills would help me along were quickly challenged and crushed. I realized then that there were two skill sides to a computer: programming it and navigating it. Through all this; however, my goals still remained until the end. They changed slightly when creating an app for your phone became the lesser of my two goals in the class.
3. For the first month I remained focused throughout trying to learn as much as possible. After I got sick for two weeks, I fell drastically behind so by the time of the Wednesday of Valentine's Day week, I gave up. That night was the one where we had to create a user account with addresses and the sort. I was completely stuck and after copying and pasting much of my work that night, I left frustrated and disappointed in myself. For many weeks after that I basically gave up on the class. Only until recently I began a new interest in the programming skill and began to hone my abilities on creating a webpage.
4. As someone coming from no programming experience, by the end of the year I felt I had accomplished much in the way of programming. I can now be fully confident in my html skills, if given the proper amount of time, and becoming more aware of java script and its many uses in programming. Currently I am designing a website for those interested in JMU and learning about the school beyond just the numbers. I hope in the next weeks, it will be fully functioning and operational for others to use as a guide to JMU.
5. Unknown to many in the ISAT field, I have switched my major to Marketing. I have learned that I am a creative individual, but one who does not always notice the small details around me. As such, this class presented a major dent in my learning curve; however, once past it I am now able to create a holistic program. I have also reinforced in myself that I am not a morning person, unless in extreme cases. I have also learned that if there is no certain success in something I am less inclined to do it.
6. Above I mentioned I am switching my major. I will still use my abilities and skills that I have learned in this class, but not to the degree of a constant and experienced programmer would possess. In future programs that I create I will have more due diligence to start earlier on them, so that they would be of the highest quality. I will also

change that if a tutorial presents itself freely to me, that I should learn it even if I think I am headed for certain failure.

7. I am split on my liking of the style of this class. On one hand I enjoyed the freedom it gave me to pursue the type of programs and speed that I would want; however, on the other hand as I did not have the absolute motivation of a strict schedule and curriculum I often faltered and did not take advantage of the opportunities afforded to me. I feel for this type of subject material, the class style worked mostly well; however, I definitely see that this style of learning and teaching does not work for everyone and all subject matter,
8. A) For my absences and lack of participation in the creation of multiple programs I feel that I deserve a "C". As there were no strict guidelines and more of suggestions, the policies of normal class grading do not apply here and the "C" represents an average effort and achievement.

B) I would love an "A", but being a reasonable person I would really appreciate no grade lower than a "B-". In the amount of progress I have made, I feel an "A-" would be adequate, but as I cannot ignore my faults in this class, I would like at least a "B-".

Narrative

Published Date : May 3, 2013

Author : nguyentk

Reflecting on this semester for me has had its high points and low points. I realize that everyone goes through a phase where motivation tends to plummet whether it is from senioritis so to speak, a drastic life altering event etcetera. Unfortunately for me, this happened to me so subtly for a while, as the semester continued on I realized parts of “me” were becoming unbalanced and my goals for this class, and others took a change in new, not-so-great direction. This is a portion of my story on how my semester expectations and goals changed over time.

Coming into this class in January, I was super excited to gain new knowledge, skills and information that would help me in the future. To me learning programming was like looking at art, being an artsy person I began to become fascinated with how things were put together in the world of programming because having something such as a website was looking at artwork someone created. Before this class I never knew the term “programming language”. Personally growing up art, language and sciences where my passion, being in this class was a light-bulb moment where I could combine all three of my interests into one area of study.

Little did I know all my fascination and drive to learn would take a turn in the other direction, where it took me longer to find and get back onto the main road so-to-speak. My world of color began turning into black, whites and gray, when eventually my goals in this class and others transitioned to a stop at some point in the semester, part of me realized my goal and drive began slowing down when we talked briefly about “Positivity” in the course. The pieces started coming together eventually events of this semester and my actions started making more sense to me further into the semester. When Professor Radziwill gave her brief introduction on how she felt previously, where she was just going through the motions, I could identify with her because at that point that thought was in the back of my mind, but did not hit me later until the semester progressed...partially because I was in denial thinking the feelings were a phase and it would pass. The only difference with my thought and reality was in reality I was wrong and this was not a phase I could overcome on my own.

Starting off with the weekly-self evaluations, I began putting them off, one missed week turned into several...however why I stopped writing them will come full circle later on. After the third week I missed the weekly-self-evaluation, I started wondering “why”. Realizing changes within me when I made a list, and noticeably, the negatives outnumbered the positives. For me, my “goals” for the semester had changed, as I began to become a gloomier person as a semester progressed the more goal setting began to irritate me. I soon began to acknowledge why I was

not completely being honest with myself, setting the types of goals in general became hollow. I was still accomplishing them but going through the motions.

The comment, “I did not want to fail a positivity test” came to mind, however for me it was more I was lying to myself as a person, because I did not want to be honest and answer questions negatively when that was how I felt at the time. Oddly enough doing the weekly evaluations made me feel worse about myself as a person. I did not want to put in writing reasons why I could not be positive. For me writing something conflicting with how I felt made me feel worse about myself because I was putting on this “front” everything was hunky-dory even when it was a stretch away from the truth. Even though I was accomplishing the goals, I began noticing I was becoming more-off. Sadly, I did not want to see my goals in writing about myself, evaluating myself negatively based on how I was feeling because I was becoming more and more frustrated and negative with myself so doing both seemed counterproductive at the time. Seems silly but, that was the truth for why I stopped doing weekly self-evaluations.

Further in the semester, I had a really difficult time answering the question (when asked) “What makes you happy?” This may seem like a simple question, but I was so “down in the dumps” that I could not answer the question, mainly because the first thought that instantaneously came to mind was the word “nothing” or “I don’t know”. Then others would get frustrated with me when I answered “I don’t know”, because how being happy is a simple question. Thinking about that at the time, I began recalling moments when I could not answer this question in almost a year or more. If you ask me this question today, I would honestly answer “it’s complicated”. Mainly because, for me at this point in the semester happiness became almost unachievable... Then I began seeking help professionally because at this point in the semester I was noticing more prevalent signs of depression and for me everything about everything seemed pointless but I was still going through the motions, while still going to class. Realizing “I don’t know what makes me happy” was scary, because I was to a point where I could not remember what happiness felt like. All in all I wanted to stop feeling the way I was feeling, and get better.

Sadly, it took me 2-3 weeks before the end of semester where “color” would start coming back into my world and I could see the light at the end of the tunnel. With weekly meetings professionally I began to keep a journal, with the layout of the self-evaluations (truly because I wanted to see things in writing). For me that was a way to keep track of when and why so I could seek solutions on what to change but I continued not posting because I did not want anyone else to see what I was thinking or feeling at the time. Long story short, I wanted to undo everything I did and redo everything with a better perspective and mindset. I cannot say that I am back to being a more balanced and 100% back to being me but I am starting to see colors in my world again.

As a disclaimer, even though I did stop doing weekly-self that did not stop me from learning from my team members or meeting with them and contributing work to my group. For me, I have personal standards where when we set up a time to meet and do work, that is what we did as a team. Bonding with my group, and seeing them get excited and equally as frustrated with our code helped me get back on track of why I wanted to take away from this class in the first place. Even though I was in a team of all guys, we had our moments because we balanced each other out; we had the super knowledgeable one Justin, who was always more than willing to help me out and I ended up learning more from him and his coding style than on my own. Willie, who was on the same level and playing field as me when it came to programming. Nathaniel and Brandon who were in the middle when it came to understanding and their skill set. It was cool to see how our team dynamic worked out over the course of the semester. Being on a team with this dynamic allowed all of us to use our time wisely because we got work done every time we met.

Even when I was feeling down more often than not, this semester I had a few pivoting moments, I was able to help someone random with a blog layout they were trying to do. I was able to explain to them the tags and elements that I had picked up from a tutorial, I realized that I had learned more than I thought and retained. These moments became a few personal take away from this class. Tying in how this class worked for me and what I learned go hand in hand. I enjoy how this class gives us the flexibility to take learning into our own hands, and the class gives us a learning opportunity without “failing” at something we do not care for.

For me personally, this class gave me the time to take a break and learn about myself. Taking a break from this class to me meant, re-finding my focus so that if necessary I could focus my attention to something I enjoyed more and figure out what was important for me. I cannot say if this was the same for my other classes this semester but this class was a buffer. Being more mindful is something I have been recommended to continue practicing which this class allows me to have that allotted time. I only wish this class were longer two days a week with an extended period because this would allow us more time to have more “formal” teachings such as the phonegap tutorial. Having a class like this to give students a test run, should be an option because people have different interests doing so does not penalize a person entirely for taking a class they may not enjoy. I liked how this class gave us the freedom to choose what to learn. Whether it was learning PHP, Python or more we had the option to go in the direction of our choosing which I have never had a chance to pursue something similar to this.

With everything I have done and been through this semester I feel that I deserve a B or B-. As a student I attended all the classes with the exception of two or three days which were family or job related. I met up and worked with my team members whenever we decided to meet up to accomplish what we needed to as a group. Mainly, I helped my group with the research for this project because that was what I was most comfortable doing and organizing that information. With this class, my goals changed but the reflection of the work I did may not match up in the

traditional setting because I feel that I do not have that much to show for what I have learned other than codecademy tutorials and what I contributed to my group.

If possible I would like a B or B+ to be reported to the registrar because this class was extremely unique and allowed me to realize this is something I want to pursue learning. Even though I hit a wall with my performance and evidence is lacking I will be honest that the take away from this class is what helped me move forward on a personal level.

Moving forward with the topics in this class, it is my goal to undo and redo what I learned by starting over. This summer, I would like to redo everything that I have learned so that I undo the negative aspects of what and how I have felt throughout this semester. I want to redo part of what I learned this semester, so that I can pursue this passionately without just going through the motions to get things done.

Let me tell you a little story

Published Date : May 3, 2013

Author : nguyent

As I look back to my first post from January, I stated that my goals were to “become familiar with different computer languages. I think this will be knowledge that will help me succeed in the future. COMPUTERS ARE THE FUTURE!” I guess what I meant was that I hoped to gain the skills needed to succeed these days in the business world. I expected to learn a lot because I’ve never been exposed to any programming.

Throughout the weeks, I realized that I wasn’t going to learn everything there was to know about programming, so I had to narrow it down. I wanted to learn the basics (html, CSS, JavaScript) so that I could have a foundation if I were to continue with the IKM sector. With the first two projects, I didn’t think it would be too difficult simply because we learned that the key isn’t reinventing the wheel but to take it and modify it. Knowing that, I was able to finish the project in a timely manner with my group. As we approached the second half of the semester when we focused on our main projects, my goal was to make a program that would be very beneficial to the JMU community. I had brainstormed a few ideas at the beginning of the semester, but decided to go a different route simply because I had a new idea that I was itching to accomplish.

At the beginning of the semester, I was really good at self-teaching myself through CodeAcademy tutorials, but as the semester progressed, the work load for my other classes started to pile up high and my time management wasn’t at its best. I tried to keep up with this course, but there were times when I wanted to devote a certain amount of hours to a project or completing more tutorials, but it was hard to stay on track. With that being said, I still managed to get my work done at a reasonable time. Overall, I think I spent a decent amount of time outside of the class developing my programming skills.

I accomplished more in this class than in any of my other classes this semester. Not only did I learn brand new material and understand the majority of it, but also I realized that I could motivate myself to learn the material without being told to do so. Physically, I (along with my team mates) developed a mileage converter, Google map with pinpoints, and Gmail sidebar gadgets (also did extensive research on contextual gadgets). However, I gained much more mentally. The meditation at the beginning of each class taught me to be more calm and not stress as much. I learned more about how to push myself to complete an objective, work better with other people, and how to manage my time better, which are all skills could then be applied to other classes. What I took away from this class about myself is that I am not one to fail completely without having tried something. Even though there were times that I was rather confused and just wanted to quit, I continued with these projects because I know I would be worse if I just said, “whatever.” I also learned that I am one to look for the easiest/fastest way out. When looking for tutorials, I would Google my problem and simply choose the first option or briefly skim the subjects until I found a site that looked perfect. This is definitely going to bite me in the butt in the future, so I’m glad I caught this problem now.

In the future, I see myself continuing to learn more about programming. I look forward to ISAT 340 in the fall and then ISAT 341 in the spring. I think the IKM sector has a lot to offer, and I see this program impacting my education and maybe helping me land a job after senior year or at least give me an advantage. I think I'm going to stick with my original goal from January, but this time instead of becoming familiar with different languages, I want to be proficient.

I really enjoyed this style of teaching because there was so much freedom (and here in America we love our freedom J). The no-grades structure is great, but does have minor problems. With no grades, students don't feel obligated to do anything. I definitely caught myself in this trap a few times this semester, but I quickly came to my senses because this material is very beneficial. However, on the plus side, I felt that I learned a lot more material because I got the chance to learn what I wanted to. This is definitely a great structure for this type of course because everyone is at different levels in experience, therefore, people can choose to learn what they see having the most impact on their education.

Looking back on this semester, I think I put in a lot of effort and hard work. Compared to myself 15 weeks ago, I have changed a lot and my knowledge has definitely expanded. I might not have perfected any of the languages or made a killer program, but for the amount of time I've spent on learning and trying to reach my goals, I think I deserve an A, which is what I'd like to see on my transcript as well.

Here's what I've done this semester ☐

<https://github.com/Luvlinds2/Bio.git>

<https://github.com/Luvlinds2/Converter.git>

<https://github.com/Luvlinds2/Maps>

<https://github.com/Luvlinds2/JMAIL.git>

End of Year Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : guthrisb

Expectations and Goals at the Beginning of the Semester:

At the beginning of the semester I remember thinking that this class was going to be different because of the video we were asked to make. I thought it was really unique that we were already working together before classes had even started. Being new to the ISAT major, I was really surprised when I realized the class was about learning to code for computers. I was also really scared because I am not a big fan of computers and don't like it when I am required to do a lot with them. I had no idea what to expect so my only goal was to get more comfortable with technology and learn a little bit about the idea of coding.

How My Expectations and Goals Changed:

As we talked a little bit more about what we would be doing in the class, I was really excited that one of our "assignments" was to hangout with our group. My group and I went to get frozen yogurt but we never really clicked. For our first assignment we never met outside of class and one of my members who was a computer science major did it for us. So from the start I wasn't too involved because I didn't need to be. I think also because I literally knew nothing about programming before the class I didn't set my goals too high because I didn't know enough about programming to set appropriate goals.

Account for My Time and Accomplishments:

The first time I really tried to get into the coding we were doing was when we had an exam. I thought it was really cool to be able to talk to people and figure out how to do things for the exam. I got really into it that night and worked on it for a couple of days after. I never really figured out to upload it to github and eventually forgot about. I did do a lot of Codecademy tutorials because I thought they were really fun to do. I would do a bunch of them randomly though and it made it difficult to retain and apply the information I learned. With our final group project i helped with the ideas for a website on happiness, which i thought was really cool. Our project got turned into a joke about one of our group members though and there wasn't much group collaboration. I also took notes from the classes webpage.

What did I learn about myself:

I learned that I shouldn't try to take on more classes than I can handle. At the beginning of the semester I knew I probably had more credits than i could handle and was trying to chose one to

drop. All of my classes were really interesting or like they had an awesome teacher. I wish I would have chosen one to drop though so i could have dedicated the right amount of time to it. I think if I had this class at a different time I would have put more effort into it. But because nothing was due each week, I allowed myself to push it to the side to get work for my other classes done. I learned also that I really struggle with prioritizing tasks and time management, something that I'm always trying to fix. I also learned that i should speak more in class and try to have more input when i work in groups instead of always just going with the flow.

What plans/ goals/ changes:

One day I think I would like to dip back into coding but I'm not sure when. I noticed at the Senior Symposiums a lot of the presentations dealt with coding in one way or another. I would like to be able to get a good enough grasp so that it could help me with certain tasks in the future. I don't really like sitting in front of the computer for long periods of time so I don't think it will ever be a big part of my life but i do find it very interesting.

How Does Style of Class Work for you:

This style of class didn't work well for me due to the fact that I do have bad time management and I didn't have enough interest to work hard at it. For me personally I like to have more structure or I end up struggling. I think if I had come into the class with the knowledge of coding that I have now I would have been more involved and wanted to learn more. I think this class would be extremely beneficial if all of my classes were this way. But since it was the only one, the style didn't work in my favor.

What Grade Do I deserve/ Want to be Reported:

Based off of my goals that I had in the beginning I think I accomplished them. I also think I didn't set very high goals, but that was because I didn't know enough about programming to set them. I think I deserve a B or B-. Although I would greatly appreciate an A-. I know I could have put more time into this class but I truly think I would have under different circumstances. I feel like from what I did do I learned a lot, more than I had ever expected to learn. This was a very unique class and I'm super happy to have experienced and to have learned what I did.

Alexander's End-Of-Year Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : ander3ad

ISAT 252 is a most interesting class, in my opinion: the environment of the class is unlike anything I've ever experienced before. Coming into this class, I expected a simple, plain ol' lecturin' Professor standing before the class and talking about programming languages, how to use syntax, and stuff of that nature. I made several goals with this class, namely to learn as much as I can about what the class had to offer, as well as do my very best with keeping up in it. I also expected plenty of the class to have at least some experience with coding before.

Obviously, as time grew on, the unique classroom environment threw off my initial expectations and goals almost instantly, and instead, I've settled with learning a new language: Python. I expected to learn a lot within the class, and as a matter of fact, I learned more than I expected to (namely Git and GitHub). I also expected a great team-building environment, working well together. This, however, is where I didn't expect to see a lack of progress: group-work. I expected a group able to communicate, meet up regularly, and work together on projects; not once did I experience this, as the groups I was a part of failed to meet my expectations. Luckily, most of them knew a good bit of programming by the end of the semester, but alas...

The resources I relied on most were the class website, the links within, ProGit and various other tutorials, Python Wiki, Google Developers, and Google (to locate those tutorials). I spent plenty of time reading through these tutorials, the names of which I cannot recall all of them, but that's what most of my time revolved around; reviewing information. I looked over my old Java programs for reference, as well, spending the time to look through the syntax. Most of my time was spent doing research.

I accomplished plenty of things I had expected and nothing I didn't. I built plenty of programs using Python, basic programs with smaller functions and things of that sort.

I've learned plenty about myself as I spent my time over this course. Coding comes almost naturally, but it's usually accompanied by lots of time reviewing tutorials and things of that sort. It takes awhile to figure out exactly how a piece of code works, but eventually, I figure it out. It's infuriating to work towards, but the end result is usually interesting.

Going forward, my goals are to further my knowledge of Python, Ruby, and other languages of that sort. Even so, I'd probably keep this on the back burner, as, although I'm fairly confident in coding, I'm not entirely sure I'd enjoy it.

This style of class worked well in my favor in many ways, namely that I could focus on other classes more so than this one (oh, but I never lost sight of this course, of course; t'was a very laid-back class, that's all). Although I felt it a bit too open, I feel that it still helped when it came to scheduling.

Now, for the big question: what grade do I deserve? I'd say that, even with the dysfunctional group, I still learned plenty with this course, and that any failures on my part are still learning experiences. On the registrar, an A would be superb. Typical, right? I believe, however, that I deserve more so a B- or a B. I put in plenty of effort into this course and plenty of time spent on tutorials. I wish I had just gotten out more code to run and work than I did and that my group work was better off.

Links to Repositories:

<https://github.com/TorchOfIrony/Python-Program.git>

<https://github.com/TorchOfIrony/Java-Code.git>

Isat 252 Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : bolenrs

Robert Bolen

Coming into my spring semester of my sophomore year I was excited to be in my first coding class. In terms of coding I had no prior knowledge and so I wasn't really sure what to expect. I didn't know if I was going to like coding if I would even understand how to code. I liked it, it wasn't hard at all, and you learn coding all at your own pace. At the beginning of the semester I made some general goals to learn and understand basic programming skills and maybe some advanced skills. As the semester went on I began to get a better understanding of code and I wanted to learn more and venture on my own. My goals went from being general to more specific as my sense of what I was capable of doing. These new goals that I made were to creating my own website as well as keep up with the in class projects like that turned into the mileage converter, the midterm exam, and the final project being a mobile app called "what's on tap". My time spent in this class was sort of a weekly rhythm. My week usually consisted of a group meeting to work on the class material and two days for myself to work on my personal website, weekly goals, and learning more code. I feel that my time spent out of class was very productive and very consistent each week. This consistent weekly schedule really helped me keep on track and finish all of my semester goals. The personal website I created using Dreamweaver ended up having 4 HTML pages and 1 CSS page. I was very pleased with it because I able to incorporate many different ideas into it. I was very surprised about the final product because before this semester I had no coding experience. I feel that the weekly group meetings also helped keep group on track and we were able to complete all of our projects. I learned a lot about myself this semester because of this class structure. I learned that I do like coding because I liked the feeling of creating something from scratch and having a final product. Moving forward from this semester I intend to increase my coding knowledge as well as learn some visual basic so can be somewhat prepared for Telecom and IKM. I feel that at this time next year my coding skills will be drastically better. I think that style of class is a good way for coding beginners to really get some coding basics under their belt, but that they do it at their own pace and I think that is the key. I enjoyed this class structure and I feel it helped me learn how to do the most important thing about coding and that is troubleshooting. When getting stuck while writing code there is no timetable to when you get unstuck because if you can't figure out what is wrong with your code you cannot proceed. The best way to learn how to get unstuck is by actually getting stuck and trying to figure out what you did wrong(experience).All in all I feel that I did pretty well in this class since I was able to complete all of my goals and have a finished website. I probably deserve a B- leaning towards a B because missed some class time due to family problems at home with my sister and parents. When it comes to which grade I would like reported I would ask for a B leaning towards a B+ since I and my group were able to complete all of the in class projects and I was able to venture off and create my own website and due to the amount of coding I learned throughout the semester.

End of Semester Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : driscowp

End of Year Narrative ISAT 252

Expectations and Goals At the Beginning of the Semester:

When the year began, my only expectations for this class was that I was going to learn some basics about coding and my goal was to do just that. I had taken a course on Visual Basic in a previous semester but I did not really learn or remember much of it. Since I was new to ISAT, I had not really heard much about this class from other people. After hearing about the format in the class I was excited because I thought I was going to breeze through and get an A.

How My Expectations and Goals evolved over time:

The change from the first half of the semester to the second half of the semester was pretty drastic. The first couple of weeks I really didn't do anything. For our fuel efficiency converter I had VB on my computer and after watching The Programming Process on youtube I basically just followed along step by step until we had a working program. I went through a similar process with the google api. We just met up and googled a bunch of code and plugged it in until we got the results we wanted. I couldn't tell you what half the stuff even meant; it was all copy and paste. A couple weeks after this we had our meeting with you and things started to change. I realized that I actually had done basically nothing up to this point and that I needed to at least put some effort in if I wanted to get a good grade. I started doing some tutorials on codecademy just to mess around with it. After some time I found that the hands on style of the website was something I truly enjoyed and could do more often. Over the rest of the semester, I spent hours on it at a time in my free time learning some basics about coding that I had not previously known. I really liked how I could build basically anything I want and see results immediately.

Account For Your Time:

Even though I felt like I did not put as much effort into this class in the first half of the semester as compared to the second half, I still spent a good amount of time meeting with my group almost every week outside of class. During our meetings we wouldn't really get much done physically but I felt like I learned a lot on just how to utilize my computer in general. We were constantly downloading new software and collaborating on what works the best. I also felt that my googling skills greatly improved after searching long and hard for code that we could use on our project. The second half of the semester we didn't meet up as a group as often but there were

days that I would spend hours fooling around and completing tutorials online which vastly improved my interest in the course because I began to actually learn how code.

What Did You Accomplish?:

Throughout the semester my group and I completed our fuel efficiency converter (which again wasn't that difficult because of VB), a google api map, and our currency converter. I learned how to use github and xampp as well. On my own I completed a ton of tutorials on codecademy and I tested out some of this new material with xampp just to apply what I was learning.

What did you learn about yourself?:

After taking my VB course I did not like programming at all. I thought it was interesting all the things that you can do with it but I just thought that it wasn't for me. I still kind of kept this mentality for the first half of the course. After spending a lot of time doing tutorials I actually started to get a hang of how this whole thing works and I started to gain a better appreciation for the subject. I think the structure of the course was a main contributor to this. In my previous course, we had an assignment due and a test almost every week. I was taking this course on the side of my other classes and I just did not feel like putting in the necessary effort to get good at it. This time around it was completely different because I could do everything on my time completely stress free. I would just be sitting around the house in front of the tv doing tutorials to pass the time and I found out that this stuff was pretty interesting. My roommate is a CIS major and I often found myself having conversations about programming and just computers in general quite often with him and many other people.

What Goals/Plans/Changes Do You Intend Moving Forward?:

After learning some of the basics the second half of the semester I plan on continuing this trend over the summer and in my college career. Many times after work over the summer I get extremely bored around the house and end up watching tv because I can't think of any better way to spend my time. This summer I really want to get good at this stuff and get ahead of some of my peers. I plan on doing this by continuing to still take tutorials to learn but actually utilizing my knowledge and building a website. I am not quite sure what exactly I am going to do yet, but I am the kind of person who is always thinking about making money so I'm sure I will think of something that solves or makes a problem in my life a little easier. I want it to be broad enough that I can continually add on to it and use the new knowledge that I learn in the future on making it better.

How Does This Style of Class Work For You?:

I really enjoyed this style of class this semester. In the beginning of the semester I thought it was a joke and didn't put any effort in. After about half way through I realized that I was absolutely 100% wrong and I should be taking a lot more advantage of it. I always complain about tests and projects and this style of class was actually letting me learn essentially what I want, when I want. This style is the only reason I think I began to like the material. Learning material for this class became more of a hobby than a chore. After this semester I wish all of my classes would be like this.

What Grade Do You (a.) deserve (b.) want me to report to the registrar?:

If I was asked this question for the first half of the semester I would have said that I deserved probably around a C and maybe even a D for the amount of effort I put into it. As this semester progressed I definitely think I deserve somewhere in the mid to upper B range based on my progress. I began to take advantage of this style of class and realized how much more enjoyable it was than the traditional style. I attended almost every class and spent a good deal of time outside of the class meeting with my group all throughout the semester. I also spent countless hours trying to learn this stuff on my own, which I felt like I really got the hang of it towards the end of the semester. This aside, I would really love if I got an A in this course. I learned a lot and gained a genuine appreciation for programming that I did not have before. I regret not spending more time in the beginning after realizing this and I definitely think I would have deserved an A if I had done so.

