Emily Robinson

ISAT 252

End of Semester Essay

Over the course of the semester, I feel that I have learned a lot about not only computer programming, but computers in general. I came into this class with limited knowledge of computers, but feel like I'm leaving with a more refined knowledge of how to get things done on the computer. *As for knowledge of computer programming, I came into this class with none at all.* I couldn't have even begun to understand what was going on. As the semester draws to a close, however, I find that I have a basic knowledge of computer programming in general, both in theory and in practice. The sink-or-swim approach used in this class when it came to constructing labs helped me to research solutions to my problems on my own, and allowed me to *develop my own system for making programs along with my team.*

This class has impacted me both academically and non-academically. I feel that what I learned can help me in the future with problem solving and any other related tasks I may have to do in the future. However, I feel I have been more impacted non-academically than anything else. I have never taken a class without grades, and I think it benefitted me doing so. Being as high-strung as I am (I'm willing to admit it...), it helped to have one class that I could take in which I could just experiment and use guess-and-check method, and if something didn't work out in my favor I wouldn't be punished. I feel that the current upper-level education system doesn't provide any room for this, so it was a refreshing change. I'm hoping that the motivation I had to come to class everyday and learn material because I was interested in it will carry over to my other classes, and allow me to relax and just soak in information for knowledge instead of just to get a good grade.

The information I learned in this class will have an impact on my future. With all the information we learned about problem solving in different ways, I could utilize that information to help make *educated decisions when trying to do other things in the future, whether it is in a future job or* even for something like my ISAT senior thesis. Although I don't plan on continuing to study IKM, you never know when basic computer programming skills could come in handy. It is definitely a skill that I feel could be helpful in getting me a job in the future, or they could be utilized for a project in my sectors/concentrations in the future.

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Grade Justification

In the end, I would like an "A" for this class this semester. I want this grade because it would help to boost my GPA, and I feel it is reflective of the amount of effort I put in to this class over the course of the semester. To me, I find that a person who puts in a lot of effort and produces a good outcome overall more deserving of an "A" than someone who drifts along and does the bare minimum, or someone who comes into a class with previous knowledge and uses that to their advantage and doesn't need to put forth the same amount of effort to produce the same quality of results, or even slightly better results.

I knew at the beginning of the semester that this was a class that I could have blown off, but I wanted to earn my grade, which I feel I have done. Although if everything were given a legitimate grade, such as the labs and tests, I would probably come out of this class with a "B", I feel that effort and dedication to the material is an important factor in a final grade. I came to every class, with the exception of one during which my mother was in town from Rhode Island. Also, I put forth effort to try to learn the material and how to construct programs. I arrived to class with a positive attitude and actually wanted to learn the material in the hopes that I could apply it to my life at some point. I don't feel that receiving this grade would adversely affect others I might be competing for jobs, grad school, etc. I don't plan on going into any industry or studying anything directly related to this, therefore there will be other classes that would be considered more heavily than this.