

### Lessons Learned

Looking back I have learned a great deal in this class, a lot more than I expected. I seem to have more knowledge conceptually than technical ability. I'm not sure if this is a good thing or not but regardless, I have come out of this class with strong base conceptually. I think the reason why my technical skills are lacking is because of working in groups.

I was kind of the odd-ball-out in the class since I am the only one that isn't an ISAT major and have never taken classes with any of the other people before. In our group it was no different, and so my schedules were so different from theirs. Graham was the *de facto* leader whether he acknowledges it or not since he was the bridge between me and the Bridgett who for some reason never really spoke to me. I don't know why and don't really care but it did influence the group. There were several times where I was frustrated with the group because we had planned to meet to work on projects and labs but then they just completed it together in between their classes while I was in class. But I also realize that I have to take accountability for my own actions and I didn't do the lab on my own due to my frustration. I felt bad for Graham because he seemed to be doing the brunt of the work from what I saw between his and Bridgett's interaction. I wanted to help as much as I could but when they worked on their own time schedule I was left out.

Here are some things for the future to consider. In general I think the group work idea is efficient and in most cases would work, but I think there needs to be more of an individual aspect as well. Lengthen the time of the group projects to 1.5-2 weeks long and give more small individual labs that test specific concepts within the time frame of the group projects. But these individual labs shouldn't take more than 1-2 hours, while the group work is much more significant.

Nothing against you but in my opinion I think that your optimistic outlook is on the verge of living in a Pollyanna reality. I knew from the start that the grading policy would be risky but you will have to make the final judgment on that based off of the exit interviews. I also knew from the start that the plan to send the sign up sheet for these interviews via e-mail was flawed. In theory your plan should have worked but you failed to take into account flaws in humanity.

In the future I doubt that this class will have a significant impact on me in the near future. I plan on making a career in the military and using these skills in the military is negligible. Now, it may have some positive influence after I retire from the military since I plan on being an analyst for the government. If I work with any code at all it would be sub-code and only the concepts from visual basic would apply I think. In both of these workplaces it is not in my job to program.

Written Statement

In this class I want an A. I believe that I deserve this grade as well due to my class participation and group participation when I was able to participate. Also when we went over the syllabus and graded ourselves on how well we knew certain material I felt from what we learned in class and my knowledge that I am proficient to where you stated our standard should be at.

What this grade means to me is as I have stated above, I meet the expectation that you have given us in terms of working in groups or individually, conceptual skills, and technical skills.

Does the grade have any adverse effects on others? Well the truth is yes it does. But I believe that I deserve the grade I am getting and so I do not feel any guilt. I live by a simple honor code: I do not lie, cheat, steal, nor do I tolerate those who do. With that stated I believe an A is the appropriate grade.