Most all of our work we did in a group is in Brandon's GitHub <https://github.com/driscowp>
<https://github.com/carte3bm> and the tutorials I've done on code academy
<http://www.codecademy.com/webblaster94497>

252 Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : shellejg

I wasn't really looking forward to taking programming but I have to say this class exceeded my expectations. The relaxed teaching style which I thought would not motivate me, just let me learn what I wanted at my pace. My goal at the beginning of the semester was to develop a mobile app and understand its workings. This class helped me take the necessary steps to complete my goal. Not only that but I learned more about myself as well, through the positivity surveys and daily meditations (which I have continued to do on my own now to clear my head if I have a big test or just need a moment. Over the course of the semester I started with the simple hello world page which I extended on my own time, worked on 2 different types of converters, helped friends complete a project on a half-life converter, and through a good point of it worked on understanding phone gap, and the android dev system. While I enjoyed the end results of all these projects, it is hard for me to sit behind a keyboard and be patient for the long hours that it takes to work the bugs out.

On a different level than programming, I think I have become, in general, a more confident person this semester. In this class and others I notice myself speaking up more to add my opinion when I normally would hold back and being more comfortable in front of the class or leading fellow classmates with a task. Daily meditations, which I have continued on my own, have helped me mellow myself out in situations and come back with a new outlook. This has helped my overall positivity because I notice that I'm acting negatively on a situation, set back for a moment and take a breath, then try again.

I have many goals plans and changes that will be made to my life moving forward and they change based on the weather it seems. As for goals, I hope graduate ISAT and either find an ideal job which doesn't tie me down too much and is in an area I love, or to take a break year after graduation and get some traveling done while I can. The plan as of today, sunny, would be to head out of Denver CO. where my family lives, teach ski lessons in the winter and travel overseas in all parts of the year but winter. This is a big goal but is always changing and the first step is to graduate so I will re-evaluate then.

This class style was a little work to get used to because I found myself putting it on the back burner of my other classes. I think it might have worked better for me if I took it during a less rough semester but it ended up working out alright. The problem for me was that I could never get coding to be fun or something I did as a release, somehow it always managed to work me up and for that reason was sometimes more hassle than it was worth. I think that class time should be a tad more structured but basically what we did at the end, where anyone has a chance to ask questions relating to what they are working on.

I think that I deserve an A in this class because I exceeded my own expectations and was able to achieve my goal of understanding the interworkings of a mobile app. I would also like you to report an A to the registrar. This would be a huge helper for my GPA given the semester.

Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : chancedc

I came into this class with zero programming experience and computer skills that reached as far as Excel. With this in mind I kept my expectations realistic and my goals simple. I was excited to learn and wanted to program something that did what it was supposed to do, no matter how basic. This was the sort of approach Jon and myself took with the semester project. We didn't want to take on more than we could handle because in the end we wanted something that worked.

Over time I was happy with the approach we took for the project as it felt to be at the right difficulty for us. After a while I realized I enjoy writing the html and css more so than js because it's fun to be able to change the look and feel of the site.

In the end we accomplished what we set out to do. We built a site that does what we intended. While it could still use tons of work, if it were used as is students could be tutored through it. In fact, I recently was approached by Sarah saying IHS was interested in running it on a server to use for tutoring. I just think that's really cool.

I learned not to be intimidated entering new fields. Before I never tried to learn much about computers because I always assumed I wasn't good with them. Now I realize if I just set little goals then after awhile they add up and before I realize it I'm doing something like building a (albeit simple) website.

Moving forward I absolutely would like to keep working on the tutoring site and get it on a server. It just wouldn't be satisfying if it didn't get used. Also, I am beginning the IKM sector in the fall and hope it goes well.

It was interesting to have a different class style than I am used to. Early on it worked very well for me but later on in the semester it didn't work as well. This is entirely due to motivation. Because this class is structured toward the intrinsically motivated I really enjoyed it the first half of the semester because I am always more motivated the first half of a semester. Unfortunately, I tend to lose steam as I go and by the end I need to be extrinsically motivated. I guess that's just human nature and don't really know how to fix it.

I deserve an A. I had good attendance, kept up with the work, and really improved compared to myself before this class. That would also be the grade I'd like you to report to the registrar. This has been a cool semester. Thanks.

Here is my github link <https://github.com/Chancedc> also I worked on Codecademy.

ISAT 252 Portfolio Paper

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : campbech

1. Expectations and Goals for ISAT 252

When I first came into this class I was not actually sure what to expect. I knew the class was about computer programming but I wasn't really sure what that even meant. When I first came to JMU my mom made me be a computer science major because she heard that the jobs in that field pay really well. My very first day of class the teacher jumped right into programming and all of the kids in the class knew what she was talking about cause almost all of them had already had experience in it. I have never had experience in it and it was just too much too quick and turned me off from the subject. I was hoping for this class to be a gentler introduction to the topic and I hoped to come out of the class with some understanding of what programming actually is.

2. How have the above goals and expectations changed over time?

Throughout this course my goals and expectations have greatly changed. I saw coding and programming to be this insanely unachievable feat that only professionals with years of training could do. I soon realized after joining this class that the seemingly crazy goal of making my very own website was not actually as hard as it seems.

3. Account for time spent on this class

My time spent on this class fluctuated throughout different phases of this course. In the beginning of this course I got really motivated about coding as I downloaded text wrangler and sublime to code in and learned about Git and Github. In the middle of the semester I somewhat lost interest as work for other classes seemed to take precedence but during the last phase of this class I was able to buckle down and spent a good bit of my time with my group figuring out how to do different functions.

4. What did I accomplish?

In this course I accomplished a great deal of things. First off I consider learning how to code in its simplest form an accomplishment in itself. Actually figuring out how to start off programming in an app, run it through mamp, and then load it up on to Git hub to work on was a crucial skill. With out knowing how to do this I would not have been able to look up how to code anything at all and understand what to do with it. My group and me then, over the course of the semester, decided what we wanted to do with our programming skills. We all decided on making a positivity website that has the simply purpose of cultivating happiness. We then took our time each class chipping away at it and looking up how to do different functionalities as we wished to preform.

5. What did I learn about myself?

I actually learned a great deal about myself in this course. I learned that the Internet is the greatest tool for teaching that has ever been created and if I wish to learn any skill there is some

type of tutorial teaching me how to do it. This was especially important because I have been playing piano for about 15 years now but I was not really getting around to playing as much. Code academy and just the ease of looking up how to code on the internet made me realize that I can do the same thing for piano and I have probably learned about 10 full songs just off of watching YouTube tutorials through out the course of the semester. I also learned that I am not just going to get great at things without working hard on them and if I truly am passionate about something I should devote as much time to it as I can.

6. What goals/plans/changes do I intend moving forward?

Moving forward from here I hope to continue to learn more code and maybe create my very own website to share the songs that I write and offer free downloads of them. This is important because I am always righting new music but my family rarely gets to hear it because of distance. This would allow them to hear me play anytime they want. I also plan to stay focused on my school work more next semester. I tend to let it drift off and then end up being face with impossible tasks at the last minute thus suffering the quality of my work. If I can make this vital change in my work ethics I think that I will see dramatic improvement in my grades. Also just because this course has finished does not mean that I am done coding until next year. I hope to look up tons of tutorials over the summer when I am bored and just feel like playing with my computer. I see it like a puzzle and every new thing I figure out how to do is like finding out where a new piece goes.

7. How does this style of class work for you?

This course style worked well for me. I usually am not interested in learning because I just mentally put it under the umbrella of “school” which I automatically assume to be not fun. This style gave me the choice to learn and made me realize that if my parents are going to be paying for class I should be getting something out of it. Then as I began working on things in the class I realized that I actually enjoyed learning without the pressure and being self-motivated felt really good. The only thing that was bad for me was that if work for other classes ever came in the way of work for 252 I would always put the other work first since it would be “graded.” However this almost made looking up code for 252 seem even more fun because I then realized that I actually wanted to look up code for 252 and not study for other subjects!

8. What grade do I deserve and what do I want reported to the registrar.

I believe that I probably deserve the grade of a B in this course. I really have put forth a lot of effort learning how to code and I feel like I can now get almost any coding challenge and figure out how to do it on my own. That being said I would like an A to be reported to the registrar.

End of Semester Narrative

Published Date : May 2, 2013

Author : roseph

Here are a couple of my posts...

“Having experienced CS 139: Algorithm Development last semester, I was able to obtain a great understanding of how useful programming is and could be. With this said, I would love to be able to write a program that would allow a person to locate their cell phone by using their respective cell phone number. I know that this kind of functionality is currently available for iPhones, but I would like to expand that capability outward so that more people could use it.”

“For anyone who could use a little more help with HTML and/or JavaScript, I recommend going to stackoverflow.com. They provide a lot of useful information by answering questions that other people within their community have asked. Check it out!”

And here's my narrative...

ISAT 252 Narrative/Reflection

I have to admit that when I entered this class at the beginning of the semester, I was expecting just more of the same when it came to my prior experiences with coding. I took CS 139 last semester and, while I did learn a ton in that class, it was just structured in a way that, in my opinion, hindered creativity and just strictly stuck to the tried and true hierarchy of the class. My goals, thus said, were simple yet very ambiguous: learn as much as I can and do the absolute best that I can. Granted, the two courses did use very different programming languages at their root, but the atmosphere I came to know and love this semester paled in comparison to the atmosphere of CS 139. I felt liberated in terms of being able to create and work on projects I was interested in. From working with project teams the whole semester to actively helping conduct class while Morgan was in Malta, I really feel that I got the absolute most out of this class and then some.

Coming into Morgan's 252 section, I had heard rumors that we would be working with HTML and JavaScript instead of diving into Visual Basic like other sections of 252. After hearing this, I became very interested as to how this style of programming would compare in terms to what I was used to. As it turns out, all be it very different, it was an absolute blast working with these two languages. This being said, my goals and expectations truly did change over time as I continued to delve deeper and deeper into the two languages. My goals went from the generic “learn as much as I can” to “I want to make something useful that everyone would love and I want to have fun doing it”. Also, another goal of mine was to help other people with their respective code and help them gain a better basis of how to program in general given that many of my classmates had not had any coding experience prior to this. I wanted to do this because I take a lot of pride in helping others. Taking this into account, I spent a lot of time with this class. From working on my own code for hours on end (up to 8 on one day), to attending almost

every hacking session with the exception of one (b/c of the Macklemore concert), to attending nearly every other section of Morgan's 252 class (my schedule permitting), I feel that I put a serious amount of time into this course and am extremely happy and proud that I did.

Coming into this class, I have to admit that I wasn't sure how much I was going to be able to accomplish simply because I had only been used to Java coding. As it turns out, I feel that I accomplished a lot this semester. In layman's terms, I feel that my coding background and my passion for coding have greatly solidified. From making simple yet tricked out converters in a web format to making apps that could be put on the Android Market (yes literally), I had a lot of fun learning and researching the material being portrayed to us in class. Overall, I feel that I gained a very good understanding of:

- How to code using HTML and JavaScript
- How to use GitHub (on both PC and MAC)
- How to use XAMPP and a little bit of MAMPP
- How to use PhoneGap along with ADT and ANT to create an Android project
- How to better use Command Prompt and Terminal

Also, I had a lot of fun walking the respective sections through different tutorials and helping Morgan out with people who may have been encountering issues. Keeping this in mind, I feel that I learned a decent bit about myself. One thing that I learned was that I am extremely comfortable with taking up leadership positions on a small and large scale. Also, I feel that I became very good at researching how to solve problems. Other things that I kind of already knew about myself got emphasized, such as my passion for helping my fellow classmates with any problems they may have encountered. Put it this way, this class was definitely a learning and growing experience on all fronts for me.

Looking to the future, I have great aspirations in terms of continuing to code. Above all else, one of my goals is to continue to work with HTML and JavaScript + CSS and continue to create unique, cool, and useful applications. I would also like to incorporate some other languages into my core repertoire, such as PHP (I can do a little with it but I definitely need to work with it more), Python, the different C languages, and so on. I plan to continue to build up my coding base over the summer and prepare for CS 159 which I hear is one tough cookie of a course. Also, on a side note, I'm very much looking forward to taking ISAT 340 in the fall with Morgan!!

In terms of the structure of this class, it worked extremely well for me. I felt that I had complete freedom to choose the path that I wanted to take and I wound up running with it. It was, in my opinion, the perfect balance between structure and freedom. I would go out and try to come up with some cool idea but always knew that I could loot to my classmates, Calla (she's awesome by the way!!), or Morgan for help. All else being said, I really liked the unique class structure that Morgan has created and, while it may not be everyone's cup of tea, it certainly worked very well for me.

Looking back, I feel that I have accomplished a lot during this semester. I will admit though that I did not succeed in all of my endeavors, such as pulling my SafeRides project together. That being said, I did accomplish nearly all of my goals. So, in the end, I feel that I deserve an A in

this class. On the other hand though, looking back at the time, effort, and dedication I put into this class, I feel that I could justifiably ask for an A+. All else being said, I would really love and appreciate it if you would report my grade to the registrar as an A+.

Please feel free to check out my repos under the “Project Repos” section!!

End of Year Assessment

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : hasselax

I know half the class has said this dozens of times before, but coming into ISAT 252, I had exactly zero knowledge of programming with javascript, CSS, or even HTML. Because of this, my first expectation was a rigorous course where I'd be learning an entirely different subject from scratch. My highest hopes were to simply gain a basic understanding of programming where I could at least create my own website that looks professional. After the first few weeks of class, the completely different style of teaching intrigued and scared me. From the first few weeks, my goals were to simply learn a little bit of programming each week, mainly with the help of Codecademy. From there, I shot to aim high early on, that did not turn out to work as well as I thought it would.

My goals started with me aiming way too high. I started setting unrealistic goals thinking that I would be able to catch onto programming a lot faster than I ended up doing. I started taking biotech classes last semester with no intention on concentration in biotech for ISAT, but the way I was able to grasp hold of concepts so fast made it one of my three concentrations I am trying to complete in four years. So as time went on, I started setting smaller goals while trying to balance all of my time management. Due to some legal troubles I got into, that weren't my first ones, an added weight was put on my shoulders by taking alcohol classes and performing community service.

A majority of my time went into trying to make sure I understood the basics very well so I could start new projects with a firm foundation. I will admit that I did not spend as much time as me or you would like on programming but it was very frustrating not being able to do the most "basic" steps in programming. Codecademy helped me solve this problem slightly by doing a couple tutorials a week to build on my knowledge.

By the end of the year, I accomplished less compared to other students as far as programming knowledge goes, but it was still a lot for me. My roommates who are bio, business, and engineering majors thought I was a genius that I could create basic websites. This was nothing compared to what they would have seen in class, but was enough for me to realize I accomplished more than I thought. I can now easily create a website using html, CSS, and javascript with basic functions that would look at least semi-professional.

Throughout the class, all of the meditating and learning about ourselves was very helpful. My mind is constantly running at full speed with a lot of stress on the side. When we first started off meditations, I could not clear my mind at all. Every time I tried, I would find my mind wandering with a very bizarre and eccentric stream of consciousness. As the class went on, I began to learn how harmful stress really is. It affects me a lot more than I thought it previously did. I took care of that by picking up reading for fun for the first time in two years. I actually got three books of about 700 pages. Along with this, I found my passion for music again. I plan on selling my drum set when I get home so that I can purchase an electronic one to bring to my apartment. Hopefully, some friends and I will be playing gigs around Hampton. I also

learned my time management was extremely detrimental to my studies and made a schedule for the second half of the semester that I tried following as much as I can. This was the first time I even used an agenda or even a calender for that matter.

As stated before, my goals changed from very ambitious ones to more reasonable ones that I could actually accomplish. My roommate has recently asked me to make a website for this application his aunt started that is released in late May. I have just made a basic website so far for him but he has greatly appreciated it and I hope to expand on that even more.

This style of class would definitely work for me, except for a class I had no knowledge of going into. It was a bit more difficult trying to learn programming in this style. I know there were hacking classes but my schedule never aligned with them unfortunately. It was a more relaxed environment that made work easier to do and took loads of stress off. However, for a class I already had a firm understanding in, such as biotech or environmental science, I believed I would definitely flourish a lot more. I thoroughly enjoy doing research on my own about subjects that interest me. I actually bought 3 biotech text books over the summer to read and get me ahead of the classes. Programming just never came as easily to me as the sciences did. This was also frustrating that I have been so used to picking up classes in that past, that the fact that I could not for programming was difficult. Overall though, I would recommend this style of teaching. Obviously a lot of the classmates took full advantage of their talents and the class set-up to really produce some remarkable apps.

The project was frustrating to start with. I spent hours trying to find a basic websites to get our idea for the random trail generator. I only found one website remarkably close to our idea but it was not even finished, did not work properly, and still had different goals than ours would be. After finding no base to work off of and with little programming knowledge, we switched to a soccer database only to find out how difficult screen scraping is. We ended up with a GPA calculator that Hoag did a great majority of the work for and was greatly appreciated.

Overall, I think that work I put into deserves a grade of a B. I learned less than others, or so it appeared, but I spent long nights trying to overcome this deficit. While saying that, I would like for you to report to the registrar that I achieved a grade of an A.

ISAT 252 Portfolio Paper

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : fenciljp

James Fencil

Section 1 9:00 A.M

5/2/13

Dr. Benton

ISAT 252

Coming into ISAT 252 I had no previous experience with programming, but was always very curious about how all the different types of social networking websites worked. To say the least I was very excited to learn, but I had no idea how many different tools there were to make a website. I wasn't really sure what I would come out with at the end of this class, but I was hoping I would learn to appreciate programming because I have not been very interested in the classes I have taken previous to ISAT 252 in the ISAT program.

As I learned how vast the programming world really was, my expectations and goals changed a lot over time. My first goal was to learn how to make the most basic website and from there I watched many video tutorials and read many different websites about how to code in html and how to create a style sheet in CSS. My goals kept changing and getting slightly more and more complicated as time went on until I had a finished project at the end of the semester.

As a group we were able to accomplish two working websites and all of the projects that we were given to work on in the beginning of the semester. Personally, I spent the majority of my time creating the JMU List website. At first I spent the majority of my time on w3schools.com and codecademy.com to learn html and CSS. After I created the visual aspect of my website, I spent a long time trying to figure out how a login and registration page could be coded into my website. I watched many different tutorials on php, Mysql, and phpMyadmin, but I wasn't able to figure out how to download the programs so that the php code would work. I also spent a long time trying to download Symfony on my computer but was not successful. After a lot of frustration, I resorted to using an online registration service that I could use. This service gave me the basic tools to create a login and registration form. At the end of the semester I was able to type in www.jmulist.xp3.biz, create a username and password, and login to my website to view what items were being traded and sold.

I learned that in order to actually care about the final outcome of our project I needed to have an idea that I thought was worth spending time on. I learned that I need more of a structured class to be able to stay motivated and learn to my full potential and I also learned that I could definitely see myself in this sector of ISAT.

There are a few goals that I would like to accomplish moving forward from this semester. I will continue to learn the many techniques of coding a website this summer, because I enrolled in ISAT 340 Software Development for the fall semester. I definitely want to make sure I am up to speed with the languages I need to be familiar with to succeed in this class. If I am able to do well in ISAT 340 and continue to have a passion for programming I will definitely feel more confident with my decision to pursue the IKM sector and maybe even concentration in the future.

I definitely enjoyed the freedom we were given in this class, but I need a little more structure in the classroom. I found that as the semester went on, I was putting other classes that were more demanding ahead of this class, which was not what I really wanted to do, but was forced to do anyway. After I really got into my project, the only thing I wanted to do was learn more and more programming so that I would have a finished project by the end of the semester.

The grade that I think I deserve would be an A. I think that I have finally discovered my passion within the ISAT major. I am a person who won't give up and through many hours of dedication and further experience I think that I have potential to be successful in IKM. I think I have the drive and creativity in order to make sure that I am successful and would really like IKM to be my area of expertise when I graduate from James Madison. Our projects can be found at <https://github.com/yeahyames> and the url to JMU List is www.jmulist.xp3.biz.

Portfolio Paper

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : fenciljp

James Fencil

Section 1 9:00 A.M

5/2/13

Dr. Benton

ISAT 252

Coming into ISAT 252 I had no previous experience with programming, but was always very curious about how all the different types of social networking websites worked. To say the least I was very excited to learn, but I had no idea how many different tools there were to make a website. I wasn't really sure what I would come out with at the end of this class, but I was hoping I would learn to appreciate programming because I have not been very interested in the classes I have taken previous to ISAT 252 in the ISAT program.

As I learned how vast the programming world really was, my expectations and goals changed a lot over time. My first goal was to learn how to make the most basic website and from there I watched many video tutorials and read many different websites about how to code in html and how to create a style sheet in CSS. My goals kept changing and getting slightly more and more complicated as time went on until I had a finished project at the end of the semester.

As a group we were able to accomplish two working websites and all of the projects that we were given to work on in the beginning of the semester. Personally, I spent the majority of my time creating the JMU List website. At first I spent the majority of my time on w3schools.com and codecademy.com to learn html and CSS. After I created the visual aspect of my website, I spent a long time trying to figure out how a login and registration page could be coded into my website. I watched many different tutorials on php, Mysql, and phpMyadmin, but I wasn't able to figure out how to download the programs so that the php code would work. I also spent a long time trying to download Symfony on my computer but was not successful. After a lot of frustration, I resorted to using an online registration service that I could use. This service gave me the basic tools to create a login and registration form. At the end of the semester I was able to type in www.jmulist.xp3.biz, create a username and password, and login to my website to view what items were being traded and sold.

I learned that in order to actually care about the final outcome of our project I needed to have an idea that I thought was worth spending time on. I learned that I need more of a structured class to be able to stay motivated and learn to my full potential and I also learned that I could definitely see myself in this sector of ISAT.

There are a few goals that I would like to accomplish moving forward from this semester. I will continue to learn the many techniques of coding a website this summer, because I enrolled in ISAT 340 Software Development for the fall semester. I definitely want to make sure I am up to speed with the languages I need to be familiar with to succeed in this class. If I am able to do well in ISAT 340 and continue to have a passion for programming I will definitely feel more confident with my decision to pursue the IKM sector and maybe even concentration in the future. I definitely enjoyed the freedom we were given in this class, but I need a little more structure in the classroom. I found that as the semester went on, I was putting other classes that were more demanding ahead of this class, which was not what I really wanted to do, but was forced to do anyway. After I really got into my project, the only thing I wanted to do was learn more and more programming so that I would have a finished project by the end of the semester.

The grade that I think I deserve would be an A. I think that I have finally discovered my passion within the ISAT major. I am a person who won't give up and through many hours of dedication and further experience I think that I have potential to be successful in IKM. I think I have the drive and creativity in order to make sure that I am successful and would really like IKM to be my area of expertise when I graduate from James Madison. Our projects can be found at <https://github.com/yeahyames> and the url to JMU List is www.jmulist.xp3.biz.

Narrative: Jim Braudaway

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : braudajw

My expectations for this course were to learn how to make a website and be able to do something I feel is useful. I expected to challenge myself and be challenged, so I would be able to produce something I can be proud of, as well as something more inclined to what I like to do. My goal for this semester was to take a small step into a lifelong endeavor of financial intelligence and financial decision making. My goal was to create a website that helped users as much as possible to compute ratios, indexes and numbers and then to explain what those numbers mean. Another goal was for me to investigate and explore a topic I know very little about but have heard so much about. My father is a computer scientist and is a very technical person. I wanted a glimpse into the world of web design and programming. My expectations and goals started very small. At first, it was just to make a webpage without blowing up the computer. My expectations and goals became increasingly aggressive as I learned more and more about programming, especially JavaScript, php, and html. I was able to use what I learned to create a product, and my expectations reflected my abilities to create those ideas. My purpose was to continuously add on because financial intelligence is never ending. What constricted me was that some attributes of JavaScript were more challenging than others. As my ability grew, I was able to master harder and harder formulations and techniques in JavaScript and html. Early on in the semester, I did many tutorials involving JavaScript and html. When I started my project, I had the necessary beginner tools to carry out simple functions. After the first class project, I realized the potential of what I learned and got busy with the ratios part of my project. Throughout the semester, I averaged around 6 hours a week working on this project, depending on how busy my other classes were. I was able to learn JavaScript formulation very well. I am also very familiar with html and am able to incorporate form, buttons, inputs, field validations and tables with JavaScript. I was able to create two dense web pages that function correctly and provide definitions for mouse over images. I was able to work with another person who had the same goal in mind but none of the knowledge about the subject. I was able to teach her the importance and applicability of the web page and how the page could potentially benefit others. I very much wanted to incorporate graphs into the web pages using php but was unsuccessful with that endeavor. I was also unsuccessful in motivating a team member to participate in our project, and his contributions were nonexistent. I learned that in formulation, it greatly helps if someone is watching you type. In a sense, four eyes are better than two. I learned that I have passion in this sort of information and should pursue Accounting information systems. I also learned that I can be motivated by primarily by passion and not a teacher holding a stick over my head. In school, ever since kindergarten, students learn by having teachers hold sticks over their head, pushing them to study hard and learn as much as they can. I came into this class with the mindset that I would be pushed. I quickly realized no one was pushing me. Why did I have to work at all? Over time, I realized I wanted to learn how to do some of the cool stuff Morgan was sharing in class. He gave us the hope and confidence that we could do things just like that. After that, I got my wakeup call and didn't work on my project for a grade but for the purpose of creating something I thought was worthwhile. I created something that had value to me, regardless of my grade, regardless of what other people thought. I have always

known myself to be very competitive; but in this class, I did not have to be. Everyone in class who worked to create a product had something different and unique to contribute to the group. I did not see our team project as one competing against other team projects, like in COB 300. I was able to enjoy other people's achievements and learn information from them, like how they allocated their time. At first, I hated the set up of the class; but as time went on, I came to enjoy the set up of the class. There were no constraints and no pressures or needs to satisfy "the grade". I felt as though I was gifting the class with my knowledge and cool ideas I presented. This is a good class for individuals with a gusto and passion for learning and innovation. This is not a class for slackers and lazy people.

I had difficulty deciding my grade. I have decided to base my grade on how much I shared with other people and what other people shared with me. I believe I deserve an A and would like you to report an A to the registrar.

