All in all, I have really enjoyed this class. I took an intro to Java class in the past, but I was not a big fan of how the class was structured. Most of what we did was troubleshoot and modify existing code base and take silly little “trick question” tests. While I learned a bit, at the end of the class I did not feel like I had anything that resembled a solid understanding of Java. Granted, I feel I still have a long way to go until I have a “solid understanding” of Java, this class helped me fill in some gaps and reinforced what I already understood about programming.

I was expecting this class to be more “academic” in terms of syntax drilling and certification style quizzes and tests, I was definitely not expecting the loose structure. I feel I was free to succeed and fail on my own terms, in my own time and free of penalty as long as my final product achieved the desired outcome. I actually enjoyed that aspect of the class, it’s like “here’s the problems, here’s the resources, figure it out”. I suppose this is a good simulation of the real world where what matters most is results.

The pyramid project was particularly challenging for me. It made me realize I did not understand the finer points of how loops work as well as I thought I did. However, it was good practice with using loops and gave me a better understanding of how they work.

This class gave me a lot of opportunities to make something, and I love making things. I enjoyed making most of the programs and I am looking forward to (and slightly intimidated by) intermediate Java.