ISAT 252 Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : kearneje

ISAT 252 Narrative

My initial goals and expectations for ISAT 252 were to get a strong foundation for the programming language, and also enjoy working with my peers throughout it. I have always been very interesting in programming, and I looked forward to building a website, game or app for a mobile device. I was sure that I could complete a small project at the beginning of the year, but over time my goals evolved after learning that the class was about more than just completing a project within the given time period. I found out that the class had the purpose of using teamwork and time management skills to learn how to write basic programming through online tutorials and peer interaction. This caused my goals to change into wanting to help my team learn as much of the numerous programming languages as possible, even though it would take years to master them.

The majority of my time that I spent for this class came from the numerous Javascript and HTML tutorials on codecademy.com. This was what I worked with for the first few weeks of class so I could get an understanding and decide on a project. Once I felt like I knew enough to get started on a project, I worked with my team multiple times a week on our JMUList project. It was a convenience for my group because one of my group members was my roommate, and another came over many nights a week to work on our website. We spent hours each night watching tutorials and slowly piecing our new website together.

During this semester, I accomplished much more than only obtaining programming skills. I acquired a way to relax through meditation, and also built on many relationships with peers through teamwork skills. Also, my project group was successful in starting a website through use of Javascript, HTML, and some PHP. We worked hard to make a registration process as well as beginning to make an upload portion of the site for buying and selling. I found myself working on the layout and designs of the website while others in my group covered other aspects of the website. We believe that our website has the potential to be a very well made programming project, and also that others may like our idea. We plan on continuing this project in our spare time as well.

From this class I learned a lot about programming, and what I want to do with it in the future. This class showed me that I am interested in and enjoy programming, but I do not wish to have a career in it. In the future, I may program in my spare time for fun, or work with friends who also enjoy programming. This class also taught me how to use my time wisely when there is no pressure, due dates, or grades. In the future I plan to use the techniques learned from this class (such as meditation, time management, teamwork skills etc.) in other classes to become more successful. This laid back class was very appealing to me and I did not seem to get off track throughout the year without having pressure, although there was many times that I was stuck on a specific skill that took time to get over. There are many subjects that I would not have

been successful in with this style of class, such as those that I find boring, and would be unmotivated to work in.

In looking back on this semester and thinking about the countless hours spent in learning and practicing the numerous programming techniques required to advance our website, I feel that I deserve to have an A reported to the registrar. I also really want this to be the case because of effort that I believe my team put into the website, and also because of what we contributed to the very friendly and enjoyable atmosphere of ISAT 252. I would like to especially thank Professor Benton for allowing me to experience this style of class, and also having a great semester in the process.

GitHub Link:

<https://github.com/yeahyames/jmulistfinal>

Working JMU List url:

jmulist.xp3.bix

Portfolio

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : healeyip

Portfolio Points to Answer

Here is a link to my Github account. It is worth mentioning that I have worked on all the projects I'm attached too, not just the 252 converter like Github says. Everyone I've worked with, plus myself, haven't been the greatest at updating Git every time we make changes to code.

1. Expectations and Goals for ISAT 252

I came into this class unsure of what to expect. On one hand, the class was being taught by one of, if not my favorite professor at JMU and on the other hand I just dropped my CS degree for ISAT because I failed a whole bunch of courses – including some difficult programming classes (see CS 240 and 350). I had always been interested in Web Development, but didn't know where to start. PHP and HTML always scared me because of how different they seemed on the surface from any other language I've dealt with before (Java, Go, C++, C) so I wasn't sure how this class was going to go. I came in hoping to get into some web development, but not getting overwhelmed with an extremely complex class due to two difficult Telecom ISAT classes and the fact that I just dipping into Academic Probation.

2. How have the above goals and expectations changed over time?

They didn't change all too much. While throughout the entire semester I wanted to learn more about web development, my project in ISAT 306 really helped further my skills in the second half of the semester that I started working on in the first half of the semester. During the first half of the semester my goals were to learn enough to work on the mini-projects. However towards the second half of the semester I couldn't find/follow any sort of similar goals.

3. Account for time spent on this class

I do not think I spent enough time working on things for this class. I did not put forth as much effort as I should have for my semester project and I never completed our Google Map zip code tracker with my first group. I never spent more than a few hours a week on this class outside of class, sometimes I spent no time at all, while other classes there were weeks this semester where I spent 30-40 hours on that class specifically.

4. What did I accomplish?

I (re)learned the basics behind HTML/CSS and then learned how to implement jQuery, Javascript, Ajax, JSON, PHP, and database/SQL stuff into my code. At the end, I am much more proficient at setting up and coding an entire web environment. If someone were to set me up with a task of setting up a website and a mobile application for it involving pulling and updating information in a database, I feel that I would be able to do it much quicker than I would have before this semester (if I could have in the first place).

5. What did I learn about myself

I learned that I'm not as bad of a programmer as I've given myself credit for. Over the course of the 2-3 previous semesters I failed multiple courses (mostly due to lack of motivation) as a CS major, but I took that upon myself and have been calling myself a crappy programmer ever since. After this class, I learned I'm not as bad as I thought I was and can actually be pretty quick with picking up code.

6. What goals/plans/changes do I intend moving forward?

I need to find ways to stay motivated for my coursework throughout the entire semester. Towards the middle of this semester I really slacked off for this class and just stopped showing up to class for a week or two. It got really bad and then I pulled it together.

7. How does this style of class work for you?

It works well to an extent. The first half worked great – forcing us to meet up with a random mini-group, mini-projects to learn how to code, and stuff like that. The second half of the semester is where I fell apart. We had too big a group and none of us had any motivation so no one motivated each other to actually get any work done. I loved the meditating and really missed that whenever I missed your class. I especially loved that we didn't have grades, however I think a little more work throughout the semester would have been great towards keeping me motivated to continue working in this class. I am one that is totally against grades for the most part and exams in programming class, so I really enjoyed how this class was set up in that regard.

8. What grade do I deserve and what do I want reported to the registrar.

I'm struggling here. Between my lack of motivation in the middle of the semester, my inability to get the zip code Google map project working, and how crappy our final project

ended up, I think I deserve somewhere in the range of a C to a B-. However, with that said, I worked my butt off across other classes – the one relating to this class being 306. Even though the work I did wasn't specific to this class, it related to this class and I wrote a lot of HTML and PHP and edited enough for a semester worth of work. I didn't know if I could apply that work towards this class, but after watching Ben and Eric present their 306 project to the class I am not confident I can use that and show it to you today. With that said, I really would like an A- or A reported to the registrar. This is my first semester on Academic Probation and while I worked my butt off around the clock on all my classes, my grades for the classes I worked hardest in aren't going to be the best (see: ISAT 465) and will probably be in the C range. It would be awesome if I could get an A in this course, balance out my grades based on the amount of work I did across all my classes, and get my butt out of Academic Probation range. I went from attending maybe 2-3 classes a week all week long across all my classes (last 2 semesters), to attending just about all of my classes for 131, 361, 465, and 306 and most of my classes for this course. I've made a big change in my habits and how I operate as a student and it would be great if that could reflect more strongly across my grades.

Chris Vaughan Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : vaughacx

1. Expectations and Goals for ISAT 252

Once initiated into the class, and I got to know Morgan and his teaching style, I found myself extremely excited and encouraged about the prospects in the class. Signing up for a programming class, I didn't know what to expect having never taken a programming course before, but Morgan's style enabled even the most inexperienced programmers to set a goal and achieve it. The goals I set for myself at the beginning of the class, was to become proficient in one programming language, to be able to have a stable foundation, which would allow me to tackle a programming challenge head on, and to establish whether a programming career would be right for me

2. How have the above goals and expectations changed over time?

I managed to become familiar with JavaScript language, however I would not describe my knowledge as proficient. The goal I set to become adept in a programming language was achievable, however without a reliable laptop this goal would sometimes lend itself as a hobby and other times as a chore. I embraced the opportunity to learn the foundation and structures of how many software is built today, however without a consistent dev environment, the opportunity grew into a chore rather than a convenience. Nevertheless, this did not change my view of the class as it opened my eyes to developing myself and the way I approach future goals, not just in programming. As for a potential programming career, I believe it is not for me, however I still hope to become proficient in code, I just do not wish to make it the focal point of my future career.

3. Account for time spent on this class.

Many hours during the semester I spent learning to code through CodeAcademy, which was an immense help. CodeAcademy helped build a foundation to learn how to program, and I will be using it frequently in the future. I also spend adequate time on the assigned projects. I was relatively inexperienced compared to some of my team members, however this did not deter from my help and productivity. Members of my team would build the majority of the code for a project and I would analyse and critique the code to help better my understanding and help clean up the code to simplify its style. The final Beers on Tapp app that was created, I am glad to say I had a big part contributing to the project; I created an extensive database with around 60 beers, including their details and a brief but adequate description.

4. What did I accomplish?

The class was a breath of fresh air for me, the structure of the class helped me fulfill goals that were appropriate for me. Were most of my time was spent (on CodeAcademy), I managed to establish an efficient understanding of JavaScript, however there is still much to learn. The class helped me learn my standpoint on programming; it opened a door for me, which may never have happened, before this class I stayed clear from programming and I never thought I would have a desire to learn as much as possible. On a tangible basis, I managed to help and contribute to

building numerous apps and more precisely the Beers on Tapp app, which I have every desire to complete it to its full potential.

5. What did i learn about myself?

This class had a profound impact on almost everything I do. The techniques that Morgan have introduced to me and the class are values that can be used everyday, to help improve everything I do from academics to my daily routine. The meditation is a valuable technique to help calm the thoughts in ones mind and help organize these thoughts to become more productive and help eliminate foreign issues from what you are doing momentarily. This insightful technique helped me get the best out of any given moment, and it will have unprecedented help in the future. This class has also helped me better understand that for me to accomplish academic success, it is all down to the number of hours I am willing to commit to fulfill this goal to achieve true potential.

6. What goals/plans/changes do I intend moving forward?

The class has really excited me in this area, I have seen the potential in programming, and I now have a burning desire to reach a level that enables me to build my own applications to help my daily life. I am a person who is engrossed by the latest technology, and I always have to have the latest gadget, and with learning how to code proficiently, I can be a part of the latest and greatest technology. Once I buy a new laptop, I fully intend to indulge myself in the programming environment and hope to master the ropes. Although, this class has been an irrevocable experience to me, it has also been very frustrating trying to program on a shared slow outdated laptop, which despite its name, is not at all movable.

7. How does this style of class work for you?

I have embraced the style of this class, as it is compatible with everyone yet still efficient. The class really tries to put your success in your own hands; you set your own goals and depending on the effort and hours put in you can be everything you set out to achieve. Although, I did find myself losing motivation towards the end of the semester, however this may be due to my frustration in not having adequate resources to flourish. The surveys are a nice touch to help keep setting goals to achieve more, however I will always prefer to evaluate my progress in person rather than online.

8. What grade do I deserve and what do I want reported to the registrar.

My grade could easily be argued for and against, however for obvious reasons I will try to reiterate the first. This class has opened many doors for me, which is my most valued experience from this class. Although on a tangible basis I may not have had as much success as some of my peers, I made significant additions within my groups and towards the projects. Despite my limited resources, I believe I made profound contributions, especially in the end-of-semester project. For the grade I deserve, perhaps a B would suffice, as for the grade I would want reported to the registrar, an A would help immensely in my academic career, as last semester was scrapped and this semester I have started anew as an ISAT major. Whatever grade I do get in this class it does not take away from the invaluable experience I have had this semester, and I relish any opportunity to work with Morgan Benton again.

P.S. If it wasn't for the fact I am not planning on picking IKM as a concentration I would have jumped at the opportunity to learn in Japan.

Jo's Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : gehmanje



My blog. Learning about the parts of the theme.

I enrolled in ISAT 252 because I needed another class to take to reach my normal 15 credit hour semester. My friend, who is also a business marketing major, recommended the class to me because he was enrolled in it too. I signed up for ISAT 252 with fond childhood memories of my failed attempts at building a website from scratch. My father bought me a heavy book about Javascript from Barnes and Noble, but I could never figure it out. That's understandable because I was only eleven years old. I gave up my dreams of building my own website and began easily creating websites with user-friendly site builders. I remember drawing out my webpage designs for my online store, "JoJo's World," and leafing through and highlighting American manufacturers who I'd order my products from. I grew up thinking of business plans all the time and my plans almost always involved some sort of website.

Flash forward to the start of second semester. I'm a sophomore marketing major who decided to take a computer programming class for fun. I was super enthusiastic and I told my friends that soon I would be a "coding ninja." I enjoyed making the video before the first day of class, the atmosphere of the class, Morgan's easygoing nature, and the fact that we would not only be studying computer programming but teaching techniques too. I quickly learned that while I am ambitious and I want to do everything, my time management and organizational skills are severely lacking. Bugged down by my ever-stressful College of Business courses and distracted by my friends and ex-boyfriend, I fell behind half-way through the semester. My intentions were good but I always had issues making the time to finish a tutorial or dedicate myself to a project.

I read through everything on the ISAT 252 class website, I came to class regularly, I began and finished Code Academy tutorials, and even found a cool programming competition for women. My enthusiasm for the subject was greater than my motivation once I realized how hard computer programming really is! The different languages and connections through HTML and CSS and Javascript do not come easily to me. I was a bit disheartened after the test. I was one of

the last students to finish and it had been frustrating for me to complete because I was behind in my basic knowledge. When it came time for the project I was excited because I had a great idea. I am lucky to have teamed up with such wonderful people. Reyna is a natural and she put together slideshows and did her best to help me understand the codes that we were using for our project, Thumbtack. Chris was a great team member and so fun to be around. Chris and I had a great time building the basic html website for Thumbtack together. Reyna knew how to do it all so she helped us when we got stuck. I also had a fun time drawing logos for Thumbtack and coming up with a design idea. Although my computer programming skills were lacking, I found other gifts to contribute to the team. I love leading. Although I may pretend to be quiet in class, I absolutely love taking charge and giving orders. When we broke off into groups at the beginning of the semester, I organized group communication.

While I was trying to understand everything that was happening with Thumbtack (Symfony...), I realized that maybe if I could focus on a topic that I was interested in that I could learn coding more easily. Tumblr was my idea. I like to blog and I have a Tumblr blog. I thought it'd be awesome to be able to edit my layout to be however I wanted it. Easier said than done! I read and read and read, built a simple theme, decided it was not good enough, and decided to edit existing code. When I edited existing code, I began to understand what things meant in the code. I tweaked padding, pixels, borders, colors, fonts, and columns. I think focusing on something I am into helped me to be more interested in what I was doing! I still have not figured out how to be a master Tumblr theme maker, but I understand a bit more. I'd like to be able to make a theme the way I want it someday.

ISAT 252 wasn't just for coding. I really enjoyed meditating. I have always been a person who hurries through things and becomes stressed out very quickly. Meditating felt so great! I began to meditate on my own to help me through my daily stress. My weekly goals were not just focused on figuring out PHP and HTML but on my personal goals and self-reflective thoughts. This semester was a emotional one in my personal life. Now, finally, at the end of the semester I feel like I am becoming more myself! I feel happier and more free than I've ever felt before at JMU because I am single and independent. I think my personal life definitely affected my studies last semester and this semester. That being said, I appreciated the emotional check-ins each week! I started a pinboard on Pinterest (one of my favorite social media websites) with goals that I want to achieve too.

Although I did not become a wicked coding ninja, I learned about myself through this course. I learned that I too stressed out (I'm a little better about that), that I need to be more well-organized, that I CAN get through tutorials (it takes patience— something I don't have too much of), and that I am in control of my time and my life. A semester is a long time. A lot of things can be achieved in one semester. I am hoping to take what I have learned in ISAT 252 and hit the ground running next semester with my classes and being a Resident Adviser. I would also still like to work on my computer programming skills. After all, marketing jobs are super competitive and technology is becoming more important to marketing every day. I may not be a natural at programming, but I would like to get the hang of it someday. I will be so proud of myself when I do!

The proof:

<https://github.com/johannahelise>

My badges so far: <http://www.codecademy.com/users/terajumper40238/achievements>

Goofy projects on Code Academy: http://www.codecademy.com/courses/web-beginner-en-9x6JW/0/1?curriculum_id=50579fb998b470000202dc8b

Thumbtack html website shown in class, on thumb drive.

[Tumblr Try](#)

Final Meeting

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : buchancw

1. What did you expect coming into class?

I expected a sort of rigorously run and machine like computer programming class where you follow along typing the same programming lines as the instructor.

1. What goals did you set for yourself?

My goal coming into this class was to master the material of the course and learn as much as possible so that I could earn a good letter grade.

1. How did these two things evolve over time?

I came to find out that this class was run in a much more laid back fashion in which we learned what we were motivated to learn within our groups. My goal stayed the same in that I wanted to master the material but I stopped caring about the letter grade.

1. Account for your time.

The majority of my time was simply spent on the internet trying to figure out coding. Whether it was watching tutorials on youtube or doing Code Academy exercises, I had to put effort into figuring out the basics of computer programming. Other than that, I spent a lot of time brainstorming and thinking through problems with my group.

1. What did you accomplish?

With my group, we accomplished creating a mpg to kpl converter, a google map website with pins in student's home zip codes, and an off-campus housing website. I successfully completed the course test and I also created a forum for the housing website.

1. What did you learn about yourself?

I learned that I am capable of completed programming tasks, but I do not particularly enjoy programming. Therefore, the biggest thing I took away from this class is that IKM is not the concentration for me. I simply find it very hard to get motivated to do programming.

1. What goals/plans/changes do you intend in moving forward?

Moving forward, I do not plan to take anymore programming classes. This is not to say that 252 was a bad course, because I was actually rather enjoyable, it just helped me see that programming is not for me. The one bit of programming that I do intend to do after this class is that I intend to set up a private forum for myself and my best friends from home.

1. How does this style of class work for you?

This style of class actually worked surprisingly well for me. I can clearly see the benefits of having produced real artifacts in class as opposed to earning letter grades, this is a concept I whole heartedly agree with and support. Also, I accomplished all the assigned work in the course because I was tied to my fellow students through the group projects who depended on me to complete aspects of various projects. Overall, I feel like I completed this course for all of the right reasons. I did it too increase my knowledge and to support my group members who at times depended on me, not out of some innate desire for a letter grade.

1. What grade do you a) deserve and b) want to receive?

I feel like I definitely deserve a B in the course. I completed all the work required and within the deadlines, and I functioned well within my group. I also learned a good deal about programming and was able to explore some areas of personal interest in the class. I want to receive an A+ because that would help raise my GPA so that I could potential survive a lower grade from higher level ISAT courses later on. This would also help me graduate on time.

RMD Portfolio Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : dawkinrm

Upon first hearing about the class and being given the Dr. Seuss' Oh, The Places You'll Go assignment, I wasn't completely sure what my expectations were. I figured that there would be a number of group projects and a group oriented setting, but that was about it. Programming has been something that my parents have been involved with in some way, shape, or form throughout my lifetime. There were instances where they'd talk about reading up on C language or something about Java. Then, of course, once I got deeper into school and had opportunities to participate in classes involving coding, they emphasized how important it would be to have experience with several languages and what not. So, in general, just seeing programming in the title of this course, I assumed that there would be class instruction regarding several languages used to code and program. It seemed like something that would fit well into the ISAT program. Initial goals for this class were, honestly, to just pass with a B or higher and proceed on. It seemed like something that wouldn't be too instrumental in my ISAT track otherwise, because I wasn't looking into IKM at all.

Of course, upon entering the class and seeing the teaching style and understanding the syllabus, my expectations and goals changed. I still expected the group work aspect to it, but I started to expect people to start coming up with genius ideas and recruit people in order to get their vision put into action. There was also the expectation that the bulk of the responsibility for this class would be placed on me, myself, and I. If I wanted to get things done, in a team or solo, I would have to self-motivate and coordinate things accordingly. That isn't what I was used to for the past thirteen years of my school "career", but there wasn't much of a choice in this case. My goals also faced a transformation. I became a lot more ambitious as time went on and wanted to get into things like Symfony or develop the simple coding that was made in the past into something much more complex. I also had a goal to contribute to the groups that I was in with more than what was expected of me.

As for how I spent my time, there were admittedly times when I wasn't completely focussed on this class. There were a number of weeks, though not more than two or so, where I wouldn't put in as much time as I wanted into a project or would end up just floundering around in one spot of code and didn't ask for help. For the most part though, I easily spent five or more hours every week on this class. The way that I did so wasn't always what might be expected, but I still did coding or read up on tutorials or looked through forums on coding and programming materials. There is a site called Tumblr that I spend a reasonable amount time on. Since I'm able to customize the theme of my page or make extra pages to extend my main blog, there were times when I would mess around with an experiment with what could be done with HTML, CSS, Javascript, JQuery and something called webkit. It would help me keep nimble and involved with my coding even when I wasn't necessarily working on a project or was on a school break. I still feel like it was a good use of time. Towards the end of the semester, I found myself reading quite a bit on Symfony, Twig, MySQL, MongoDB, PHP, and other coding things. I wish I had been able to balance out the time between reading done and coding though.

There were a number of things that I was able to accomplish this semester, which was partially because of the time that had to be set aside and the amount of confidence that I developed regarding my skills. There were three projects that I have to my name: the MPG to KPL converter, the google maps display, and the Thumbtack idea that is still in development stages. In terms of coding or programming languages, HTML, Javascript, JQuery, CSS/CSS3 and PHP are the only ones that I can recall being involved with. All of the listed items besides JQuery and PHP are fairly well established in terms of my skill and confidence in them. JQuery and PHP have a lot more things that I'd like to explore before I can express any kind of mastery over them. On top of these things, I also learned about Git and GitHub, which really are wonderful tools, MAMP and HTTP requests. I feel like I accomplished a number of the goals that I set aside for myself in weekly self-evaluations as well.

There were a number of things that I either learned about myself or was able to reinforce for myself. For example, I found out that the teaching style that is used in the class wasn't as much of a hassle for me as I thought it would be. There were points when I had no idea what I should do, but then realized that I could steer myself in whatever way I chose and put just about anything into action that I wanted to coding-wise. I was able to reinforce the idea that I do actually have a work ethic. The problem in the past has been that I don't sit myself down and decide that I'm going to get whatever needs to be done. Instead, I would flounder around and dance around the issue until it was the last minute or too late. I also discovered that I am a bit of a perfectionist once I really get into the things that I'm involved in. For some reason, seeing an item off center on a website or not quite getting the code to execute in the way I wanted would drive me crazy until it was fixed (or not). Lastly, I think I can say that I learned that I genuinely enjoy the company and ideas of others. Ever since moving from an elementary school I had been at for four years, I've never real had much of an inclination to interact with a lot of people. Some might would have considered it a mild social anxiety, but part of my just really wasn't interested because it occurred to me that it was too hard to keep up with everyone in the way I wanted. Thus, I took to hanging out with small groups of people or just doing things on my own. Being in this class and needing to depend on others and having to coordinate with others, it allowed me to open up more in terms of friendship and getting along with people. I was even able to make a friend of sorts from all this.

Goals as I move forward into the work world and "life" would be to continue coding and programming on my free time. Maybe not all of it, but I'd be more than willing to work on it in chunks throughout my summers and breaks. I think it would be cool to become even more versed in Symfony and be able to show others what I can do. I also plan to look into internships and careers that use these skills in some way, shape, or form. I also want to incorporate the things that I learned in the class and in the past to any personal websites I create in the future or forums. It would be nice to use the graphics that I also am interested in on a site that I coded. It would be like seeing everything come together and it could all be a Dawkins original, more or less.

This style of class actually doesn't work out badly for me. In terms of having the time to focus on my other classes and really be engaged in them, it allows me to allot the time or shift whatever times so that I can work on what I need to in other ISAT classes that might be a hassle for me. At the same time, I also find that there is always something to do for this class. Since we are told about the portfolio in the beginning of the year, there is always a chance for self-

improvement and generating something that is useful and can be put towards the end of the year. This teaching style also encourages self-management, which I've always struggled with and always felt could use an improvement.

In terms of grades, I genuinely believe that I deserve a B, but wouldn't mind having an A reported in the grade book.

Chris Lu's Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : lucs

I expected to learn a lot of basic computer programming skills in class. I've had interest in programming but I never really pursued learning any of it till I signed up for the class. When I found out about the grading policy for the class I was a bit relieved because I was honestly pretty scared I would fail the class coming in with absolutely no programming experience whatsoever. My only goal really was to learn how to make websites, because my parents and also my paintball team would also benefit from it. This goal never really changed throughout the semester. I was expecting to learn how to achieve this goal in class, but what I found out later was that almost everything I was learning was on my own computer in the library.

As time went on and my other classes started getting busier, I couldn't put as much effort into 252 as I would have liked. On top of that my family at home is going through a bit of change so that made it harder on me to keep focused on my job here at school. I spent most of my time working on calculus and studying for biotech, and I would become so flustered with both of them that I just didn't have the heart I needed to put into my programming. I tried to keep my stress loads to a minimum by going out skating with some friends, but that ended up also using time that I could have spent on programming.

I was assigned to a group with Zach, and Oliver and we worked together pretty well on our first project, the miles per gallon to kilometers per liter converter. We ended up using the wrong language (visual basic) but I was proud of what we had anyways. After that I sort of fell off programming and became way too tired to show to class in the mornings because I'd be up late doing calculus homework. Although I stopped showing up to class in the mornings for a while, I didn't push off the work completely. I still wanted to show that I am a hard worker, so I started writing code for a website to help promote my paintball team. It wasn't finished, but what I had to show gave an example of what I wanted it to be eventually. Hopefully I can fix it up and get it fully running this summer.

This semester taught me that I get overwhelmed really easily, and that my disorganization only makes things worse. I plan on changing things for next year by keeping myself more organized to help make my studying/work more efficient. My notes and schedule have been disorganized since high school, so I really need to learn how to manage everything better than I am now.

This class was the first that I've had of it's kind. It definitely took a bit of getting used to. At first I thought it'd be great and that I wouldn't have to worry about it too much. But sometimes I found myself pushing this class work off for another simply because my other class was using the grading scale. I think I deserve an A- or a B+ because attendance was never really required and I did have a final project to present to the class. If I had done absolutely nothing this semester then I would definitely say lower, but I truly feel like I put a lot of effort and time into working on that website even though it didn't turn out the way I wanted it to. Though it'd be a godsend for you to report an A or A+ to the registrar because that would really help my GPA out, as it really needs as much help as it can get right now.

<https://github.com/cs193>

Martin's narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : torresma

Learning more about computers is something that I have always wanted to do, but I never really knew how to start learning it. I never really thought about taking tutorials online, but I realized this year that learning it is mainly on your own. I had no clue what to expect from this class because I had never tried to write code, but my expectations included: To learn the basics of programming, meet the other people in my class, and have some sort of coding knowledge to leave the class with. My goals for the class were mainly to take tutorials online and get all of our projects we did over the semester to be functional and complete.

Over time, my goals were more specific, but my expectations went down because as time went by, I started to spend less time on this than I really wanted to. I wanted to spend more time learning the tutorials, but exams were coming up and that really took away from the time I was able to spend learning the code. Although I say this, I still did spend a decent amount of time trying to learn code and get all of my projects to work, which they all did in the end. I probably spent more time on this class than I did a couple of my others. Most of my time was put towards the JavaScript tutorials, which I wanted to finish all of them, but I never was able to do that. I did do quite a bit of them though and also started to do some of the HTML tutorials. The rest of the time I spent was getting the projects to work well with my team, such as the zipcode map, consumption converter, mid semester exam, and the final project. In my opinion, I think that I accomplished quite a bit and was happy with my success in the class. I got all of the projects to work as I wanted them to, did a good amount of tutorials to learn the basics, and towards the end of the semester, all of my time for the class was dedicated to our what to wear weather website.

I learned this semester that I really enjoy working with computers and I want to learn how to code more. Until I took this class, I was pretty set that I wanted to concentrate in Energy because I think it is really interesting, but now I am not sure because coding is really fun as well and I want to learn how to do it. I also realized that there is a good job market for this and got advice from one of my friends who concentrated in IKM about it as well and he is now an IT tech for a business. I also learned how great it is to work with groups for these projects because it makes it more fun and easier. The goals that I want to move forward with is just learning more code and different ways to write code because there is so much that I am still able to learn. I am taking ISAT 340 in the fall to continue my progress with this and am really excited about it.

This style of class I think worked well for me because it did not add any real stress on me and just made me want to do this because it is something I am interested in. It made me want to work on coding in my free time and did not make me worry about getting things completed until the very end with the project being presented. If this is what ISAT 340 is like, then I am even more excited for the class.

I think that I deserve an A in the class and would like for you to report that to the registrar. I think I put in a good amount of work into this class and got a lot out of it. I learned a lot and that this is something that may be my future, which I would not have known without this class. Even

though I missed a couple of the surveys or did not go through everything on the website, I think that I did a lot of work for this class. I did not go through everything on the website that I have actually accomplished.

Final Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : griecomc

252 Narrative:

www.github.com/griecomc

1) Expectation and goals

When I first started 252, I actually didn't come in with very high expectations. A few years ago, my Dad actually tasked me with the same objectives of this class: to build and maintain a website using Javascript and HTML. At the time I thought it would be great, but he told me that I would have to learn it on my own. After about 2 days I gave up, swearing off any form of programming in my future. When I signed up for this class, I was understandably hesitant towards it. Given my hesitation, I think that my initial goals for the class were to just get through it as best as I can because I believed I wouldn't be any good at programming.

2) How expectation and goals evolved over time

After we completed our MPG converter, I realized that I actually didn't hate programming. From there, I actually started evolving my goals to be things that are going to help me continue to program in the future. At first, they mostly had to do with all the basics of programming that I thought were necessary. Eventually they evolved into looking into other languages, as well as processes necessary to develop applications. I really started to take focus on using jQuery, because I think the capabilities of it are absolutely endless. Once you can get it to work, you will have a great looking site. Ultimately, I have decided that programming is definitely something that I want to continue with in my life, so I am going to keep working on my skills.

3) How did you spend your time working for the class

When it came down to it, I was generally the member of my group who would do the coding. In order to help me get the coding done, I first watched quite a bit of Youtube videos to help me get the basics down. Shortly after, I discovered Codecademy, which has to be the best programming website out there bar none. I also found that the forums in Stack Overflow were nothing but helpful. I think about 95% of the questions that weren't solved from codecademy I found the answers to on the S.O. forums. It really came down to our team outlining our goals, and then how would go about solving those goals. While it wasn't always a team effort, time was definitely spent to get our code done. I think towards the beginning of the semester, there was definitely more time to dedicate to the coding process, but as the semester wound on it was definitely more challenging to find the time to code, so a lot of my later code was done at crunch time. I think if I had more time, there would probably be a much higher caliber of code.

4) What did you accomplish

By the end of the semester, I have successfully learned and implemented my skills in Javascript, HTML, CSS, as well as jQuery. I have successfully been able to incorporate different elements from all of those languages and successfully use them to build programs and webpages that may actually be of use to someone. I think that the most important accomplishment from this class was that I was able to pick up a skill and virtually do it all on my own. Like I said earlier, I thought it was going to be a toss-up as to whether I was really going to be successful in this class or not. Obviously, I have been successful because I was able to learn the basics and apply them. I definitely think my proudest accomplishment from this class was our last project, the Off-Campus Housing project. This was by far the most challenging project we did because of the data and how we wanted to present it. This project, like others, took aspects of things we worked on before, as well as requiring to learn new skills in order to have it be the way we envisioned it. While our code didn't necessarily have complicated functions and arrays, it incorporated the use of Google APIs with Javascript, which was quite difficult to integrate together. I spent countless hours trying to get the two to work, and eventually was successful. While we didn't finish the app, I was able to get it looking nice as well as being an actual application on my phone, which I was very proud of. I am definitely thinking about continuing to build this application in the future.

5) What did you learn about yourself

The biggest thing that I learned about myself this semester was that I am able to learn without much instruction. While it is challenging to start, once you get your basics covered, you can go in any direction you want. This also tells me that I will be able to thrive in a work environment that doesn't necessarily have someone telling you what to do at all times, because I can be intrinsically motivated when I have to be and give work that has time and effort put into it. I do think that the biggest thing I learned about myself is that I actually do enjoy programming. It is challenging when you don't know how to do something, but then once you figure it out you don't look back. Also, I learned that I really enjoy meditation. I now find that if I don't block out at least 5 minutes in a day to meditate, it significantly changes my day. Meditation is a great relaxing tool, as well as a great productivity tool.

6) What goals/plans/changes do you intend moving forward

Looking forward, I am definitely looking to incorporate programming into my career choices. While I don't necessarily want to be a CS major, I have now structured my major around someday working with programming. I chose to pick up Intelligence Analysis as a major and am thinking about either CS or CIS as a minor. My hopes are to be able to do web development for businesses or the government. In order to do this, I am going to continue learning and writing websites and applications. I think that a big goal for me is to try and find an internship somewhere that will accept my level of programming and skills so I can get a real world experience with programming. I also think if I'm looking into application development, I need to look into natively designing apps for both Android and iOS, because I know application development is up and coming. The biggest goal on my list is to definitely work somewhere that is going to help my programming knowledge, as well as build my résumé so I can be more marketable in the future.

7) How does this style of class work for you

This is by far the most interesting class that I've taken in my college career. While the goals and objectives are laid out at the beginning of the course, how you go about achieving them is entirely up to you, which I enjoyed because it allowed me to learn the material in whatever way was going to help me to learn it best. The most challenging part of this class was that there was less motivation because there were no grades. I think that was both a good and a bad thing. It was good because it took pressure and stress out of the work, making it easier to relax and have fun with what I was doing. On the other side, without the pressures of grades it made it difficult to get tasks accomplished at times. But this also brings into light what your motivation for education is: to learn or to get the grades for a job. I found with this class I didn't mind that, because I sincerely did want to learn how to program, so much that I am now planning to use it for my career. I definitely wouldn't be opposed to taking more classes that are similar to this structure. If I could make a suggestion, I think it would be to have Morgan explain concepts a little more during class time, especially those that most people are stuck on.

8) What grade do you a) deserve, and b), want Morgan to report

Given all the work and time that I put into my projects this semester, I definitely think that I deserve an A for this class. Given the structure of this class, the class is definitely based more around what you learn rather than what you produce, which I do appreciate. Another important point to bring up is that around 95% of the coding done on all of our team projects throughout the semester was done by me. This isn't meant to disparage my teammates, rather to say that I definitely put in the time and the work to get the projects done, as well as find enjoyment in what I was doing as well. Given that, I would appreciate it if Morgan would report an A to the registrar.

My Portfolio:

-Git tutorial:

<https://github.com/griecomc/test2>

-Example Webpage:

https://github.com/griecomc/ex_webpage

-MPG converter:

<https://github.com/griecomc/252mpg>

-Google Maps API:

<https://github.com/griecomc/googlemaps>

-Exam 1:

<https://github.com/griecomc/252s13ex1>

–Housing Project:

<https://github.com/lindenlz/Housing-Project>

-

Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : nicholjw

I entered this class believing that I was computer illiterate and I thought my ignorance would hinder my progress in this course. I thought that I was never the type of person that could enjoy sitting in front of a computer writing code for a significant amount of time. At the beginning of the semester, I expected to learn the basics of programming. I wanted to gain basic familiarity with programming languages such as javascript, jQuery, css, and html. In addition, I wanted to be able to read and understand code. My biggest goal for the semester was to be able to produce a collaborative website for the ISAT Honor Society that would enable real-time tutoring through a whiteboard function.

My goals evolved throughout the semester. I started out learning how to use github and I made significant progress in understanding how it works. I was also consistent in using code academy to learn different programming languages. I completed 97% of html and css tutorials, 44% of the jQuery tutorials, and 38% of the JavaScript tutorials. I found these tutorials to be extremely useful and I applied most of the code I learned from code academy onto my website. The goals I set for my website seemed to change on a weekly basis. At first, my team and I envisioned an extremely efficient website that would have real-time tutoring capabilities. I spent many hours searching for code to embed a whiteboard and online status display onto our website. However, after realizing whiteboard applications are complex and potentially expensive to embed into a website, we set our goals to a more attainable level. I spent a lot of time searching for code to create the basic functions I wanted the website to have. Over the course of the semester, I was able to insert a working whiteboard application and two Skype buttons into the website. My favorite part of the course was the sense of accomplishment I got after implementing working code into the website. I felt good about the website and some of the other projects I worked on because they demonstrated how far I have come since the beginning of the semester.

Coming into this class, I did not understand how valuable computer programming was. This course taught me how useful it can be and how it can be applied in almost any field. I am working for an energy auditing company this summer and they use computer simulations to determine the cost-effectiveness of renovating old houses and building. I hope to be able to apply and expand my programming knowledge while working for this company. Gaining knowledge of computer modeling will also help me with the future IKM courses I plan on taking.

I have mixed feelings about the way this course was taught. I did not like the fact that I had to teach myself all of the basics of programming throughout the course. I felt that I would have a better understanding and literacy of code if I were taught the basics. However, I did like the fact that I was able to focus on the programming languages that I enjoyed. I think this teaching style would be most beneficial in an intermediate-upper level programming class, where the freedom you gave us in programming could be better appreciated.

I believe that I have come a long way throughout this semester. I came in with no programming experience and initially felt overwhelmed. However, through extensive tutorials, I was able to

teach myself basic skills in multiple programming languages. I have honed the skills through projects during the semester, most importantly the IHS website. I think I deserve an A because of the amount of effort I put into this course, and I would like that grade to be reported to the registrar.

<https://github.com/nicholjw>

<http://www.codecademy.com/nicholjw>

Final Portfolio

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : whitebd

My expectations and goals in this class were that I would learn the basic skills in computer programming, see what it takes to create a well put together program, and be able to decide if it is a good academic path for me to take. Throughout the semester I have slowly started to fade away from hard work in 252 and I started to focus more on doing well in other classes. Throughout the year I probably spent an average of about 3 hours per week, outside of class, working for this class. I have learned basic skills and terminology in computer programming. I have learned about the prominent programs and software used to program. I assisted in the creation of a google maps program and a website that recommends users what to wear based on the weather. Also, taking this class has showed me what it takes to learn the art of computer programming, so I feel that if this ever strikes my interest in the future I can begin to learn about it again. In the beginning of the semester I thought that being able to program would be a very cool skill to have, but attempting to complete some of the objectives in this class has showed me that I don't have as much interest in it as I might in other areas of study. I plan on setting computer programming aside for now and focusing on my chosen sectors of study in ISAT. In certain ways I thought this style of class was pretty cool because I could sort of go my own way with the course material, but this style of class requires the right amount of interest and self-discipline in order to be productive and learn the material. Since I didn't have the interest and self-discipline, I didn't learn as much as I would've liked to in this class, but maybe that's ok since it has helped me decide to go on a different academic path of study. I would like for an A to be reported to the registrar for my final grade.

Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : whitloat

My goal for this class was to gain understanding and appreciation of computer science. I had never been exposed to any sort of programming so this class was completely new and different to me. I've never been heavily versed in computer skills so I definitely enjoyed the class and learned many new skills. The most difficult part for me was knowing that there were so many languages to work with and I didn't have the slightest idea where to start. My brother is a web developer and told me to look in to Python or Ruby. Trying to remember code for multiple languages at the same time just overwhelmed me, I could barely keep one language straight. This class was like taking multiple foreign language classes at the same time online.

At the beginning of the year i was really excited to see what it was all about and put in a lot of time on HTML while my teammates became familiar with JS and other languages. I spent time each week completing all of the HTML tutorials on codecadamy.com and worked through a few of the JS ones. I soon discovered that although I think programming is a great skill to have, it is not one that I think I will need. This class taught me that if I do ever need to do any programming, I should be able to find resources online.

The team that I worked with was very successful with the projects we worked on this year. No one in the group had prior experience coding except one took a CS class in high school. Although we didn't have it done for the presentation date, we got our mileage converter and our zip code google map functioning before the semester ended. I was very excited about the final project that we constructed. I played a large role in constructing the layout of the webpage; I created and worked on both the HTML and the CSS pages for it, though was not the only one that worked on it. I also took responsibility for the weather API that we used. The project that we created has some potential with the idea to link the pictures of the clothing to online retailers where that item can be purchased.

Between the first few weeks and the last few, I was burned out on programming, but the last project renewed my interest. The class allowed me to pick and choose what I wanted to learn so I didn't need to feel overwhelmed; i just needed to find useful code for work that I would enjoy. The class taught me that I don't know what I want all the time. The goal setting was a useful tool to keep me focused, but my lack of personal motivation hindered me. This class really reinforced the fact the if you want to be good at something practice, practice, practice.

I would like an A for this class. I have gained far more skill in CS than I had before, though its possible I could have learned much more. I was a participating member of a team with successful projects and offered constructive ideas. I learned that setting goals is an important practice; without goals nothing can be achieved. Self-dicipline and determination were lessons learned in this course, the few deadlines made me make sure I was keeping up with the class. Even more than that, I learned I need to be more positive, keep my head up, and find peace on the inside. "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal"- MLK Jr.

Weather planner repo: <https://github.com/AdgPadg/AttirePlanner>

Zip codes: <https://github.com/torresma/zipCodeProject>

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : whitloat

My goal for this class was to gain understanding and appreciation of computer science. I had never been exposed to any sort of programming so this class was completely new and different to me. I've never been heavily versed in computer skills so I definitely enjoyed the class and learned many new skills. The most difficult part for me was knowing that there were so many languages to work with and I didn't have the slightest idea where to start. My brother is a web developer and told me to look in to Python or Ruby. Trying to remember code for multiple languages at the same time just overwhelmed me, I could barely keep one language straight. This class was like taking multiple foreign language classes at the same time online.

At the beginning of the year i was really excited to see what it was all about and put in a lot of time on HTML while my teammates became familiar with JS and other languages. I spent time each week completing all of the HTML tutorials on codecadamy.com and worked through a few of the JS ones. I soon discovered that although I think programming is a great skill to have, it is not one that I think I will need. This class taught me that if I do ever need to do any programming, I should be able to find resources online.

The team that I worked with was very successful with the projects we worked on this year. No one in the group had prior experience coding except one took a CS class in high school. Although we didn't have it done for the presentation date, we got our mileage converter and our zip code google map functioning before the semester ended. I was very excited about the final project that we constructed. I played a large role in constructing the layout of the webpage; I created and worked on both the HTML and the CSS pages for it, though was not the only one that worked on it. I also took responsibility for the weather API that we used. The project that we created has some potential with the idea to link the pictures of the clothing to online retailers where that item can be purchased.

Between the first few weeks and the last few, I was burned out on programming, but the last project renewed my interest. The class allowed me to pick and choose what I wanted to learn so I didn't need to feel overwhelmed; i just needed to find useful code for work that I would enjoy. The class taught me that I don't know what I want all the time. The goal setting was a useful tool to keep me focused, but my lack of personal motivation hindered me. This class really reinforced the fact the if you want to be good at something practice, practice, practice.

I would like an A for this class. I learned some basics of programming,

Final Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : whitloat

My goal for this class was to gain understanding and appreciation of computer science. I had never been exposed to any sort of programming so this class was completely new and different to me. I've never been heavily versed in computer skills so I definitely enjoyed the class and learned many new skills. The most difficult part for me was knowing that there were so many languages to work with and I didn't have the slightest idea where to start. My brother is a web developer and told me to look in to Python or Ruby. Trying to remember code for multiple languages at the same time just overwhelmed me, I could barely keep one language straight. This class was like taking multiple foreign language classes at the same time online.

At the beginning of the year i was really excited to see what it was all about and put in a lot of time on HTML while my teammates became familiar with JS and other languages. I spent time each week completing all of the HTML tutorials on codecadamy.com and worked through a few of the JS ones. I soon discovered that although I think programming is a great skill to have, it is not one that I think I will need. This class taught me that if I do ever need to do any programming, I should be able to find resources online.

The team that I worked with was very successful with the projects we worked on this year. No one in the group had prior experience coding except one took a CS class in high school. Although we didn't have it done for the presentation date, we got our mileage converter and our zip code google map functioning before the semester ended. I was very excited about the final project that we constructed. I played a large role in constructing the layout of the webpage; I created and worked on both the HTML and the CSS pages for it, though was not the only one that worked on it. I also took responsibility for the weather API that we used. The project that we created has some potential with the idea to link the pictures of the clothing to online retailers where that item can be purchased.

Final Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : matthejm

Expectations and Goals

To be completely honest when I came into this class I didn't have the slightest clue as to what programming was about and because of this I expected the class to be a tough class for me. As the semester began my main goal was just really to learn what programming was. Once we started rolling in the semester I feel I finally realized what this class was about and why you teach the way you do. Before this class I used to try and know the material of a course not learn it; I just wanted to be able to recite it on a test when the time came. I realized once time went on in this class, is that is exactly what you are trying to combat. This class was giving me a chance to only learn what I actually wanted to learn and not what someone said I needed to know. My goals evolved into trying to figure out what I wanted to learn, what made me happy, and they allowed me to hold myself accountable for when I didn't accomplish them.

Account for Time

In my first group we were able to accomplish making a mileage converter it can be see in the link below

[Fuel Economy Converter2](#)

The next project i began working on was on the "whats on tapp" team. We were trying to make an app to link the community of Harrisonburg with their local bars so that they would know when their favorite beers were on tap. I got real excited and sketched up some different templates for what the app might look like. Then we switched directions towards a website. So i worked with Alec on creating a login page.

[barlogin](#)

After creating the Login page i helped Alec in creating the Home page for the website, and i also began compiling all the beers into a database for one of the bars.

[untitled text 2](#) – Home page

What did I learn about myself?

I learned that i need to push myself to actually want to learn again. I feel over the course of my education i have lost my desire to learn for fun, and instead am just trying to get by. Over the course of the semester being able to learn what i wanted allowed me to have fun learning again.

What Goals/Changes/Plans do you have moving forward?

Some goals i have moving forward are to forward my education in programming. Over the semester i have become very interested in programming and i am very interested to keep learning and keep improving my skills. I also want to hold my self accountable for the goals i set. Not just goals in education, but all my goals in life; over the year improving myself became a bigger deal than i thought it would.

How does this class work for me

In the beginning it didn't. I was jus kind of cruising by, but by the end of the class it was working great. I was trying to learn for my own personal benefit and no one elses and that felt great. I was also not scared to fail, because there was no danger in it.

What grade do I deserve and why?

I believe i deserve an A in this course. I think this because not only did i commit myself to learning coding for the first time ever i also committed my self to bettering myself as a person. I was able to far surpass what i ever thought i would have learned on my own in this course and i believe because of this i deserve an A.

Jimmy Merrick Narrative

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : merriCjr

Expectations and Goals

I had high expectations coming into 252 because I had never taken an IKM class before and the material interested me. My initial goal was to get as good of an initial background as I could with programming so I could decide if it was something I'd like to sector in. Turns out I liked it so much that i'll now be dual concentrating in IKM and Energy!

How my Expectations and Goals Evolved

My expectations never seemed to change during the course but my goals would change with each project I took on. I am a very novice programmer so many of my goals would be to merely finish the project correctly. As I got a bit better towards the end of the semester I began setting higher goals to challenge myself and see what I could achieve.

Account for Time

The best accounts for my time are the websites that I programmed on Github which I posted on the "project repos" page.

What I Accomplished

Through out the course I accomplished the ability to competently use programs such as Github and Mamp to their full extent. These have aided me in the beginning and completion of all first my projects such as The Word of the Day, The Mpg-Kpl converter, The Quote of the Day, and attempts at other small projects. With the use of codecademy and other useful websites I've recognized the availability of sources on the internet that can help you code.

What I learned

I was always relaxed coming into class and this created a great environment to learn in. I enjoyed working on my code and discovering new directions I could take it. My understanding of the jargon used in programing has also vastly improved. Through out the class I practiced the use of MAMP, Github.com, Codecadmy.com, 252s13.umatter2.us, and other websites and programs. Through out the use of these I have learned to use languages such as Html and Javascript, to organize my code better using proper format and folders, and to recognize how useful the internet can be for programmers.

Future Goals, Plans, & Changes

Through out the class you motivated us to think of possible projects we could work on and to try to program these ideas into something real. This brainstorming ignited the formation of a large range of possible new projects I'd be excited to work on in the future. As of right now I plan on

improving my Word & Quote of the Day website to include much more content and integrating in some css for looks.

Style of the Class?

This class was a real breath of fresh air to me. I was happy with the environment that was created during class and the hacking sessions at night. It really stimulated interest for me because I normally enjoyed myself while I was around. The fact that there was really no pressure at all on your shoulders was a great aspect as well. I think this greatly contributed to the environment of the class. Being able to learn and work at your own pace on a project that your interested in is a great way to get hands on experience and the guidance provided along the way would keep me on track.

Grade & why?

I really believe I got a lot out of this class and it has gotten me excited enough about Ikm that I'm actually going to be dual concentrating in it with Energy! It has sparked a lot of interest in me which makes coding never a chore. That is why I believe I deserve an A. I've had a great experience so far and I'm proud to say I have some programming skills under my belt. Why not top it all of with a nice A.

Year Review

Published Date : May 1, 2013

Author : simmonjt

Coming into 252 I was actually very nervous because I wasn't very well versed in the ways of computer workings. I am in my first semester as a new ISAT student and this was the first class of my new semester, I wanted to do well. After the first few classes I had expectations to learn the basics of programming and maybe even write some code. I quickly learned that Dr. Benton had plans for our year that involved much more than I originally expected. I set goals for myself to stay on top of the material that we covered in class and to try to experiment with new things as I found them. As the semester went on I evolved my goals into contributing to my group projects as well as developing my own knowledge and skills. I also strived to use the weekly evaluations effectively to keep myself accountable for the semester.

My time this semester may seem to have been unaccounted for from the untrained eye. However the vast majority of time committed to this class was spent watching tutorials on YouTube and several of the coding tutorial sites. I searched out and found tutorials that started from the simplest methods and worked their way up. I used these tutorials to try to develop my basic understanding of coding and programming which would allow me to be of better use to my group. In my group I tried to be of use but I often found myself behind and trying to understand the projects. My strongest point in the team was trying to be a unifying force and direct us to stay moving forward. I view coding and programming as a useful tool but not something that draws my attention immediately. My team accomplished all the projects we set out to do. We were very successful in the first two projects and our final project ended with only a few more steps needed to develop a running app. Personally I accomplished developing a general understanding of the uses and applications of programming. I also learned how to apply problem solving skills to non programming issues. I came into this class not knowing anything about coding and developed a plan to learn something and developed skills needed, I can apply this to any problem in the future.

Using the weekly self evaluations I was able to learn a few things about myself. First, I have a huge problem with procrastination. I identified this by continually failing to meet certain goals. Secondly, I was able to identify my own skills as a team player. I have been a part of 3 groups this semester and felt I was a contributing member in each. Finally, I was able to identify my own skills as a problem solver. I have a strong innate desire to fix things whether they be physical or mental. I strive to develop plans to attack and fix problems I find in my life. I enjoy the adventure that comes with problem solving and the creativity that is needed.

As the semester comes to a close I will take my new knowledge of coding and programming and the accompanying skills and hopefully apply them to future issues. Although I don't intend to pursue a career in programming, having a general knowledge of it will allow me to be a better leader of projects that involve it, also will allow me to know that programming is a tool that can be drawn upon in my future endeavors. I aim to maintain an understanding of the material I learned in the class so that I can be up to date on the technology of the modern times. This class was a great experience, although I didn't and still kind of don't know how to feel about it I am

very pleased in being able to experience a less stressful grading experience and allow me to see the alternative methods of education in our world. Dr. Benton is obviously very passionate about his classroom philosophy and I hope other students can take it and learn from it as I have. Based upon my work and development in this class I am asking for a B. I feel as though my work in the coding part was satisfactory with an intro class and my self development in problem solving abilities was acceptable for the semester. I look forward to the possibility of future classes with Dr. Benton and hope that his class stays in touch because I truly had fun with this group.

Codey Johnson

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : johns5cl

As I came into this class my main goal was to explore the material of the class and learn if it was something I would like to continue working with. I started the year knowing if I do well I could continue with the field both in a sector and possibly a job. The more time I spent in the class the more I noticed I did not want to be part of the programming world. I find technology fascinating but I have never really been into the computer stuff. Its not that I don't find programming interesting, because I do, however it's not the kind of interesting where someone says, "hey I could see myself doing this".

At the beginning of class I spent a lot of time (I had a two hour gap between classes MWF) in the mac lab on the second floor watching/doing tutorials online, using sites like w3schools and code academy. During my downtime I would read a few of the articles on the class website a week trying to relate them to my tutorials. It was very easy to work with my group because John Kearny is my roommate, James Fencil spends the night programming all the time, and Kevin Mulcahy is a good friend. As a group we did the converter, the Google maps api project, and the projects we presented in class. Very little time was spent on the office hour project because it was strictly HTML and was completed quickly. We focused on the JMU List (craigs list) site and ran into trouble with things like php and downloading symfony. Even though we ran into trouble we did not stop we just worked outside the box. For instance we were able to get a working url by using a site that allowed us to use a subdomian.

While taking this class I learned I am a big fan of the classic classroom style of learning. For me it is much more helpful to have a teacher just sit down teach the class, work out problems, and demonstrate techniques. It might have been different if the basics were taught in class, but I have never been one for being self-taught. I am a big procrastinator and if I did not have my group mates I don't know if I would have learned anything at all. I think the way the class was taught is cool because it allows for a lot of freedom, but I feel many students are not prepared for such freedoms and push this class aside for other things when they could have gotten so much more out of the class.

As I move forward I don't ever expect to look back on programming, but I would definitely recommend it to someone, as I have already with my cousin. This class was really helpful in narrowing down my sectors and I thank Morgan for that. Taking this year into consideration I believe I deserve/want to report an "A" to the registrar.

GitHub Link:

<https://github.com/yeahyames/jmulistfinal>

Working JMU List url:

jmulist.xp3.bix

Alec Chamberlain Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : chambear

My Expectation and Goals

My expectation for this year was to get back into coding after having not touched it for almost a year. When I was at USC I took an Intro to Java class, which I believe was taught poorly and really turned me off to the subject. I personally like programming but that class changed my thoughts on that. Having taken this class now I know I should continue on with it as I have a natural tendency to this subject and it is a good job opportunity. This has led me to set the goals to advance my knowledge of programming and to become more proficient in JS.

How Expectations and Goals evolved

Over the course of the semester my goals and expectation never really changed. Only that once I learned another new concept or technique I wanted to continue expand on that. I also liked learning and teaching others some of the knowledge that I previously had learned.

Account for Time

<https://github.com/TorchOfIrony/Mileage-Converter-ISAT-252.git>

[MPG](#)

<https://github.com/jvaughan4086/OnTapp.git>



[barlogin](#)

[untitled text 2](#)

What did you accomplish

This semester I accomplished learning many new technologies and coding techniques. I was introduced for the first time to using GitHub and the accompanying programs. I also got reacquainted with the programming SDE, Eclipse. On top of that I used my coding skills to complete many projects along the year. The one I'm most proud of is definitely our final project. I designed the webpage for the WhatsOnTapp app. I also helped in creating the database for the storage of our data.

What I learned about myself

Over the course of the semester I learned that I have the ability to learn a lot on my own. I also learned that the knowledge I gain from learning on my own, I feel better or more confident in my abilities. I also realized what you can accomplish if you are put into groups and can rely on other people to do that work.

What goals/ plans/ changes do i intend to make going forward

Going forward I hope to continue to expand my knowledge of programing. I also want to get very comfortable with the backend of website design. Such as PHP and MySQL/ These are two things that I haven't had a great deal of experience with and looking foreword to learning all of that. Also maybe designing and putting a website on the Internet.

How does this class work for you

This class works for me in that I am able to learn at my own pace and learn in any manner as long as I learn the materials need to do the project I choose. The best part is it lets you set the bar at a level your comfortable with. You can choose to stretch yourself without the pressure of failing to fully succeed.

What grade do I deserve and Why/Registrar

I believe I deserve an A, for an Intro class I believe I got an A's worth of knowledge out of the class, but possibly more importantly I am going to continue with the IKM sector as I believe it may be something that I want to do in the future. This should be the main goal of an Intro class as it should get its students excited for what is to come in later more advanced classes.

Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : lindenlz

Portfolio: <https://github.com/lindenlz>

Coming in to this class I was expecting to be in a class that gave me a good overview and introduction to programming. I also expected this class to be a traditional college class with tests and homework. My main goal coming in was to acquire skills so that in the future I could eventually become a decent programmer. I also hoped to develop a passion for programming so I would be excited to learn more.

Over time in the semester my expectations and goals got more specific. First, I wanted to be proficient in html and CSS. Then, I wanted to at least be a novice with javascript because I learned that programming languages are much more complicated than markup languages. Furthermore, I hoped to at least get a minor look at how other programming languages besides javascript work. My goals pretty much stayed the same over the semester because thankfully, they happened to be realistic enough.

For the first half of the semester I spent a lot of a time on code academy. I did all the tutorials for javascript, html and css. This did take a fair amount of time and I learned a lot. However, I should have spent a lot more time writing functions of my own. The second half of the semester was mostly spent working on my project. Some of this time was working with jQuery but most of it was just putting all the information in the html document because our project was an informational website. Furthermore, I spent a lot of time editing pictures. This included making a banner for the project, an icon for the app, and putting in pictures next to information on the website.

Over the semester I accomplished a broad spectrum of what is involved with programming. I learned how to create and style a website with html and css. I learned how to write basic functions with javascript. I was able to run an android emulator on a computer. I also finished the form field validation test which I was very proud of. Furthermore, I was able to have no absences and only 1 lateness for the entire semester.

Over the course of the semester I learned that I am the kind of person that learns best when there is a deadline and tests. I also learned that unfortunately programming does not come as easily to me as I wished it would. Not that I won't be able to be a good programming, but it is not as natural to me as I thought. I also learned that I am fascinated by learning how computers think and work.

My main immediate goal moving forward is to prepare myself over the summer for ISAT 340 by starting to learn visual basic and mysql. I also plan on working with javascript more until I become proficient. Additionally, I intend to keep working on programming and my portfolio until it can make a good addition to my resume and job outlook.

I found this style of class does not really work for me. It is really hard for me to budget time in my schedule when there are no real deadlines or tests. I also did not like learning on my own that much because programming is such a broad curriculum that it is a little overwhelming.

I think I deserve an A- in the class and want that reported as well.

Brian's Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : lee2br

When I enrolled in 252 my goal was to learn a bit of code and become a better problem solver. Of course I wanted to pass the class. The course title: programming and problem solving had dual purposes for me. The more important thing to me was problem solving. With my goal of becoming a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army, problem solving is very important. Coding is somewhat less important but it still intrigued me and I was curious as to how it all worked.

Over time I began to realize my goals and expectations changed. My desire to code became stronger, the ability to manipulate a computer and make it do whatever I wanted was rewarding and exciting. And I also realized that having a clear mind and being relatively peaceful can make you a better problem solver.

Some things I accomplished over the course are: My initial support team successfully made a MPG to KPL converter. <https://github.com/BrianRLee/MPG-to-KPL-converter> ; I also got my mid-term "Is my contact information correct" off the ground. <https://github.com/BrianRLee/252s13ex1> ; then once we were put into new groups to work on our final projects I was a collaborator on a safe rides app. <https://github.com/roseph/saferides> ; But we really went into something that was way over our skill set and as a group we eventually decided to put together the toolbox webpage that we presented to the class. <https://github.com/roseph/Toolbox> .

I learned during this semester the importance of taking initiative and that I can be somewhat of a procrastinator. But on the a more positive note I realized that I can successfully work in a group setting and that the ISAT major focuses a lot on group work which I enjoy. Another thing I learned about myself from taking the surveys is that over the course of a week I experience many different emotions. I always kind of considered myself to be lacking emotion but self reflection really opened my eyes to how I really am. Another thing I learned was that I no longer want to concentrate in biotechnology. I'm considering telecommunications now because I could easily translate that knowledge to a use in the military. I want to commission in the signal corps and be a communications officer.

I most certainly want to work on not procrastinating as much in the future and I wanna take more initiative. This class gave me so much freedom and sometimes I took advantage of that and didn't do things that I should have. Another thing is being a bigger contributor to the team. Since people in my teams sometimes had prior coding experience it was easier for them to do that portion then try to teach someone like myself that had zero experience coming into the course.

Overall this course worked for me. The fact that there weren't any solid assignments or grades sometimes allowed me to put it on the back burner essentially. Although the freedom was awesome I think I tiny bit more structure at least for me would've been beneficial. I think sometimes in class we should have learned some code. Like if we altogether coded a simple program to help us get the general idea. Also could have watched some tutorials in class. Maybe

tasked students to find them outside of class and then present one that was excellent and explaining the material. For me coming in and not having an prior experience coding, a bit classroom instruction and examples would have helped me a lot.

I believe that I “deserve” a C in the class because generally comparing myself to my classmates I feel that I was average when looking at my skill set and what I’m going to take away from 252 this semester. But it would be great if I received a B- for this course just because with the amount of experience that I came in with I certainly increased my own knowledge and understanding of programming and especially problem solving. I’m not gonna be designing any wonderful websites or complicated programs but this class sets a good foundation for future course and allows me to build upon my skills down the road.

Adrian's Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : wosas

I have never taken a computer science class in my life, so I wasn't sure what to expect. I've been pretty good with computers all of my life, but never knew anything about actual computer code. I was really excited to take this class so I could finally see what programming was all about. My expectations and goals were as follows: To understand the basic logic of programming, and to see if I want to explore programming further. After the meeting we had early in the year, I started creating more specific goals. This was easier now that I had some understanding of two programming languages. By the end of the year, my goal was to make our group project as functional as possible.

I started out with a lot of motivation to do work in this class, but this really only lasted for maybe 5 weeks. It's not that I didn't want to do it anymore, I just had to focus a lot of time for other classes and activities. I would still try to put in at least 5 hours of work each week. Towards the end of the semester, I started spending even more time for this class because of the group project. In the beginning of the semester, I spent a lot of time researching and looking at IDEs. I finally settled on NetBeans. It was extremely confusing at first, but I eventually got the hang of it. I was amazed at how many options programs like these have. My team and I got the ZipCode Map working, as well as the Consumption Converter. I was on the way to finishing the exam, and made good progress, but never finished. I finished all or most of the JS code academy tutorials.

I spent the most of my time working on our group project, the Attire Planner. We found a weather API that sent information in CSV, XML, and JSON. At first I started learning how to parse XML, but soon found only the JSON (more specifically JSONP) would work. Finding a way to categorize the weather was also difficult and time-consuming for our team. Finally, I was tired of doing JS so I began learning more about HTML and CSS, in order to make our website look more attractive. I mostly enjoyed these languages because they allowed me to be more creative than JS did. In conclusion, I think that Attire Planner was a great project because it involved so many different aspects. It allowed me to learn a little of everything and decide which languages I like best.

I learned that I like programming, and am pretty good at it. I've never considered programming as a potential career opportunity until now. I love how programming is like problem solving. Each problem is different, so each process and solution is different. It allows for logic and creativity. On the other hand, I don't like sitting in front of computers for too long. Whether I will be a programmer sometime in the future is a mystery, but I am excited to take ISAT 340 next semester! I also plan to do a good amount of programming over the summer. I'll have a lot more time, so I can continue doing codeacademy tutorials and individual projects. My parents have their own small business, and I plan to make a website for that business.

I think this class style worked out very well for me. I feel like this is the only way any introductory class should be structured. There's always two groups of students in a class: those who want to study that subject, and those that don't. I happened to be in the half that liked the

material so I was motivated to do work. The other half saw no future in the field, and were rightfully not punished for it. Either way, I feel like a more stressful environment would hinder both groups of people.

I think I deserve an A for this class, and would like an A reported to the registrar. I think I made huge progress since the beginning of the year, and made the important decision of pursuing computer programming in the future. This class also taught me that learning least effective when it is forced; I can always learn new things without stree because I have an endless amount of information available to me through the internet, books, etc.

Andrew Matthias 252 Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : matthiap

Expectations/Goals

Coming into this class I really did not know what to expect. I came in with only minor knowledge in java from a class I took in high school. I hoped to gain an appreciation for programming and the ability to solve basic problems that occurred that I previously was unable to solve. I was expecting to approach problems in ways that we had in my high school class. I had made it my goal to learn as much as I possibly could and see where this class would take me.

How Expectations/Goals Changed Over time

It became apparent almost immediately that in this class we were going to be solving more real world problems than I had at first expected. Coming into this class I had first expected to use a language like Java that I had learned in high school, but my expectations had changed once I got a feel for the class. My goals pretty much stayed the same throughout, I was hoping to gain practical knowledge that I could then apply to my everyday life.

Account for your time.

The first thing I was assigned to in class was to gain an understanding for Git and Github. I learned how this worked and was able to transfer my knowledge to my peers in my group. Next, I went through the tutorials on code academy and learned first html and then later on javascript. As a group our team accomplished the MPG converter. Next, I learned how the google maps API worked for our project on google maps. Our team then started our long term project, we decided to make at first a website that showed all the dining halls on campus and which ones were open. Finally, I spent a good chunk of time attempting to learn phonegap and how this program worked so we could get our program running on android devices.

What did you accomplish?

As a team, we accomplished first the MPG converter successfully. We were also able to get the google maps app and our dining hall app written. We also had some success getting our dining hall website to work on Android. We were able to get the app running in the emulator, but could not figure out how to actually transfer our app to a real Android device. From tutorials, I now have an understanding of HTML and some basic Javascript. Learning the basics of phonegap was really useful to me. Once I figure out all the basics, phonegap could be a great way to solve

many problems that you would run into on a daily basis, like creating converter apps and writing other apps that could be useful to me as the need arises.

What Did you Learn About Yourself?

I learned most importantly that programming is not something I want to go into. The amount of frustration I encountered sometimes in this class was tough. I learned that I don't really have the patience for programming. I would spend a long time being stuck on one problem and becoming overall discouraged in this class. I think many of these problems would have been solved had I reached out to my peers for help, but I do not normally do this. I think in the future if I spent as much time being stuck I would go to my peers for help. Going into this class I thought I would really like programming, but for me it is something that is a chore doing. I discovered that I do not have a passion for programming that I once thought I might. I learned that I do not thrive as well in a more open environment. I like to have direction from a source other than myself to accomplish my goals. Finally, from our daily meditations and Dr. Benton's generally laid back style I learned that sometimes I need to take a minute to step back and relax. Even in the face of stress it is good to take a minute to try and cultivate positivity.

What goals/plans/changes do you intend moving forward?

Moving forward, I would like to continue to develop my skills with HTML and Javascript to keep writing Android applications. This seems to be both the most practical and interesting use of the skills that I have learned this semester.

How Does this Style of Class Work For you?

By now you can tell that keeping up with my weekly self evaluations has been a struggle for me. I have never been good with online communication and the self evaluations, while helpful in keeping motivated, were a challenge for me. I liked the freeness of this class, however for me it is very helpful to have a lot of guidelines. I think I work better under pressure. I think this class was an interesting experiment, but I think I am better suited for a more traditional class style.\

What Grade do you

a) Deserve

For how much I learned in this class I think I deserve a C. I did the required work, but did not make much of an effort to go above and beyond. Also I think lacking in blog postings and with the weekly self evaluations hurt me.

b) what Dr. Benton to report

I think a C would be a fair grade to report, but if this is disagreeable, then report whichever grade I deserve.

Portfolio

MPG to KPG converter

<https://github.com/matthiap/252-MPG-Converter.git>

Google Maps API

<https://github.com/matthiap/GoogleMaps.git>

Dining Hall Website

<https://github.com/josephcross/diningwebsite.git>

My 252 Story

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : manleydj

I was not the most comfortable coming into this class because I had no prior experience with any coding. So when I just started, I really wanted to learn any and all the basics of the most common programming software. I wanted to learn enough and gather enough information throughout the semester to comfortably be able code a website or functional game by the end of the semester. However, over time my goals and expectations were changing because I realized this class was not strictly about learning programming but rather taking advantage of the multitude of resources at our disposal. These resources include friends, the Internet, hacking sessions, etc. These resources made 252 a much more team oriented class, so I no longer looked into individually programming but rather programming with a group to get a larger problem completed. There are a few things I accomplished throughout this semester, one notable one being the 252 exam we took about mid way through. Additionally I attempted to code a maze game for our a-MAZE-ing alarm clock website but it is still in the process of being completed. I also managed to code a snake game, with a decent amount of help from various Internet sources. Both of these were major accomplishments for me, as I had never really successfully programmed anything prior. Doing these small projects helped open me to the world of html, JavaScript, and my personal favorite, JQuery. Through this class, I learned that I was definitely a lazy person that likes to procrastinate way too much. Though, this helped a lot in conquering my lazy attitude and pushed me to fight my procrastination. I also learned how to reach out to other for help and suggestion and to not strictly rely on the professor to walk me through every single step. I believe that this, overall, helped me become a more open person in general. This is definitely an interesting style of class, one that I became more fond of as the semester wore on and as I continually increased my programming knowledge. While I may not have been very consistent throughout the semester with my programming, I truly believe that I learned enough and dedicated enough time to be rewarded with an A. This class has made me want to continue programming in general, because it gives a pure sense of satisfaction when you finally get that one function or one website to work.

rambling final narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : ander2sa

Final Narrative

My expectations for this class were not high. I was scared of computers in general and I was afraid that a lot was going to be forced at me quickly (my general knowledge of computers ends at if its messing up turn it off and turn it on again). Thank goodness it was not really like that. I could learn at my own pace and I was shown Code Academy which is a lifesaver and so cool. Code academy actually had me laughing as I learned, some of those programmer guys are funny. I also learned more from Lindsey Nguyen than most other sources. She was so helpful it was amazing.

My goals were to just actually find out what programming was and figure out if I was going to be able wrap my brain around it. I kind of could. I'm not great at it, I get frustrated and make stupid mistakes a lot but that could be because I'm a beginner and don't really care for programming.

I evolved from absolutely no knowledge of programming to be able to do simple things with it and I got enough basic knowledge to be able to teach myself more if I need to. I can definitely see myself being able to teach myself as needed as I go through college and/or life, as long as I still have code academy.

I spent quite a bit of time on code academy in the beginning of the semester and trying to find stuff on git hub and how to use that. Towards the end of the year I was spending more time on the projects, especially the google gadget at the end, that was really frustrating.

I accomplished more than I thought I would this semester, being able to figure out git hub and get the git hub app was awesome. The app was kind of a cheat but it worked for me so I like it. We made that miles to kilometers converter with a flintstones theme and that was cool. But mostly I'm proud of how much time we put into the google gadget and how we tried to make it work. Even though we didn't get it exactly the way we wanted it I'm still proud.

I learned that computers do not come naturally to me. I am not meant to sit in front a screen and type lines of stuff that doesn't look like it makes sense for long periods of time. But I know that its useful and a lot of employers are looking for general knowledge of this stuff nowadays so I'm going to persevere. I want to sector in IKM and I know that'll be a challenge but its got to happen.

This style of class works for me if I find the material interesting and for the most part I was motivated to work on this stuff out of class time, my roommate would make fun of me she called code academy a "boring computer game" whenever she saw me doing it. Traditional classes are boring, I feel like I'm closer to people in this type of class too. How many teachers can I call by their first name and its actually accepted? Not too many. I just felt comfortable.

What grade do I deserve? Well if we measure my progress compared to where I started out to where I am now I'd say I deserve a B+. I can actually do things with a computer now, which is amazing considering I used to hit computers to make them work. And my cousin posts code stuff on facebook and I actually get it, which is strange to me. I said I deserve a B+ but it would be great if I could get an A. I mean every kid wants an A I'm not going to lie. If you don't give me an A I'll have to teach myself how to hack the system to give myself one. Just kidding... kind of.

End of the Semester Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : nguyentv

Before this class even began, my expectation was that I would learn a lot of coding in a certain language like how I heard other programming classes operated. My goal was to learn the language as best I could and code as much as I had the ability and time to. Once we were into the first two weeks of class, I realized that this class would not be run how other classes were. We were allowed free reign over what we wanted to learn and how much we wanted to learn. I was a little caught off-guard by this, but my goal then was to spend time and teach myself these coding languages when I could.

At the start of the semester, I was spending a lot of time playing around with coding, because I found myself enjoying it a lot. But then I started noticing my grades dropping in my other classes. And the worst part was that the classes were my general education classes, so I had to stop myself from web searching around w3schools and codecademy. A lot of my time was in turn invested into my other classes like Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, and Statistics. I found myself not being able to make it to a lot of my programming classes because I was staying up into the late AMs to finish assignments. That was okay, because I still was able to go to codecademy when I did not have other work to do, and I even met up with friends on the weekends to discuss code that I could not figure out. When we had projects and assignments in-class, I went and asked a lot of people on clarification and to help me figure out what code I was doing wrong if I was. Though I do not have any impressive program, I do have a better understanding of bits of code. That is a far bigger step than where I came from. Now I know things like jQuery, Javascript, CSS, and Java.

The way this class was run was actually very helpful for someone like me who gets weighed down with work and forgets to balance everything equally because I am such a perfectionist who wants to invest everything in to that one thing I am very interested in. Sadly, my interest switched from programming to just getting good grades to pass my classes that I could not invest as much as I would have liked to, but I think I still put in a good effort. I would ask for at least a B. It feels weird asking you for a grade, because as someone who needs a good grade, I would crave for that A. I think I would be content that all my work at the beginning and towards my group project near the end were worth it as long as I get a B though. I wanted to thank you for your introduction to Code Academy because now I can learn code anytime, anywhere. I will continue visiting this site and learning more. I really enjoy the interface it has and the mini projects I've done on there like the rock, paper, scissors game.

Example of some of the things I've done:

Did a handful of tutorials on Code Academy, looked up a lot of source code and watched a tutorial on how to code a maze when working on my final project, searched through w3schools when putting together elements for a program or helping a friend code her webpage for her class, and ... yeah ☐

Helping my friend debug and work on her code:

<https://github.com/nguyentv/Tile-Game/blob/master/index.jsp>

Miles Per Gallon Converter:

<https://github.com/nguyentv/Miles-Per-Gallon-to-Kilometers-Per-Liter>

Found jsfiddle when I was working with my group for the alarm clock project. Here is an example of our code on jsfiddle:

<http://jsfiddle.net/kd6GY/3/>

Our github for the alarm clock:

<https://github.com/sirocdoe/aMAZEingAlarm>

My midterm assignment:

<https://github.com/nguyentv/252x13ex1>

Life Story

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : bertolkn

My expectation when starting this course was to learn programming software and be able to use this software to create functional codes that I could use for anything that I wanted to program. My goal in the beginning of the semester was to create a program all by myself using tools that I had learned throughout the semester. Over time, my expectation and my goals evolved as I realized that this class wasn't about becoming an expert in programming but instead using sources that I had around me, such as friends, classmates, websites, and tutorials to help solve a problem that I was facing. My goal eventually changed from doing something on my own to working with a team to develop a solution. At first, my programming skills were minimal and I had found myself being easily frustrated, however, after countless hours of research on Google and Youtube I was able to learn a basic foundation of programming using HTML and JavaScript. For our first team project, the Converter, I was able to implement the basics of what I had learned and create a functional converter. This to me was a huge accomplishment because it was the first thing I had ever programmed in my life and it was functional! I was able to help others around me that needed help which in turn reinforced what I had learned and made me become even more skilled with the basics. I learned that I was able to learn things on my own without having a professor teach it to me directly. I also learned that I enjoy programming and feel a great sense of accomplishment when I complete a code and share it with my friends. Later in the semester I feel that my goal had once again evolved. After I worked with my team and learned how to do basic programming, I decided to create an Awkward Elevator app that I thought would be a funny and useful app and something that I can say I created on my own. This app definitely made me realize just how much I had learned throughout the semester. I was able to code using HTML and JavaScript without too much frustration. I did hit a few bumps on the way but was able to overcome these challenges by asking peers and researching online, something that I had learned earlier in the semester. I also used sources around me to help me develop my app into a functional mobile application using JQuery software. I then was able to use the Android Emulator and see how my app functioned on a mobile device. I later was able to actually download my app on a friends android which was my biggest accomplishment of the semester. Although the music became nonfunctional when it was on my friends android, I realized what I had done wrong and I am currently working to fix it. After my app was almost complete, I showed a couple of my friends my accomplishment and everyone was amazed at how far I had come with my app. I was very proud to say that I had completed it by myself using resources that I had found. Originally, I was nervous about the style teaching of this class because I was not familiar with it, however, this class has made me appreciate this style of learning because it made me realize that I can do things on my own and that there is an ample amount of resources that are available to me on an everyday basis. After writing this narrative and looking back at everything that I had learned and accomplished throughout this semester I feel that I deserve an A in the class. I truly believe that the effort and work that I had put into this course throughout the semester and the results that have come from that should be rewarded with an A to be sent to the registrar.

<https://github.com/bertolkn/Awkward-Ele.git>

<https://github.com/bertolkn/252s13ex1.git>

<https://github.com/bertolkn/TinaUFatLard.git>

Final Essay for

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : allenos

When I entered into this course I expected that there would be more structure. I did not anticipate a “no grades” policy for this class. That was difficult to grasp because I have always had a class that was structured around getting graded on the work that I have turned in. They changed over the semester though; I began to become accustomed to the schedule and structure of no grades. It took the pressure off of me and allowed me to focus on my curiosity of learning the new programming languages. This curiosity carried me through the class and the projects that we had. The amount of time that I spent on this class was mostly used for figuring out how to work a piece of code. For the most part I had to do research on how certain prompts needed to be set up. This also allowed me to learn those certain prompts for future projects.

In the course of this class I completed three projects in total, with two other projects in the works. The first project that I completed was the Miles per Gallon-Kilometers per Liter converter. This was done using the platform of Microsoft Visual Studio in the Visual Basic language. This was not the language that our professor intended, however it gave me a small understanding as to how visual basic works. The second project that I completed was the Google Maps zip code finder. This was my first project in which I used HTML5 and JavaScript. It allowed me to get a look into how JS functions work (which has been the hardest portion that I have needed to learn for this class). This project was also the first time that I saw just how cool and interesting learning code could be. It was the first time I saw a large form of “computer magic” and it got me hooked. The last completed project that I was a part of would be the physics equation page. Prior to this project I took the CSS tutorials on Codecademy.com and was eager to put these skills to use. This project made me want to learn more CSS design techniques, especially ones that could make my projects look more professional.

Through the course of this class I learned some things about myself. One of which was that I need to discipline myself in order to learn programming languages. What really helped that discipline was my curiosity for that knowledge. I also got to see that if I do put my mind to something, even though I have very minimal knowledge, that I can actually do it. Very rarely do I get to see tangible evidence of that side of me.

As to the future, I plan on completing the ISAT IKM sector along with a possible Computer Science minor. I feel that learning this skill set will become incredibly beneficial for me in the future. I have heard from multiple sources that if I have a basis of coding knowledge, that an employer would love to hire me. So, I am hoping this is true, and also that my curiosity and thirst for this knowledge will still be with me in the future.

This style of class was alien to me at first. It was at first a good and a bad thing. Because it took me a while to get a curiosity for this project, there were times when I did not feel motivated to do the work or to do tutorials. Once I gained that curiosity though, the structure of this class was excellent for me. In the real world an employer would not give me a grade, nor would they care

about the process of me getting the project done (barring anything illegal). It is a very relaxed atmosphere and it allowed me to learn what I wanted to learn for the most part.

Based on the amount of time that I put into this class, the amount of what I have learned, and the perceived quality of my work, I believe that I “deserve” to get the grade of an A-. I am going to ask for this grade as well and will be able to justify it by the work that I have to show in my portfolio.

Thanks for a great class Professor Benton!!

Oliver Allen.

end of the year narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : borgdg

Narrative outline

This year has been a very interesting year; I have had some of the hardest courses in my educational career and some of the easiest. Programming however does not fall under either of these categories, and is a class of itself. Programming has been challenging due to the fact that every line of code is very responsive to input, reacts differently based on symbols, and has to be in a certain order for the computer to even process or understand it. These are the sources of difficulty as they are basically a grammatical code for computers. From previous experience I know that I do not do well with grammar of any type. As a result I have responded slowly to this course and the goals I have set for myself. With this class structure however I felt both lost and free at the same time, though it was extremely nice not to have to worry about grades or deadlines like a normal class, and even be able to choose the projects that one applies themselves too, I felt almost like I was given too much freedom. During times of intense work for the rest of my classes I would commonly push the work for this class back and work on the other class's assignments. Even though I liked the flexibility of this, when projects came close to being presented I felt like I almost had ignored the goals that I was setting, even when I accomplished them. This type of class style though it worked for me, is something that I need to get used to.

My favorite part of this class was the goal and expectations setting each week, even though the surveys were not my favorite. Throughout the semester I found myself trying to keep up with the things I wanted to accomplish inside and outside of class, and applying myself to complete each one in turn. I even continued to apply myself to previous long term goals that I had set, even before the onset of this course, and by the end of this course have seen the benefits and experience of completing some of them. My goals over the semester are interesting to watch, in the beginning I was constantly trying to take on too many tasks and in the middle of the semester when I was mostly working on all of my other classes, I was taking on too little for this class, but in the end I believe I was taking on the right amount of responsibility for my goals so as to balance with my other class work, and to balance out what I think is an appropriate amount of work for this course.

I believe the time that I have applied for this class was well spent. Though I thought myself to be behind many of the other individuals in my class, I realize that I wasn't behind, I was just going at my own pace. As previously stated I spent many hours on each topic just trying to get the grammar and the setup for each line of code correct. Even when I was working in groups and had someone helping me, or code academy giving my directions, I found that the only way that I really learned was to plug through it myself, find the issue, and learn to not make that same mistake again. It is from this that I have learned that I need to understand the basics before I can move on to the moderate or advance aspects of a topic. However I was able to accomplish putting multiple programs together, putting them up on the internet, figuring out how to research and use another's code to improve my own, to work in groups to both help solve and get help solving issues, and to see how different languages of code work. I have been able to become

familiar with PHP, javascript, and CSS. I have also started to become familiar with ruby and python, however I am still strongest with javascript. Moving forward though I have enjoyed my time with programming I do not think that it will be excessive in my future as I do not click with it, I do still plan to move forward with the skills that I have been learning in this course so that if I wish to use them, I may be able to apply them more readily and easily as I see fit. Also moving forward I plan on continuing setting goals for my advancement in any area I see fit, but particularly in the areas of telecom, fitness, and time management.

It is because of all of the things that I have learned and applied myself to that I believe I should receive a low A in this course. I have applied myself to the goals I have set and have completed them to the best of my ability and understanding, and sought help if or when I could no longer understand them or help myself. I have contributed to each of the groups I have been in and learned something new from each, while helping to produce new and useful programs. I would prefer that if a grade were to be submitted for me to the registrar that it be between a B+ and an A-.

Joseph Cross Narrative

Published Date : April 30, 2013

Author : crossjt

Going into this class, I wasn't 100% sure of what to expect, but I did expect some general things. I expected to learn some basic information about coding and how to use different coding languages to be able to produce a result to a problem. I also expected to be working in groups with others. I didn't think that it would get *too* in depth because it is an introductory course, so I also predicted that I should be able to keep up with what I am learning and that I would not be too in over my head, even with little to no coding experience.

The first goals I set were to get a good base of how coding is used and what I would need to learn to be able to accomplish later goals. Throughout the year I primarily used codecademy to learn programming languages, and I also used a little bit of w3schools for html and css help. After that, my goals were to expand my knowledge to different coding languages and implement what I have learned into projects and other mini projects. Over time, I expected myself to be able to write more complex code (or at least understand it) from what I started learning. Most of my time out of class was spent on learning through codecademy and working on projects. A lot of time was also spent on stackoverflow.com whenever I had a problem. If I encountered a problem or got stuck anywhere, I would google it and about 90% of the time someone had asked the same question on SO, so that website was very helpful.

I would say that I accomplished a pretty good amount over the course of the semester. Starting with nothing but the most basic knowledge on html, I learned the basics of JavaScript, Ruby, PHP, JQuery, and I would say intermediate level HTML/CSS. I think this is a pretty good place to start off, with a fairly small depth but pretty good range of things. Since I've gotten a taste of each of these, I am interested in learning more about Ruby and continuing to use HTML and CSS to build websites.

The style of class worked pretty well for me. I'd say that the biggest plus is that it is pretty much stress-free. This is important to me because other classes can be the exact opposite, and the less stress the better. Another thing I really liked about this class is that it allowed me to pursue and learn about what I wanted to, instead of forcing me to follow a rigid syllabus. I thought that was important because it really is easier to learn about something if you are interested in it. Because I got to set my own pace, I never got too overwhelmed and I steadily improved my knowledge over time. I can see how this style wouldn't work for people that are not interested in learning this kind of stuff, but this is something I would have maybe tried learning even without a college class, so I was motivated to continue learning without any threats of grading or deadlines to worry about. I am pretty proud of the work I have done over the semester (especially with the final result) and the new found knowledge of coding that I've acquired, and so I think I deserve/would like you to report to the registrar an A+.

Artifacts:

[Dining Website](#)

[252 map](#)

[Exam \(form validation\)](#)

[MPG converter](#)

[Codecademy Profile](#)

[Personal Website](#)

Siroc's Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : gibsonsf

Sarah Gibson

Narrative

My expectations when the class first started were that I would learn some programming skills, by attending a class that didn't have a normal grading scale. Later I realized it was a little different than that. I did learn basics and how to get started on things in class but I learned the most outside of class when I had to search for what to do and how to do it. Eventually my goals changed towards making progress and learning things that I didn't know before. I realized that once I got started, it wasn't so bad trying to figure things out and that it was really fun once elements of the code would work.

I spent the majority of the first half of the semester doing nothing. If i could go back and change that I definitely would, because once I started coding, I realized I liked it and it felt good when it worked. I knew that I would not feel comfortable asking for a grade in the end, when I hadn't done anything throughout the semester. So far I have become experienced with using github and with using javascript, and html with a little bit of css. I found that there are many resources out there and that I really liked how jQuery made styling so easy. I would feel comfortable with making my own website and I think that is pretty cool. I know that I can only improve my skills by searching the internet. I learned how to style my code and use comments to help myself and others that might want to use what I have put together.

I learned that I actually liked programming (when I could get things to work anyway). I also learned that I have acquired this new skill to sleep through multiple alarms... I learned that when you try to focus on the positives in life, then you end up much happier and do better. I usually came to class after a class that I extremely dislike because of the way things are graded and how the class is taught as a whole. 252 was a refresher and helped me to calm down after being extremely agitated before. It helped me to realize that I should focus on what I have learned as opposed to what I have earned.

I plan on continuing to program in my free time to improve my skills and increase my knowledge. I really want to make our app functional so that one day I could put it on my phone and it would work. I haven't decided whether or not I'll stick with IKM, although I do only need one more class to finish the sector. I do think that I will continue to develop my skills and use my knowledge to help my with other projects.

At the beginning I didn't think that this style of class was working for me, because I was so used to everything being laid out for me. I didn't feel as though I was being taught, but thats because I wasn't trying to be taught. In the end, I really liked this style because it showed me how much I could figure out and do on my own—and when I couldn't do something on my own I realized I had more people to turn to then just the teacher or TA. I really appreciate the fact that we can ask

for our grade in this class. It is hard achieving/maintaining a decent GPA. It sucks when you have no control over what you are learning or how you are being forced to learn it. In this class I got to experience a situation where I got to learn whatever I wanted and I could learn it however was right for me without having to worry about being penalized for it later.

I think that I deserve a B because I didn't really start applying myself until the second half of the semester, but I would like for you to report an A to the registrar. Thank you for an awesome semester and changing my perspective on programming! I have truly enjoyed this class and the values/practices I have learned.

list of what i've accomplished:

– exam: <https://github.com/sirocdoe/252s13ex1.git>

-alarm app: <https://github.com/sirocdoe/aMAZEingAlarm.git>

-github profile: <https://github.com/sirocdoe>

Chris Mihalkovic Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : mihalkcs

Christopher Mihalkovic

April 29, 2013

Portfolio

I did numerous tutorials using code academy

I am disappointed to say that I was unable to complete exam 1

Helped my team with the ISAT Honor Society program

You can look at everything we've done here <https://github.com/nicholjw>

Narrative

I wasn't really sure what to expect coming into this class. I had no prior programming experience, and honestly didn't even know what programming meant. It took me by surprise when I found out that this class would be mostly self-taught, but found relief in the fact that grades wouldn't be assigned for each task I was given. When I learned a little bit about programming, I thought it would be cool to make a program involving music, since I am a drummer. I thought I could possibly create something that would enable people to put together simple beats and melodies in a structured environment.

To be honest, my ambitions died a little each passing day. I began to think that I couldn't do this, and that there was no way I could teach myself how to program. I did my best to learn HTML, since that was the group I was assigned, but I knew that I just wasn't getting everything. Although I knew this wouldn't be a huge issue, I still found myself getting discouraged every time I tried to learn something and it just didn't click or stick. I was still wondering what direction this class was headed, and found it very difficult to stay involved in the class without much guidance. I knew that my programming idea might be a little too ambitious, and just decided to go with what my groupmates wanted.

I spent most of my time looking over tutorials using CodeAcademy , although most of the time I had to watch and practice things ten times before I really got it. I was able to contribute a little bit to the mileage converter, but mostly I just designed the layout. I wasn't able to complete Exam 1, which was pretty disheartening. Instead of getting back on the horse and riding it out, I spent the rest of the semester doing less than I should have for this class. I was only able to contribute minute details to our team project, which we spent nearly half the semester on. I let my other classes and outside activities heavily overshadow my assignments to this class.

However, what I learned and accomplished did not come from the course objectives. It came from my peers, and from the fellowship this class encourages. I rushed for a national honor fraternity Phi Sigma Pi this semester and was extended a bid. I went through the initiate process, which was no easy task. I spent over 60 hours interviewing people and learning different perspectives. I also spent over 10 hours doing community service, and more than 10 hours doing scholarship and leadership-building activities. Through this process, I learned the value of hard work. But more importantly, I learned the value of camaraderie and encouragement. I found myself engaging with people in class more as a result of this process. It became easier for me to open up to people, and I made numerous ISAT friends along the way. This sounds easy, and it might be for some people. But before this semester, I had maybe one friend that was also an ISAT major. I saw each class as a drag, and was never motivated for anything. But this process, and the ideals that this class instilled in me, taught me that we are all working together. It taught me that companionship and togetherness with your peers is more important than competing with them. Because in the long run, I will be working with these people to shape what the world will become.

I learned that I can be an outgoing and caring individual if I let myself, and I never plan on changing this. However, I do plan on changing my work ethic. I took for granted an experience that I may never be given again- a class without grades. Towards the beginning, I merely saw this class as a chance to slack off, and never really thought any part of this class would be instilled in me. And now, I find myself meditating every week outside of class, doing yoga, and talking to new people, especially within ISAT. This class definitely helped me find peace of mind, and more importantly, taught me to never take anything in this life for granted. I did learn however, that programming is definitely not my field of choice. I get headaches just looking at computers.

I can't say that this style of class necessarily worked for me. I didn't learn as much as I wanted about the actual course content and programming skills. And although I can't say I would choose this style of structure again, I did gain experience in other ways by attending this class, as mentioned above.

With all being said, I think I do deserve an A in this class. This is not because I excelled in programming skills, but because I think I accomplished some of the underlying goals that you've wanted from us all along. I remember sitting in class and thinking how right you were when you said that we need to be a tightly-knit community and stop ignoring each other's needs. Well, I took that advice and so much more. I made ISAT friends, yes. But even more than that, I found people I can go to, and people that can come to me with anything. I found and am still creating a big group of ISAT majors who can help each other make this process easier, more efficient, but most importantly, fun. My biggest regret looking back is that I never shared words over a cigarette with you, Benton. Because maybe I could've realized my potential sooner; no, realized everyone's potential, and all the goals and subtleties in life that stay in the shadows.

I understand so much more than I did only a few months ago, so I would want you to report an A in the registrar.

Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : palamoja

In the beginning I truly didn't know what to expect from this class. I had taken Computer Science Honors in high school, and struggled with the material, lacking interest as well. For this class I wanted to learn some of the basics since it is cool what is done with coding, but didn't care too much. The style of the class put that learning in my hands, which led to getting sidetracked and me putting off a lot of it off with other work or things I like to do.

Over time, the class got more and more complicated leaving me feeling lost. Now at this point I had to try to learn the earlier material, just to be able to do simple tasks with the new material. I saw what people were able to do with coding, which was more interesting than the stuff we did in high school. Still though I enjoyed the final product, but not the nitpicky work of coding. I realized most groups had someone with prior interest in coding that carried the team for the long haul.

I accounted some time for this class, but more work should have been put in. With the no punishment style of the no-grading policy I skipped tasks I knew I couldn't get reprimanded for, and prioritized the classes that I got real grades for. I like your system of education, but it doesn't work in our system of education due to our prior history of education being based on grades. It's engrained in our way of thinking in education, mostly hurting us.

This class, maybe not with the coding material, did help me learn a lot about myself. I believe this is one of the most important values a college class can have to you. Even more than the material you can learn. The meditation was a bonus, in allowing me to start my early morning in a positive way. It changed my outlook on numerous occasions. All the positive thinking education was great, as my father has always encouraged me to never send out negative thinking into the world. There is no reason to think of what you can't achieve. From taking your positivity surveys, I realized generally I am a happy and positive thinking person.

Since, I won't be meditating in your class anymore, I may have to make more time in my own schedule to meditate. I believe it will be worth it. As for coding I probably won't be touching that stuff with an 8- foot pole, I just have no interest in it. I plan on continuing to think positive, and already when my roommates say negative things I try to tell them just to relax, and it will get done. Also, I will set weekly and monthly goals for education/tasks again next school year.

This style of class didn't work well for me with coding. If it were a subject I had serious interest in, it would be an incredible learning environment. Also, if the education system we had in place was different due to the prior engraining into our knowledge of education.

The grade I deserve for this class is probably a C+. The grade I want you to report is more of the value of the class to me, from what I learned from you aside from coding. That grade is a B+.

252 Narrative Shannon Peebles

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : peeblesk

Shannon Peebles

End of Semester Assessment

By the end of this course, I expected a basic knowledge of code, enough to be able to understand web pages code and write basic programs. I hoped to have a better knowledge of how computers work and how code is a part of them.

As I realized that programming was not as simple as I expected, my goals at the beginning of the year seemed a little too high, I began to scale them down and my goal essentially became to learn as much as possible and feel confident in that information.

A major thing I learned about myself through this course is that I do not understand computers as much as I thought I did. I'm always the person in my family who can navigate computer/technology issues with relative ease; however, that was not the case in this class. I did learn how to work through problems and get help with things that I did not understand, which is a big step for me because I usually never ask for help. I also enjoyed the challenge of overcoming an obstacle in my code and becoming more proficient in programming. I was proud that I completed a project on my own though I was kind of sad that the group I planned on being with did not really try to include me in the project.

I accomplished the completion of my project, the beginner tutorial series of theNewBoston YouTube videos, and completed several sections of the Code Academy lessons. I kept notes from what I learned and used them to refer to during coding, and I learned how to validate forms, add input text, work functions, among many other things!

Most of my time was spent watching and taking notes on tutorials! I also spent time practicing code on NotePad++ and researching specific parts of coding that interested me, like attributes, iFrames, and fun things to add to applications!

My future goals are to take another computer science class over the summer to prepare for 340 and sector in IKM! Also hopefully read a few computer books for fun to learn more about computer processes.

This class style was extremely nice because it fit well with my hectic, busy schedule but I would have liked a little more guidance on the basics of programming. However, looking back I think this class was great preparation for the real world, in which work requires a lot of independent study and initiative! I believe that I put as much time as I could into this class and even though I struggled with the material I feel like I accomplished and learned a lot! I really, really would like an A in this class because even though you will dislike hearing this, grades are extremely

important for ROTC. But at the same turn, I recognize that I may not have done quite as well as I hope I did, so I will respect any grade given.

Exit Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : hoy2am

Coming into this semester, I was not quite sure what I expected as far as what I was going to learn or to get out of this class. I had done a little bit of work with HTML and PHP in high school but did not retain a lot of what we had worked on. I remembered the basic styling of using tags for HTML. We had used Adobe Dreamweaver after learning the bare basics due to its usability. Having used a program like Dreamweaver, which requires very little hard coding, I did not expect the intricacies involved in the syntax of hard coding languages like python and java.

I knew that I wanted to do my best to master a language or languages to the point of being able to writing my own programs without too much outside help. Coming into this class, I expected to spend class time learning the different parts of languages and how the computer interacts with them. I expected to have labs reports and structured assignments for specific code sequences that would accomplish an established goal.

As the class progressed, I learned that the way I thought about programming was too cut and dry. I expected there to be a “right” answer for how to accomplish a goal. I’ve learned that this is not the case. There are a thousand different ways to come to a single outcome, and it all depends on how creative you can be working within the parameters of the language in use. Everything one could hope to learn about writing code is accessible through tutorials, forums, and videos on the internet, so teaching this class in a traditional manner would be redundant. Instead, we spent our time discerning the best ways to go about accessing these resources such as good places to trust like Codecademy and W3 schools.

In this class, we spent a lot of our time in class focusing on living positively, because more than anything, that can drastically affect our productivity and motivation. We did this in addition to working on strictly computer applications such as the brainstorming process for the MPG – KPL converter and correctly installing the android emulator. Outside of class, our group met regularly to both work on our projects and just to hang out and get food or something of that nature. I believe that on average, I spent about 4-5 hours outside of this class every week doing work that is related to this class. The first part of the semester, this was mostly using tutorials for python, java, and javascript, and I think I have a fairly good grasp on all three that I could use other resources to create a presentable app or website which each of the three.

There are several things I would consider accomplishments from this semester. Most importantly, the word/quote of the day website that our team developed. This took our team a pretty solid chunk of time and finding a good way to incorporate the days of the week into the code was more difficult than we expected it to be. The other things I am proud of are the Converter, the progress I made on exam 1, and also just finding ways to be more positive throughout my day especially when I find myself stressed out. The meditation we learned in class has helped a great deal with calming myself down when I get overwhelmed with school or personal issues.

For the future, I intend to continue with the IKM sector and look forward to the continuation of what I learned in this class this semester. I would like to spend more time developing web apps and maybe even an application that I can put on one of the app markets.

I think this style of learning is very beneficial for how I like to learn in the classroom. I believe that with the instant access we have to almost the entirety of human knowledge via the internet, the old way of learning through straight memorization is outdated and can be replaced with a style like this where the students are presented with an obstacle and are encouraged to devise their own solution where the solution is not one established answer but can be a vast array of methods to overcome said obstacle.

Based on the work I put into this class outside of the classroom with my group and on my own, I believe I deserve an A and I want that to be the grade you report to the registrar. I thoroughly enjoyed taking this class and I am looking forward to spending next semester in 340!

RamRod

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : cottinam

Here is the git repository I set up for my first html experience.

<https://github.com/ashcotz/RamRod.git>

end of semester narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : cockebj

Coming into this class i didn't really know what to expect at first. As i progressed through the class i began to become more knowledgable in what i would need to do in order to be successful in this class. I realized that the best way to learn new material is through online sources on youtube and other websites such as code academy. There were some very good learning resources on the class website as well but i found it to be easier just to search exactly what i needed to learn on google. Overtime my expectations and goals did slightly change. At first coming into the class i knew that i was going to be able to just ask for an A and not have to really do anything to receive it. So, based off that outlook at first i didn't really feel motivated to do anything. That being said, after the first assignment where we had to make a mileage converter, i discovered that i actually did enjoy coding and using HTML and Javascript. From then on i began to watch more tutorials on youtube and look up all the different tags for html5. I began to realize and understand that what you said about how once you get the hang of it you will be addicted and just want to learn more. The amount of time that i spent on this class varied from week to week but on average i probably spent around three and a half or four hours a week. For the final project where my team developed the positivity website, i found my self spending countless hours on it sometimes coding and watching new tutorials for 6 hours straight not even realizing it had been that long. Throughout the year i accomplished a number of things such as bringing more positive vibes in my life through meditation and other techniques we learned in class. I learned the basis of how to incorporate javascript with html. In the end result i put a large amount of time and effort to complete the positivity website to present in class and successfully make people laugh and in the end feel more positive. Something that i learned about myself is that i actually do enjoy coding and programming when i thought i didn't. I enjoyed it enough to the point where i changed it to be my third sector instead of manufacturing and engineering because i do want to learn more. For the future i intend to take 340 and 341 where i will be able to add to my knowledge for programming so that one day when i start a career i will be able to contribute to my company by not only doing what i was hired for but also help with programing aspects of the company. At first the style of class didnt work for me that well because it was almost like i didnt have any motivation to go out on my own time and teach myself. But as the semester went on i began to find that once i started to watch tutorials and create my own code it was very rewarding and i wanted to learn more. So in the end, i think that this style of class did work out for me because it made me realize that this is a valuable skill to have and made me appreciate it the subject a lot more. For my final grade even though i got off to a slow start once i got the hang of it i did devote a good amount of time to learn more so i think that i deserve an A and would like to receive an A as well. I had a great year in your class and wish i had taken full advantage of it from the beginning. I cannot wait to take 340 with you this coming fall!

252 Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : mulcahkp

I came into ISAT 252 not knowing what I was going to learn. I knew that it had to do with basic programming but there is so many different languages to code with I didn't know where we would start or go. After I discovered we were going to learn JavaScript and HTML that gave me some ideas of what I wanted to do. I wanted to be able to understand code in those languages by just looking at them, I wanted to be able to explain the languages to people and to run a successful program. I soon learned that coding wasn't all that simple and there were a lot of different variables to each language. If I looked at a code now I would be able to get the gist of what is going on but maybe not understand all of the functionality. As to teaching, I would not say I am comfortable with either language enough to teach somebody; that being said I would be able to assist somebody who is learning. I was able to build some programs, such as the map project, the midterm project, and my ISAT office hour website and helped with my groups project for JMUlist. Overall, I spent roughly 5-10 hours a week outside of class working on a program or on w3schools or codeacademy trying to better my coding skills. I believe I accomplished a good amount from this class. I am capable in saying that there are programs I am proud about and there are some that I am not so proud of. I have built a few good friendships from this class in which I can see being beneficial to me in the future. Moving into the IKM sector I plan on continuing to study programming. I am taking 340 with Dr. Teate next semester and looking forward to that. I plan on changing how much time I put into programming because as I have found out 5-10 hours a week is nearly not enough and it takes serious dedication to become good at programming. Last semester in 160 I felt that this free-lance type of worked for me, with self-evaluating and students become the teacher, but for 252 I wish there was more of a teacher base. There were times that I was very confused on a project and had no idea where to go and wish that there were notes or a book I could turn to in order help me out. That being said, I do feel that I did learn a great deal by just showing up to class which was a struggle for me in 160 but I looked forward to going to 252 every day. The grade I deserve in this class I believe would be the same grade I am asking for, being an A. I did put in a lot of hours a week into this class and though I may not have picked up programming as quickly as some of my peers, in the end I know that I have learned a great deal of material and that in the future I will hopefully be able to implement what I have learned into the workplace.

-

252 Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : saundeta

Below is the link to my attached end of the semester narrative.

My expectations coming into ISAT 252 were to learn the basics of programming and how webpages are constructed and work. As the semester progressed and after learning how much goes into web design I began to work towards learning basics in Javascript code and CCS styling. To attempt to learn the required material I created a Code Academy account and worked through the “Web Development Basics” on Code Academy. Working from an internet site was convenient because I was able to access and work on the material whenever I had a couple minutes of free time on campus or at my apartment, this would come out to a couple hours a week. By doing this I was able to accomplish a basic understanding of coding and, from class, how to meditate properly. The in-class portion of 252 taught me that according to some I’m not a very positive person. This is untrue; I am not a pessimist nor an optimist but a realist. If the glass isn’t half full then it’s not half full, it is what it is. As far as the future is concerned I will continue to meditate now whenever I get stressed out, it is very helpful in situations like those. I did not like the style of class though; I knew nothing about computers or how to code and design webpages. It’s tough to have a sturdy house when the foundation is poorly built or even nonexistent. Being that this is an introductory course it would have been better if we had simple exercises that would help us get the foundations of coding and allow us to build on what we went over in class on our own time. I believe the grade I deserve is in the mid to low “B” range but mainly because thermo kicked my ass last semester a GPA boosting “A” would be awesome for the registrar to receive as my grade for the class.

Tim Saunders

Lehman's 252 Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : lehmanej

Before the semester started and before I watched the video clip that you gave us I didn't really know what to expect. I knew that I would be dealing with computers and critical thinking but wasn't sure how the class would be structured. After watching the video clip with you in front of a green screen or whatever that was, I thought you were a pretty cool professor and this was going to be an interesting and different class. I had always had a love for technology and how it worked, but had never taken a class that allowed me to expand on that desire. My goals were to do well in the class and to go into it with an open mind. I expected to learn the basics of a couple of languages and be able to understand lines of code and how websites function.

I now realize that I wasn't pushing myself hard enough in this class so my goals and expectations weren't ambitious enough or I just didn't pursue them vigorously enough. My goals evolved from wanting to be one of the top students in the class to only trying to keep up and learn from what everyone else had accomplished. My goals on the self evaluations became increasingly more oriented on parts of my life outside of this class. Expectation wise I expected certain students to lead the class, certain students to do nothing, and I expected you to be very understanding and supportive of whatever any of us wanted to do.

To be perfectly honest, I can't account for as much time as I would like to. My desktop and my 252 folder have been littered with failed games and random HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files from this semester's exploits. My profile on the website is not to the completion level that I would like it to be, and there are a few things that should be moved up further and adopted but I just never went on the website. Some of my time was spent on Code Academy doing JavaScript tutorials or on w3 schools looking at specific cases of a scrolling banner, or making a certain word in a sentence a hyperlink but not the rest of the sentence. I also purchased a JavaScript/jQuery book and a HTML/CSS book to expand my knowledge and spent several hours reading chapters from both of those books.

I am going to combine my accomplishments, what I learned about my learning style, my plans for moving forward, and how this style of class works for me into the same section because they all overlap with one another. This class was a lot of fun and I am proud to say that I will be pursuing a minor in ISAT by choosing IKM as my sector/concentration. I decided early this semester that I was going to change my major to Information Analysis after I realized that ISAT wasn't for me. Foreign languages, specifically French, are something that I hold very near and dear to my heart and would like to pursue further, along with computers and some other skills, and IA felt like the ideal path for me to expand my horizons and grow as a scholar, person, and amateur computer programmer. I learned that while it might not be the most enjoyable style of class, I need the traditional homework, quiz, test kind of class, or at least I do at this point. The way that you did this class seems like a perfect way to support creativity in a programming and problem solving team environment, and I know that there are plenty of kids who thrive in the environment you created. The classes that I thrive in are the ones that I have a genuine interest in and have a drive to work hard for. I just wasn't able to dedicate the time I wanted to in this class

because I just didn't feel like I had to when dealing with other classes' tests and lab reports (you know the one). I feel terrible for not putting more of my best work out there because I know I can do much better than what I have done this semester, but you have no reason to believe that so I'll just have to show you what I can do down the road.

My final realization about this class is that as I continue in my IKM journey I need to try the other sections with Dr. Teate to see how things will go. I had Dr. Teate for physics freshman year, and while the class was certainly not easy, I liked how he had a structure to his class that forced me to do my work. Your class was such a learning experience about what I need to have in a class, and also how I need to not be so lazy and become self-motivated. I am confident in time that I will be able to knock out lines and lines of code for hours on end with my own motivation, not needing a quiz or a test grade to force me into doing it, but that time hasn't come yet.

Now to the last part, the grade. In the first section of the class I felt like I was the Git master, because I was telling everyone how to add, commit, and push, especially on the exam. I also meditate outside of class in my times of great stress and I control my breathing to stay cool. I give myself time to think about whatever comes to mind, or to just let my mind go blank. Because of the realizations I made this semester because of this class I feel like I deserve a B+, due to the fact that I didn't use the website much at all or have much of a portfolio to show you. The grade I want you to report the registrar is an A. I'm sure every kid asks you for an A because they have to keep up their GPA or their parents will cut them off or something like that, but I feel like my life has been changed by this class and that merits receiving an A. I want to try out another style of programming class by taking 340 with Teate next semester, and if I flourish in that class, great, but I might also realize that your class was the greatest thing ever and return to your ways. Sorry for the super long essay if I was rambling about anything, but I just wanted to express that while I might not have much to show for it, this class did really make an impact on me and I truly respect what you are doing as a Professor and a thinker in the JMU community.

ISAT 252 End of the Semester Narrative

Published Date : April 29, 2013

Author : lowellhr

Over the semester I have definitely learned a lot about myself just because of this one class in particular. The way the class was set up and everything, it really taught me some of my strengths and weaknesses. When we were first told to make our own long term goals for the semester, I thought of these three:

- 1) Refresh my memory of HTML
- 2) Learn CSS
- 3) Learn Javascript

Those were my three main goals pertaining to the class this semester. Now unfortunately throughout the semester, I got lazy and didn't work very much with this class at all. That was one of the first things I learned about myself actually pretty recently. Since this class was basically to learn how to work on your own and others, I was pretty much like, "Eh! If no one is going to teach me... Why do anything?" That was the wrong way of thinking of it. But presently I'm learning that can really hurt you and it takes self-motivation. I became lazy and lost sight of the path and goals.

This past month or so I have noticed what I have done. I am now trying to fix that. At the beginning of the semester, I did the classes for the Codecademy learning HTML and CSS. After I finished the CSS, I kind of just lost track. I sort of began the Javascript, but didn't really get that far. But this month, I got myself back on track again. I started meeting with my dad more often and he has been teaching me more about it. I've taken more of an initiative.

I wish I had done this sooner as well, but I was once in the "Beer On Tap" group. For a couple weeks or so it didn't seem like we were making a lot of progress. I'm always the person that follows others. Tell me what to do and I'll do it. I didn't really have what it took to be that one who stood and said ok you do this this and this. Just not me. In the end it looks like they came up with something that could be made very helpful in the future though. I just wasn't really doing anything though, so that was when I guess... split off the group and started on the forecast application.

That was when I started using the HTML, CSS, and the Javascript all in one combined. Now... the only problem was I still was shaky on Javascript. I knew more than I did previously but still not well enough to figure out how to make it work. Then my dad told me that it would help if I had a web development tool because he saw that all I had was a text editor, so I had no clue if I was on the right track or not till I actually tried running the application. So now that I have that (now using XCode), I can start making more progress on that. I intend on working on this project throughout the summer so I can get those web developmental skills that I originally wanted.

So... In the long run, I believe that this class has been very helpful even though it didn't seem so at first. Not only with how to do programming, but figuring out some of the weaknesses I had and how I should fix them. Maybe not right away but as a slow process. Right now once again throughout the summer, I will keep working on that project and I plan on taking ISAT 340.

Because of how I had that very lazy period during this semester of virtually getting nothing done... If this were a class that had tests, quizzes, projects, and etc... I would probably deserve a C to be totally honest. But because of what I learned about myself and since I completed my first two goals and almost my third, I want to have an A reported to the registrar.

Projects:

Mileage Converter: <https://github.com/TorchOfIrony/Mileage-Converter-ISAT-252.git>

-Worked with Alec and Alexander

Forecast Application: <https://github.com/lowellhr/Forecast-Application.git>

-Worked on myself (although also some help from my dad)

Progress with Codecademy: <http://www.codecademy.com/users/reitya1109>

Portfolio & Narrative

Published Date : April 28, 2013

Author : solankl

Portfolio

I completed a number of Codecademy tutorials:

<http://www.codecademy.com/learn>

Mileage Converter:

https://github.com/kelseysolan/mileage_converter

Exam 1:

<https://github.com/kelseysolan/252s13ex1>

Alarm Clock:

(my code)

<https://github.com/sirocdoe/aMAZEingAlarm/tree/master/kelsey>

Golf App:

https://github.com/kelseysolan/golf_stats_app

Narrative

Coming into this class, I really had no idea what to expect. Most people take ISAT 252 as a sophomore, but I came in with AP credit from high school, so I was able to take 252 as a freshman, which also worked out because scheduling classes as an athlete can be difficult. I plan on concentrating in Telecom or IKM, so I was definitely looking forward to see what this class would be like. One of our initial assignments required us to think of some type of program that we'd like to write, and the one thing that came to mind was something that would allow me to keep track of the personal golf stats I'd like to keep. Of course, at the beginning of the semester, I had no idea how I would go about completing this, but thought it would be something to look forward to and keep in mind.

As the class progressed, my expectations and goals definitely changed. In fact, as I learned throughout the semester, my expectations and goals changed with each thing I worked on. I was in the HTML group at the very beginning of the semester, and after learning the basics of this, I was very excited. I genuinely enjoyed what I had learned, and wanted to learn even more about

HTML and CSS. I completed all of the HTML tutorials on Codecademy, along with most of the CSS tutorials. I then made it a goal of mine to learn JavaScript. I completed many of the Javascript tutorials on Codecademy as well. My expectations definitely changed for learning Javascript, however. HTML and CSS were pretty simple to pick up, but I had more trouble actually integrating Javascript into things I was working on. My goal for Javascript just became to complete as many tutorials as I could.

As I just described, I spent a good amount of my time on Codecademy, learning basic programming skills. The rest of my time was spent doing the assigned projects along the way. I've also spent some time on beginning to build my golf app. I did make my own mileage converter, although I never actually got it to work. We had a working converter for our group, but original personal converter only has the set-up completed and working. I had a golf tournament at the time that we did the Google Map, so I never got completely caught up on that project. I completed Test 1, and was pretty happy with what I accomplished. I did not complete every objective, but I did complete most of it. For my project for the semester, I worked on an alarm clock app that would require you to do a maze before the alarm would stop. We quickly realized that this would be much more difficult than anticipated. My goals for the project definitely changed, and I really just wanted to make sure we had a functioning alarm. Along the way, I really became interested in building the app with jQuery. I had originally completed almost all of the tutorials on Codecademy for jQuery, and then discovered that you really did not need to know the coding behind jQuery to set up an app; you can simply learn how to build the elements and link it to the jQuery stylesheet and Javascript pages. I am very happy with how the app currently looks. Although it is not fully functional, I really learned a lot along the way. Learning jQuery has also helped me to begin my golf stat app, which I am still currently working on.

I definitely learned a lot about myself through this class, which I think ties into the style of the class. I did like the style of the class, but I also found it difficult, as I normally prefer a lot of structure. I think it is awesome that everyone can learn at his or her own pace. However, the style does lend an opportunity for slacking off. I know I personally do better when I have deadlines, and know what I have to do. I also truly enjoyed the meditation we did every class, and looked forward to it every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It was very relaxing, and it was nice to set time aside for that. I was also able to learn that I would really like to improve my positivity. I began reading the Positivity book, but have not yet had time to finish it. I definitely plan to finish it, and I think improving my outlook will help in all aspects of my life, especially my golf game.

Moving forward, I would really like to continue the golf app I am working on. I know there are other apps out there, but I would really like to build a customized one for me. I've definitely come to understand jQuery pretty well, so I would like to learn more about Phone Gap, and APIs to actually begin building a fully functional app. I did enjoy programming, and think it would be something I would really like to learn more about in the future.

For my grade in the class, I feel I deserve an A, and would like that be reported to the registrar. I remember when you talked about how not everyone will learn at the same pace, and you would not compare us to each other. You also said that the important thing was that we all learn something. This really stuck with me, and I tried to keep it in mind throughout the

semester. I know I did not do the most impressive coding, and have many things that are incomplete. But I really did work hard, and once I got working on my projects, I really stuck with it. I also was at every class, minus one or two days because of golf, completed my self-evaluation for every week, and always tried to be a good team member. I am pleased with my efforts and am thankful I was able to experience this class!

Portfolio

Published Date : April 28, 2013

Author : wilkeslf

Final Portfolio

Walking into the first day of class I didn't have any expectations or goals because I had no idea what this class would hold. Since I had never even seen a line of code before, I was coming in excited to learn more but didn't know what was coming so definitely a little nervous. I was excited to have a class where I could do something with a physical process where I could produce something. I was also excited to learn about something I had no prior knowledge of. Overtime my goals evolved. Some weeks they were more related to computer programming and learning new skills or accomplishing certain tasks. But then some weeks my goals were more focused on my lifestyle or state of mind. I appreciated how this class had a holistic approach to learning and while it was a computer programming class, I still learned and broadened my knowledge in things outside of the scope of traditional computer programming information. The weekly self-evaluations were great for keeping me accountable for how much time I was spending on coding and ISAT252 related issues and goals. I knew each week my goal was 6-8 hours of outside class time spent focused on these things. But like I previously mentioned I didn't want to confine time spent on 252 to be separate or different than my life. Instead I wanted to integrate what we were learning about in class to my life. For example, while I was spending time on tutorials, working with my team, and writing code; I was also spending time in the morning meditating, trying to have a positive mindset throughout the day, and spending time at night reflecting on the day. So the time I recorded each week was usually just the time spent on coding/teamwork/tutorials.

This semester I have accomplished a lot. When I would compare myself to other people in the class, I would get discouraged because other people came with much more previous knowledge and had a gift/interest in the material but then I would learn more about positivity and how I should only be concerned with my knowledge and my progress. When I have this mindset I realize that over the semester I have gone from literally knowing nothing to having a basic understanding of html, JavaScript, GitHub, and even Gmail gadgets.

I have learned a lot about myself through this class. I have learned that I have a great appreciation for people gifted with coding (and realize how important computer coding is to our technology, and therefore our society). And I have learned while I appreciate the talent and interest that people have for this subject, I am not one of those people. While I have learned this, I am glad that I have a basic knowledge of some coding and hope to keep furthering my knowledge as I know that it will only benefit me. I have also learned that I am a pretty positive person and how I can encourage and increase this positivity. I have also learned that I like working in groups (when with a good, cooperative team like the one I was with).

I hope to continue learning more about coding because it is such an important part to our society. I hope to also keep meditating and keeping a positive outlook on life. Another goal of mine is to keep the independent side of learning to be a key part of my life, as I know that will benefit me while in college, but will also definitely be beneficial when I have a real life job.

I appreciate this style of class a lot and I think it has especially pushed me to rely on classmates and peers, which once again depicts what real life and the work force will exemplify. I thought

the set up was a little hard for me at first though, because I was an absolute beginner while some classmates were much more experienced. But I think this just caused me to learn more than I would have in a class of all beginners. It helped me to not compare myself to my classmates (which I feel is such a prevalent custom in my other classes).

I think I deserve an “A” in this class and therefore I ask you to report an “A” to the registrar.

Below is the link to my GitHub Repositories, where most of my work can be found. I learned a lot about GitHub this semester but definitely still have room for improvement so not everything is in GitHub.

<https://github.com/leahwilkes?tab=repositories>

CONVERTER WEBSITE:



MAP WEBSITE:



EXAM WEBSITE:



SIDEBAR GADGET:



CONTEXTUAL GADGET:



Resources (tutorials used throughout the semester):

<http://git-scm.com/book>

<http://net.tutsplus.com/tutorials/other/easy-version-control-with-git/>

<https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/Tutorials>

<http://www.w3schools.com/html/>

<http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/web>

<http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/javascript>

<http://www.w3schools.com/js/>

https://developers.google.com/google-apps/gmail/contextual_gadgets (many many others researched to try and get a better handle of gadgets)

Narrative

Published Date : April 28, 2013

Author : carte3bm

Coming into this course, I had no idea what my expectations were. I had never taken a programming class before and I had never done any coding on my own; I didn't even know the difference between Java and JavaScript. After the first week I was very overwhelmed but the sense of expectation that was placed upon us and intimidated by the fact that many others in the course have a significant programming background. After the first few weeks I calmed down and realized that the course was more about what you make out of it than cut and dry expectations. After settling in to the course, I began to slowly set goals and expectations for myself. My original goal was simply to become comfortable enough with the paradigm of computer programming, which was entirely new to me, to be able to follow along with someone with slightly more experience than I had. My first group included Nathaniel and Willie and Willie had taken a visual basic class before so he caught on a little quicker than the two of us. My goal was to be able to follow along with Willie as he caught on to principles and ideas that I did not quite understand such as objects and variables. Another goal of mine was to use Code Academy to learn as much on my own as possible so that when I was working with my group, I could write simple operations and be able to follow along better with more complex ones.

As the semester progressed, I began to spend less of my time doing tutorials on Code Academy and more time meeting with my group to work together on our projects. I did this because I soon realized that I was learning much more from following along with my group's code than by doing a tutorial by myself. So I was still putting in just as much time as I had been, but I was doing it in a way that I could provide input and have direct feedback from another person, which was invaluable. On weeks when I had a lot to do in my other classes I was still able to put 5-6 hours into this course and on weeks that were slower I was able to put in a couple more.

My accomplishments in this course were not limited to code alone since I learned a valuable lesson in teamwork. Most courses stress that everyone have an equal share of the project in all aspects. In this course we all had an equal share of the work, but we did so in different ways. Whereas one or two people were responsible for the code itself, another may have been responsible for proofreading the code and another thought through the logistics of what the final product would be. I think this method was much more successful than it would have been if we all tried to code since some of us were much worse at it than others. This resulted in a much more polished final result. My accomplishments were also not limited to the course itself. I enjoyed being able to create goal lists for the week that did not have to do exclusively with programming. Being able to put "play basketball at UREC twice this week" and "get an A on my English test" helped me strive for more well balanced goals.

I learned a lot about myself in this course. I learned that while being able to complete tasks on your own time like I would be able to do the real world, it doesn't come without stress. Other classes are stressful because you do not have much time to complete tasks, but this class is also stressful because you oftentimes have too long between deadlines, which are often self-imposed in the first place. This leads to a state of relaxed and complacent procrastination where not much

work may get done until later down the road. I also learned that I am a great team player who can take on many different roles. I did not do much actual coding on the projects, but I learned lessons in proofreading others' work and basic lessons in front end project management since we had to plan out the project and determine how to best implement the design.

Moving forward I would like to continue learning more about coding. On code academy I did not get much further than basic JavaScript; over the summer I would like to learn more about PHP and HTML as well as the basics of computer programming such as how servers function and things like that. I also can struggle from time to time with if-then statements so I would like to improve significantly on that. I also would like to do more programming here at JMU if I continue to improve to the point where I can create projects myself without assistance. To start off, I would like to see if I could improve upon the currency converter my group made and see if we can figure out a way to create the additional function of our converter that we could not figure out before.

While the style of this class was beneficial in many ways, it was also detrimental to my learning experience. The relaxed style of learning and the self-taught nature of this course would have more helpful to me if I already had programming experience. If this was a biology course the structure would have been great since that is my best subject, but with programming I definitely needed more lecturing to help me understand the basics. The relaxed nature did have its benefits though that ended up equalizing the negatives. Working in a group helped me get one on one instruction with those who had prior experience. The second half of the semester I learned a lot from Justin about APIs and variables.

If you simply look at the amount of programming I learned this semester I think that I deserve a B+ but if you look holistically at the amount of information I learned from programming to what I learned about myself personally I think that I deserve an A. The course style allowed me to explore deeper within myself and determine what learning styles work best for me. Once I figured out that following along with a more experienced coder helped me learn better than doing tutorials, I was able to learn much more at a quicker pace. I also was a reliable and productive member of every group I was a part of.

Evidence:

Github repos: <https://archive.umatter2.us/project-repos/> (Muffin Stuffers)

<https://github.com/carte3bm/currencyconverter>

<https://github.com/carte3bm/252Exam>

<https://github.com/carte3bm/muffinstuffersgoogle>

<https://github.com/carte3bm/muffinstuffersconverter>

Progress meters (in basic programming skills) – everything is 1 – 2 on skills. I feel like I am fairly close to a 3 on GitHub but not quite. Maybe I will be there once I feel more comfortable

with forking repos, pull requests, and creating branches. Progress meters and self-evaluation goals – <https://archive.umatter2.us/author/carte3bm/>

Google Map



Exam



Portfolio + Narrative

Published Date : April 28, 2013

Author : rymancl

Narrative can be found [here](#).

Portfolio

[MPG/KPL Converter](#)

[Google Maps Zip Codes](#)

[Midterm \(Form Validation\)](#)

[Scheme – Number Calculations](#)

[Scheme – Sorting Algorithms](#)

[Ruby – Number Calculations](#)

[Ruby – Dijkstra's Algorithm](#)

[Simple BAC Calculator](#)

[C – Command Line Parsing](#)

[C – Streaming Data](#)

[C – PEP/8 Simulator \[private\]](#)

[C – Circuit Illustrator \[private\]](#)

[JMU Textbook Exchange with Play Framework \[private\]](#)

Portfolio!

Published Date : April 28, 2013

Author : shipmacm

Coming into this class, I had no experience with any sort of computer programming. My only expectation was to learn the basics of computer programming and my goal was to get an A in this course. Over the course of the semester, my expectations did not change but my goal did. I became more focus with learning and working as a community than with achieving a certain grade. I believe part of this change was this course's focus on positivity and community. I started learning the basics with a tutorial on html from w3schools.com. The evidence of this can be seen at <https://github.com/cmshipman/html-practice>. During that time, I worked with Johannah and Reyna on the unit converter project. For that project, I used my knowledge of html to design how the page looked. Reyna, who has previous experience in coding, led the way for writing the code for the functionality, and then helped Johannah and I to understand it. The code for this project can be seen at: <https://github.com/cmshipman/unit-converter/blob/master/ISAT252-project%201>.

The next project we worked on was the google maps project. I researched how to use a google maps api and implemented that in the page. I used Google Developers and w3school to help me do this. I also experimented with different ways of implementing the api, because we were having some trouble with making the markers appear. The different things I tried can be seen at <https://github.com/cmshipman/googlemap> and the overall project can be seen at <https://github.com/dawkinrm/goldengirls-googlemapdisplay/blob/master/googlemaps>. During this time, I was trying to get through the javascript tutorial on w3schools, this tutorial took me a lot longer to get through than the html one. However, I did eventually get through it, and the evidence can be seen at: <https://github.com/cmshipman/javascript>.

The test we took about midway through the semester really helped me realize how much I was learning in this course, both about how to write code and how to find information online. The code for the test can be found at: <https://github.com/cmshipman/252s13ex1>. I later went back and revisited the code, with the help of my dad I was able to work out a few of the kinks in it. During the next cycle of the class, I decided to switch groups and work with Paul and a few guys from another section. We decided to try and make an app for SafeRides. We worked together to design the look at the app. I did a lot of researching of reverse geolocation, which Paul then used. I wanted to learn CSS, so I decided to try and make a CSS informational page about the SafeRides organization and mission. My idea was that it would go along with the app, but my group didn't like the sound of that. Even though it wasn't going to be included with the app, I went ahead and made it anyways because I wanted to write some code for this project, <https://github.com/cmshipman/saferides>.

The code Paul was using quickly got much more complicated and in depth than what I had been working with. I tried to understand what he was doing, but for the final section of the class I decided it would be more beneficial me to join Devin, Daniel, and Oliver's group and work on a new project. They decided it would be really useful for them to build a reference page for their physics class. We designed the page as a group. Originally, we were going to have buttons that when you clicked on them, the equations popped up. We also researched how to use CSS on buttons, so the page would look nice. I wrote the code for the buttons. The code I wrote for the

buttons and the final project can be seen at: <https://github.com/cmshipman/physics>. In the end, we decided it would be more functional for the page if the buttons opened a separate window with the formulas in it.

I learned a lot about myself during the course of this class. I have realized it is way more beneficial to work together as a community rather than compete with your classmates. I also learned a lot about how to prioritize my time. In the future, I know I will need to schedule specific blocks of time for me to focus on coding. I also learned that I am a better at teamwork than I had previously given myself credit before. Throughout this course, I was able to overcome issues that I had with my teammates about how to divide up the work and make sure everyone contributed. Sometime it was hard, its a fine line between being assertive and hurting somebodies feelings, but I think my teams ended up successfully finishing their projects.

This style of class took awhile for me to adjust too. It was hard balancing my time between this class and the classes I had graded assignments in. However, in the end I think this class gave me the freedom to learn at my own pace and be able to learn about the topics that I was interested in, CSS for example. Looking back, I wish I had been slightly stricter about my time management for this course, but overall I think I have achieved understanding basic development skills using HTML and Javascript, as can be seen by how my objectives were updated over the course of the semester. I also have a much better standing of how to find information using the internet. Because of everything I have learned this semester, both about myself and about computer programming, I believe I deserve an A in this course.

Portfoliooooooooooooo

Published Date : April 28, 2013

Author : kacsmalm

Stuff I Did:

Codecademy Tutorials:

Codecademy tutorials were a great tool to get familiar with various coding languages that were necessary for particular projects throughout the year. For me, I mostly worked with HTML5 and javascript. These two languages were great to learn because I had absolutely no knowledge of coding prior to this class, and these are two of the more basic languages I believe. Although I did not completely finish all tutorials in either course, these tutorials helped me gain an understanding of the nature of each language.

HTML5



<http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/web>

JavaScript:



<http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/javascript>

*Also, I experienced some sort of glitch with the javascript tutorial. Although I was sure I was doing exactly what the exercise said to do, it would not let me move on to the next exercise. I'm sure I managed to mess something up, but I was literally stuck on it for weeks, so I never really moved forward. I just did research as needed.

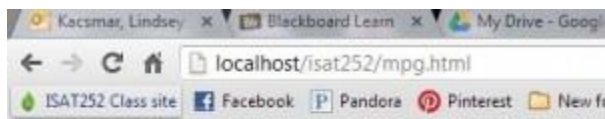
Google Map Project:

This was also a project from the beginning of the year. I was kind of caught up in the craziness of the class. I know this is probably a pretty basic thing, but I could not figure it out, and we moved on to other things and I just never returned to it. I couldn't get the zip code thing to work.



MPG to KPL Converter:

I know this does not look like much, but this was from the beginning of the year when I literally knew nothing.



I sort of got it to work, but it was really touchy and I think I re-messed it up.

Test 1:

I'm pretty proud of this, even though it doesn't really work..



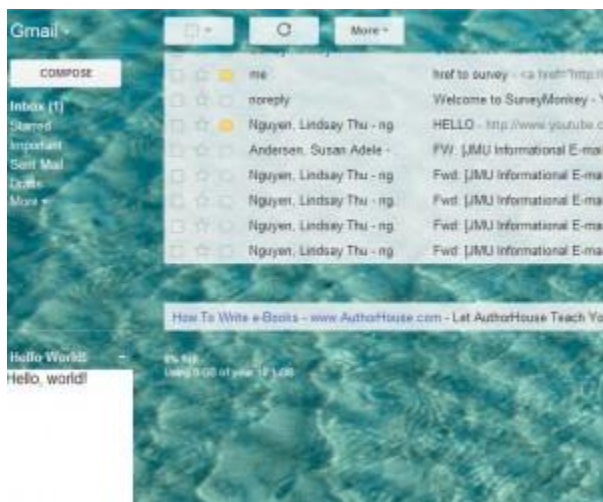
This was our test from earlier in the semester, I was able to make all of the form fields and insert boxes and a submit button, but I could not get it to return anything. And I suck at git hub, so I have the file pulled up on my computer if you want to see the code I wrote.

GOOGLE GADGET YA DIGG:

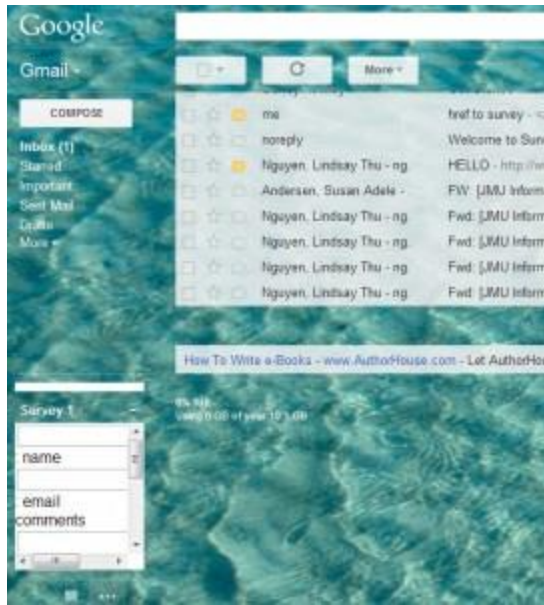
Lastly, I did a goog gadget with Leah, Lindsay, and Susan! This thing was a bear, and kind of annoying. But I'm proud of us for what we accomplished despite having no knowledge about any of this stuff (gadgets in general, xml, php, jQuery, etc.) going into it.

We originally wanted to make a filter on gmail to filter JMU Informational E-mails into separate folders to save time, but we realized this could already be done through several different means. So we decided to change ideas and try to make a contextual gadget that was a survey to rate the helpfulness of an email. We were successful in getting a sidebar survey gadget, but this gadget would need to be put into the actual email and send the results to a database to be truly functional. Our three trials are pictured below.

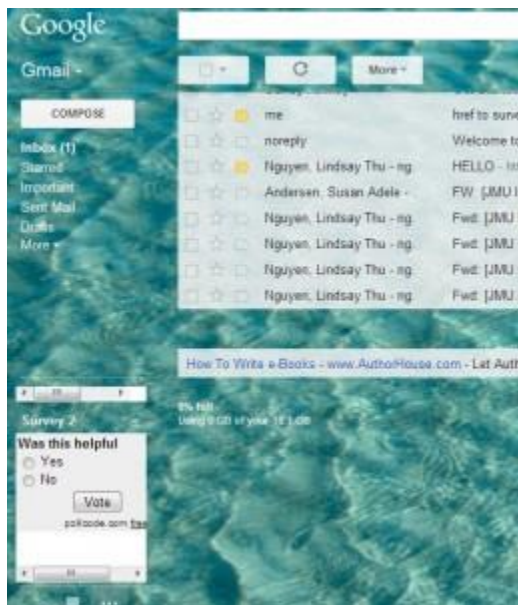
1.



2.



3.



This last picture was our final project. Although it is not completely functional, it is the product of a large amount of trial and error, research, and teamwork.

Narrative:

When I came into this class, I honestly had no clue what to expect. I had absolutely no experience with coding; I did not know the first thing about it. My expectation was that I would probably have to write code and do tutorials and things of that nature, but I had no clue about the level of difficulty or the workload that learning to code would entail. As the class progressed, I realized the level of difficulty and intricacy of coding. It's so cool but it is so tough; it was hard for me to wrap my mind around it all. I realized the flexibility and willingness to learn that you

needed to possess to be able to code in all sorts of languages for many different things. I realized this class was all about me personally, as opposed to taking tests and meeting requirements. However, I also noticed that many of the students in my class have had at least some experience coding before. This intimidated me so much, probably more than it should have. I feel like I was less effective in this course because of that. I had a hard time just focusing on myself. Instead, I focused on how much more advanced others were than me. To combat this, I did code academy tutorials and researched code for various projects. I came to several hacking sessions and tried to get help from friends and fellow students when needed.

Even though my portfolio might not be very impressive, I learned a lot from this class. I accomplished various projects as seen above, but I also learned about positivity, time management, team work, goal setting, and independent learning. I accomplished gaining a new understanding in all of these things that will benefit me throughout the rest of my education in ISAT and when I enter the real world. I also accomplished a fundamental understanding of HTML5 and Javascript, and I feel confident that I could further master these languages if necessary. I also learned about how useful coding is in the real world. Being able to code instantly makes you more valuable to any employer. It is a skill everyone can benefit from having in one way or another. Because of both the coding and non-coding things I have learned, I will be able to move forward as a better student, team member, and co-worker. I am more capable of independently teaching myself than I was before. I am also better able to manage my time, and seek guidance when I need to. I do not typically like to rely on others or ask for help, but because of my lack of knowledge of code, I was forced to ask for help very often. From now on, I will own when I need help and when I am clueless- which is something I normally hate feeling. It's cool though because this class has taught me to be okay with that.

The style of this class is great, it taught me everything I said above, but it definitely has its drawbacks for me personally. I think a tiny bit more structure would be incredibly helpful for me, because I really needed help getting a foundational understanding of the world of code. Also, if teams were more strategically made I think that would be incredibly helpful. For example, force people who have coded before to be with those who haven't. This would allow good coders to teach bad ones, and everyone gains a better understanding of the project. I like the relaxed nature of the class, but I am definitely the type of person that loves to be given direction. With that said, I think I probably deserve a B in this class. Compared to the quality of work that other people produced, I am nowhere near the same level as them. However, I would like you to report an A to the registrar. Despite being a crappy coder, I was at almost every class, I was at every team meeting that my team had, I was on time, I gave my best effort, and I was a reliable team member. I genuinely tried my best in this class, and even though my work quality may not reflect that, I did my best with the skill level that I had. And I worked to improve upon that. From the beginning of this semester, I have made incredible improvements in both the type of student that I am and in my knowledge and ability with code. Thanks for being a cool professor who isn't afraid to try something different and let students control what they learn. I really appreciate that, I'll miss this class.

Narrative

Published Date : April 26, 2013

Author : cottinam

When I first entered this class, I did so assuming that I was going to *hate* programming. I am technologically challenged (making ISAT a bit of an ironic choice) and I thought this handicap would make it very difficult for me to learn from this course. My goal was initially to just get through the class.. I was not too concerned with obtaining any useful skills. As the class went on, though, I realized that having knowledge of things like basic javascript and html is beneficial for both this class and for the future. Once I realized what a marketable skills these languages were, I decided to put put forth more effort into the class. I was surprised to find that after doing several tutorials on html, I was actually able to put together a functional “web page.” Furthermore, once I had these basics nailed down, I was able to add on to them with basic javascript and get a website to perform an actual function.

After accomplishing these projects, I hit a bit of a road block. I kept coming up with projects I thought would be awesome, but when trying to program them I ran into a lot of issues. There was so much more involved in each project than I anticipated that I got discouraged. Then, my team and I came up with a pretty feasible project. Between the manageability of the project and the support my team provided each other, we were able to put together a solid project. This success inspired me to complete my outside honors project, something I was so motivated about that I had it coded, styled, and functioning in under a week. This project was special to me because it was a culmination of all of the html, javascript, and css I had picked up throughout the semester. I was really excited that I came up with and executed a successful program almost entirely on my own.

Through these experiences, I learned that I need to keep at something even when it frustrates me. I also learned that I may not be as bad at technology as I thought. I already have some ideas on how I can use my programming skills in the future, such as form validation attendance sheets for the clubs I am in. Furthermore, I would like to expand the honors project I did so I can use it for a class I will be teaching next spring. My ultimate goal is to find ways to incorporate the skills I have learned here into future endeavors whenever possible.

I really liked this teaching style because it allowed me to focus on which languages were of the most interest to me, as well as what would potentially benefit me the most in the future. Furthermore, it let me complete projects as my schedule allowed. When I had a lot of free time, I could focus on projects for this class. When my other more strict courses had assignments due, I did not feel pressure from this one. I think this helped me appreciate this course more.

I came into this course with no programming experience whatsoever. Over the course of the semester, I have been able to learn basic programming skills in html, javascript, and css. I have used these skills in several projects along the way, culminating in an independent honors project that brought them all together. I think because I have come so far in this class, I deserve an A and this is the grade I would like reported to the registrar.

ISAT252 Narraritive

Published Date : April 26, 2013

Author : johnjc

I initially joined the class intending to skip all of them but after meeting Morgan and hearing his philosophy on education, his class was one of the only classes I attended regularly. In general the school system is broken and teaches students to be average if they conform to the system which exactly why I ignore the majority of the school system. With Morgan's class, he encourages us to be individuals and let's us take from the class what we choose to. In real life, no one is holding your hand. Morgan said a really wise remark to one of the students once. A student said that he wished Morgan would tell them what to do more. Morgan said to the student, "if you go through college not making your own decisions with people telling you what to do, you are going to go through life not making your own decisions with people telling you what to do."

Even though a lot of the students did not realize it, they have learned an incredible amount in a very short amount of time. It is incredibly impressive. What I liked was the fact that Morgan allowed me to spend my time for the class doing what I was passionate about which lead to the following achievements this semester:

Entrepreneurship

- Expanded my company from 3 to 7 clients.
- Expanded my company from just me to me and 3 subcontractors with the structure in place to move to employing college students in 2014.
- Successfully ran my first project managing subcontractors and delegating to them the design as well as the development.
- Created the structure, logic and the majority of the endpoints for the project management application I am working on that I started in PHP but recently decided to port it over to Python using the Django framework.
- Created the structure and the monetization strategy for the wordpress theme I will be giving out for free within the next year.
- Started mentoring Joseph Cross, helping him to become a skilled independent contractor. His portfolio is still live, I provided him with access to my teamtreehouse account and have gotten him his first project.
- Began the process of co-founding a startup with two guys based in DC, me being the Vice President of User interaction and experience.

Technology and Design(TAD) part-time job

- Wrote the scripts to automate the syncing of the development server and the live server.
- Created the TAD help plugin for helping clients with the management of their WordPress sites.
- Documented the p4th0gr14n WordPress parent theme I created for Madison Union.
- Lead the web development team in implementing git into the deployment strategy.

Narrative

Published Date : April 26, 2013

Author : comerja

My expectations and goals for this class were to come out with some knowledge on the basics of computer programming. I wanted to be able to find a way to apply what I was going to be learning in this class to some of my other classes, specifically 381. I wanted to be able to have something to take away from this class that I would be able to use when I leave college. Since I have taken this class before and at that time it was based on visual basic, I felt as if I was not able to really take away anything from it or at least not be able to apply it to any other well-known formatting methods. I also was willing to put in the time required to learn this time around.

My goals honestly did not really change much over the course of the semester, other than the fact of putting 381 and 252 together. I still wanted to just be able to take away a skill that I would be able to use in the future. I think that some of the ISAT classes do not provide skills that can be taken away. I feel as if I have started to learn some of the fundamental basics of computer programming that I will hopefully be able to use and build on in the future.

I spent a lot of time working on the projects for this course, at least 4 hours a week. I spent time learning and asking questions about the methods that I needed to work and complete the projects. I was able to accomplish learning how to create functions and variables, use Google API (sort of), how to style html, and JavaScript. In the final project, I wrote a lot of the JavaScript and was able to reformat most the equations so they would work correctly. I was able to work with my group well and we were able to become good friends. We worked on creating a miles per gallon to kilometers per liter converter, a zip code map with the zip codes from students in 252, and a final project that consisted of a lot of accounting. We were able to create all kind of functions that would benefit and make an accountants life easier.

I become decent at writing the JavaScript for the project and the styling of the pages. I discovered that I enjoy styling the pages and making everything nice, neat, and user friendly. Jim and I were able to work together to create a really nice final project and we were able to check each-others work to make sure that everything was in order and working.

I've always been a shy person, and I knew that might create a problem coming into this class. I was able to overcome this problem. I became confident in what I was doing and creating. I was able to work well with Jim to create our projects. I learned that I actually like learning about computer programming and wish that I had more time to learn about it. I wish that I had known about CIS before finalizing on my major. This class did make me learn how frustrated I can get when I am unable to figure something out in the first few times of trying. I want to be able to keep learning about this subject and hope to find a job that I will be able to learn on the job.

This style of class works well for me. I like having the freedom to be able to work on the projects that I am interested without many restrictions and limitations. There were really only two things that I did not like about this class, the weekly goals and meditation. I did not like the goals because I was going through a really tough time about halfway through the semester and when I was not able to complete the goals I set for myself, I started to feel even worse. Also, I didn't realize this at first, but I pretty much mediate before going to bed and mediating in class was throwing off my sleep routine.

I believe that I deserve an A for this course because I put in a lot of time working on the projects and learning the material that I needed to know to get the projects completed.

ISAT 252 Narrative

Published Date : April 26, 2013

Author : morranm

1.) **Expectations and Goals**

Coming into this class, I had absolutely no idea what to expect. To be honest, the only reason I was enrolled in it was because it was a foundation course for the ISAT major. I had heard great things about Professor Benton and his teaching style so I was looking forward to seeing what the semester had to offer. As for my goals, the only one that I had coming into the semester was to learn as much as possible. My roommate is a CS major and seemed to enjoy his classes, and I had heard that this class was like some of the classes beginning CS majors took. Another goal I had was to keep an open mind throughout the semester, regardless of how things turned out.

2.) **How Expectations and Goals evolved over time**

My expectations for the course didn't really change that much over the semester because I didn't really come in with any, but I would definitely say that they became more apparent as the weeks went on. I started to have the expectation of learning how to write basic code for websites (bullet lists, headings, titles, etc.) and how to put pictures on a site. As the weeks went on, I started setting goals like learning how to change the color and font size of the text that I was typing on the webpages, things that for most people probably seemed simple, but since I had come in with absolutely no programming knowledge, they seemed pretty cool, interesting, and even challenging to me.

3.) **Account for your time**

Early in the semester, I will admit, I was good about spending at least 6 hours a week working on projects or tutorials for programing. As the semester went on however, I started spending more time watching people program their sites and apps because I learn best when I can watch someone do something and then try to mimic their actions to replicate what they've done. The average amount of time I spent programing each week probably decreased to about 4 hours a week by the end of the semester because I was spending more time observing others. I wish I had more time to put into it because I find it interesting, but I still am struggling to write my own code without the help of other people or watching tutorials. When Professor Benton was gone in Malta for two weeks, my group and I diligently worked on our currency converter for almost 50 minutes three times a week in an effort to get it done on time which helped me learn a little more coding than I had previously known.

4.) **What did you accomplish?**

Although it doesn't look like I accomplished too much when you look at my portfolio, when I consider what knowledge I had regarding programing when I came into this class I feel like I accomplished a great deal. I literally knew nothing coming into the course, and coming out of it,

with the help of tutorials and “how to” websites, I feel like I can construct a basic website with pictures and other information on it. Some of the tutorials I did are listed below:

http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5_intro.asp

<http://www.codecademy.com/tracks/javascript>

<http://mobile.tutsplus.com/tutorials/phonegap/phonegap-from-scratch/>

Also, while working on our real-time currency converter, although I didn't write some of the code that we used in the final project, I contributed by writing the code for our initial project idea, which was a mobile Android application powered by Phone-gap and Eclipse. Unfortunately we were unable to get Phone-gap to consistently work, so we had to switch to a website converter last minute. The completed converter converts from several different currencies around the world, and it updates with real-time exchange rates. The most difficult part of this converter was getting it to update with the current exchange rates; if we wanted it to just convert the money at a single rate, it would have been much easier, but since we needed to incorporate a currency exchange api into our code, it made it a little more difficult. If I had more time this semester, I would have analyzed our final code more to see if I could understand what every part of it meant. I know I would be able to do this if I had the time and the resources, but since we finished the final code only a couple days before it was due, I didn't have as much time as I would have liked to try to understand what everything in the code meant.

5.) What did you learn about yourself?

By taking this course, I learned that I find programming really interesting, but I am not very good at it. I think it would be a valuable skill to have regardless of where I end up working after I graduate, but I definitely don't want to make a living from it. I also learned that even though some of my professors here give lectures that don't always keep my attention, I learn more when I am lectured to rather than when I am given the freedom to learn whatever I want at my own pace.

6.) What goals/plans/changes do you intend moving forward?

To be honest, my main goal that I got from this class has nothing to do with programming; instead it has to do with meditation. I learned from this class that I am much more productive when I have taken an extra five minutes to clear my mind from everything else that I have been worrying about. One of my goals that I hope to accomplish even after this class is over is to keep meditation a few times a week or when I am stressed just so that I can clear my mind. Additionally, I hope to continue doing programming tutorials so that I can broaden my knowledge on the information that I started learning this semester and become more of an advanced programmer in the near future.

7.) How does this style of class work for you?

Coming into this class, I thought that Professor Benton's style of teaching would work really well for me. However, after going through an entire semester with it, I have found that I learn better when I am lectured to and have homework assignments to complete. Although I don't like

doing the homework when I am outside of class, it really helps me understand the material better and forces me to keep working on something that I don't understand rather than just move on and try something new.

8.) What grade do you a) deserve b) want me to report to the registrar.

If I am being graded on the amount of material that I learned from this class and how far I have come from the beginning of the semester, I think I deserve a low A for the class. Like I previously said, I knew absolutely nothing about programming when I enrolled in 252, and coming out of it, I feel like my knowledge has significantly grown even though I am probably not at the advanced level that some people in class are. That being said, if I am being graded on the quality of my work, I think I deserve a B in the class because my work is definitely not the best out there because I am a beginner. Obviously I would really like for Professor Benton to report an A to the registrar, but I am unsure as to whether I am being graded on how much I have learned or the quality of my work so it up to him as to the grade that is reported to the registrar.

204.111.199.160/CurrencyConverter/currencyconverter.html

<https://github.com/carte3bm/currencyconverter>



ISAT 252 Narrative

Published Date : April 25, 2013

Author : campbebc

My initial expectations and goals coming into the class were to learn a small bit of programming, follow the interesting class structure, and come out with a clearer answer as to whether or not programming is something that I would like to continue doing. Over time, along with my experiences in ISAT 306, I soon started learning that I was fairly good at picking up the different programming languages and was able to easily follow the logic and syntax that is required. As the semester has progressed I have started liking programming more and more, going from basically zero experience (basic class in HTML in 9th grade) to being able to coherently manipulate HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP to create a pretty awesome working service. Honestly I didn't develop much for this class individually as I kind of got thrown "under the bus" in 306 and was given the task of developing an entire web application that had to have database connection, great styling, and fluid and quick movement from page to page. This situation allowed me to take the skills that I was learning in ISAT 252 to make the best of it, if I didn't understand how to do something I would look up a tutorial, try to tweak the tutorial to my own needs for the project, ask others for feedback on my code, and then hopefully show others in my group how I did something. The final step of this process has definitely been the most effective in helping me to solidify the things that I have learned because I often times had to explain one concept in a number of different ways. This semester I was able to create the google maps classmate locator that we worked on at the start of the semester, an almost working mpg to kpl converter, start of a hobby tracker web app, and a pretty awesome fully functional web application for an end-to-end DJ service providing him/her with crowd sourced voting and activity data. Over the course of this semester I have learned that I am very self motivated and am willing to do basically whatever it takes in order to complete a project or add functionality that I see as a nice touch. Moving forward I am definitely going to continue programming! I have actually just declared a CS minor along with my ISAT major and will be making a personal website over the summer in my free time. That being said, I think this class layout was very effective for me because it gave me the freedom to work on the project that I wanted to do as long as it taught me valuable programming skills and I believe it was very successful at doing that.

I believe that I deserve an "A" and would like to have this grade recorded to the registrar. I have learned so much over this semester and believe that I really went along with the spirit of the class and used that freedom to make something quite fantastic (in my opinion).

https://github.com/campbebc/Final_306_WebApp

252 Reflections

Published Date : April 25, 2013

Author : hopebc

I had no real expectations coming into 252. I'd never really done anything with programming before, but I figured the learning curve would be quite steep. As I began going through the course, I realized that breaking things up and starting slow and simple alleviates a lot of that. My current view of programming is still one that respects it's difficulty, but also that it's not insurmountable.

In the day to day, the first 2/3 of the course involved me using online tutorial websites to flesh out my understanding of HTML, CSS, and Javascript. These were mainly done at w3schools, with some additional at CodeAcademy. As far as assignments go, I successfully completed the maps/markers & Exam 1 assignment (https://github.com/BHopeful/252s13ex1_hopebc).

The main thing I've learned about myself is that self-motivation is key. Setting specific small goals helps a lot, but I still found myself in an unshakeable 'procrastinatory' mindset sometimes. It doesn't help that I took over 20 credits this semester, which oftentimes left me exhausted and useless come evening time.

Going forward, I appreciate the foundation this class gave me in programming. Notepad++ and github are now permanent fixtures on my desktop, and I have a load of bookmarks that will be useful for the future. I've been building a skeleton of a personal website that I'd like to eventually have up, once it's pretty enough—and I think being able to do that has done wonders for my self-confidence in learning something new. I plan to continue learning, not necessarily any heavy programming or new languages, but the more web-based, quick-and-dirty, varieties so that I might stay relevant—towards loosely-defined long term goals of web-app producing.

This style of class was very interesting. It certainly has pros & cons, but I feel that in an ideal world this is the way everything would be taught. It's much more supportive, much more reasonable, much more positive than the traditional methods. However, coming back to the motivation issue, it was hard sometimes to bother when I was inundated with deadlines and the cold, vacuous grading methods of my other classes. I believe the X factor is passion, is the genuine interest to accomplish or learn something. Sometimes you have that, sometimes you don't. It makes one wonder about education in general, and why we're here, what motivates us. I would feel flickers of it, especially when things would go right and I wasn't overwhelmed with the new terminology, new habits, new philosophies, of different frameworks and languages. Other times, robotic, lifeless code would stare back at me, taunting me with my lack of understanding and willpower to figure things out—to tackle the novel. Combining this with the standard senior existential crises that afflict many as they get older, and this led to some unproductive chunks of time that would be inexcusable from a results point of view. That isn't to say that this phenomena is isolated to this course, just that oftentimes it would unfairly receive the brunt of my professional inadequacy.

The group project I am a part of—a small business profit-analysis webpage— has come a long way, and regrettably I have played very little part in that. Looking back, I should have done either a personal project or went with another group—the former because I wouldn't be able to slack when I'm flying solo; the latter because combining programming with hardcore accounting is a recipe in apathy for me it would seem. It was never intentional to not be helpful., quite the contrary. I just took a slow approach from the beginning, because I knew very little of the accounting terminology and formulas used on the page—and didn't really have the energy to learn it with any sort of practical retention. As the page began being built, I started focusing on producing a dynamic graph from spring break to now—with very little success. I have spent hours upon hours reading documentation on a new javascript library, d3, to attempt this—along with producing many failed implementations. I have used several graph templates that just seem to ignore my css positioning, floating over the page in locations of their choosing— and others that don't parse the data from the inputs. Others still that inexplicably turn black, blocking out half the page, through a simple change in pixel positioning (px). Through my lack of results, I didn't effectively communicate to my team what was going on—instead preferring to avoid the issue and hope I would have a breakthrough and fix it all in the last moments.

I think I deserve a C- in the course. I did learn quite a bit, but I wasn't fair to my teammates and didn't take full advantage of the course website and resources. I only attended three hacking sessions, and didn't really ask around about if anyone knew how to use d3 or insert graphs effectively. I'm asking for a B-, solely because I have had a very intense semester that peaked in difficulty right as this class' demands did—which I never thought was a problem until after I realized how much really needed to be done.

Parker Davis- Work this Semester

Published Date : April 22, 2013

Author : davis2pa

Final Project:

<https://github.com/AdgPadg/AttirePlanner.git>

Converter:

<https://github.com/davis2pa/Converter.git>



Address Fields:

<https://github.com/davis2pa/Address-Field.git>

Starting off the semester I was very interested in what I was going to learn throughout the course of the semester, I had no initial expectations. My primary goal was to serve as a Project Manager and learn how to oversee what we will be learning in the class. In the survey that was sent out prior to the semester, I had indicated that I had no prior knowledge of any type of coding language. As a CIS minor at the start of the semester, I felt this class was important to me and spent an ample amount of time on online tutorials. Overtime, I felt that my expectations were changing as well as my goals. I soon realized that I did not enjoy this as much as I had hoped I would, thus dropping my minor. From that point forward, I really tried to act as a Project Manager with my group. I relayed ideas; I made sure everyone was contributing in some sort or fashion.

On a side note, the beginning of the semester was not particularly smooth, struggling in other classes, not making the grades or meeting my expectations on test scores. I felt that I was often not being positive, and this class really helped me see what I could do to help get organized and be more effective while lowering my stress level. What we have been doing with the class with making weekly goals, made me realize how important those truly are. Therefore, I set goals for myself and feel I have achieved the goals I have set. I feel that I have set a regular schedule for myself prior to every week. Knowing what I have going on every week dealing with not only

extra-curricular activities as well as projects, papers, homework assignments, and tests I have felt that I have been able to make time for more things I enjoy and thinking of life to be more fulfilling and less stressful.

I spent the majority of my semester filling out surveys, establishing goals, working with my group to come up with ideas to work on for projects. In the beginning of the semester I learned MAMP, then learned Git and Git Hub. Once I understood the functions of those applications I began learning Java Script, HTML, and CSS. I learned the basics of these mainly through working on our projects throughout the semester. When I ran into problems, I would look it up on google, ask classmates, or ask upper classman.

I learned a lot about myself through this class, but mainly objectives outside of the course objectives. Dealing with the course I learned that as a profession I do not want to be behind a computer, thus why I dropped my minor in CIS. On the other hand to reiterate I feel like I learned how to manage my schedule much better. Taking six classes and being the President of the Club Golf team, I have a lot of things to accomplish while making sure I keep a high GPA. I really felt this class helped me learn how to do all these things while staying positive and motivated, not giving up.

Moving forward, I don't believe I will look at code again, or work on any of these project that I have begun working on this semester. However, I will use the ways in which I ran into problems, such as looking things up online when I am stuck and not allowing myself to be bogged down by tough tasks. Also, I will take what I have learned working with groups into next semester and effectively organize my COB 300 group creating my business plan.

This style of class has had it's pro's and con's. I feel that it has allowed myself to put more effort into other classes and working on the projects in this class during times where my other classes were not as busy. Yet, I often felt myself forgetting about task or goals that I had set for the week and were not as productive as I could have been. Making me take longer to get a certain task done. As for the Pro's, if this class was not organized like this I would have dropped the course after I decided I no longer wanted to minor in CIS. But, staying in the class I developed a further appreciation of coding.

Despite my portfolio being partially lost, due to reorganizing my files, which ultimately ended in me deleting my code, I attempted to put together as much as possible. I feel like I earned an A- in the class. I really feel that with the knowledge I had coming in prior to the class, the goals I had set for the class, and my efforts in Project Management, I would like you to report to the registrar an A. I really enjoyed you as a professor and will continue to work on my positivity, meditation, and goal setting.
