

HUDK 4050
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Reflection Essay

Taking HUDK 4050 is a requirement for Learning Analytics Program and a challenge for me. Having limited coding experience before, this class gave me a chance to learn more about data mining. Not expecting myself to be an expert after taking this course, I hope to be able to understand the codes and the core methods when given the codes. I also hoped to identify what methods to use when problems arise. I will discuss my takeaways from the lectures, individual coding exercises, analysis challenge assignments, and the creative EDM assignment.

The lectures introduced us to the core methods in educational data mining and help to give us an overall background in those methods. The individual coding exercises give us a chance to explore coding on our own. This is the most stressful part for me in this class, and I spent a lot of time reading the codes and following the instructions. The codes took me a while to follow through and the environmental issues came up and made me stuck for a long time. ICE 4 and ICE 7 gave me a hard time for we need to come up with our code. Seeking help from the instructor and my teammates help me to solve the issue and understand the codes better. Working with my friends helped me a lot in terms of how you can ask Google to help solve the error.

My favorite part will be the analysis challenge assignments and the creative EDM assignment. We are able to practice classification, clustering, and social network analysis in these assignments dealing with real educational data problems. These two assignments are teamwork-based and once again made me realize the importance of having individual teammates contribute their advantages. I remembered Lukas telling us that we might not be experts in coding, but we know how to use those methods to solve real-life educational problems and interpret the meanings behind the codes. Not the coding person on the team, my role is to come up with ideas, ways of approaching the assignment and interpret the coding results in the analysis challenge assignments. In the creative EDM assignment, with no specific instruction on what kind of problems to tackle, I can come up with the idea of using the methods we learned in class to help with higher education's courses selection.

Overall, this class helps me understand my advantage and limitations. My advantage is in noticing the potential problems around us and identifying appropriate methods and relevant data to solve the problems. I'm also good at interpreting and connecting the results back to real-life situations. My weakness is in coding. I got a hard time writing codes on my own and need assistants and help from my teammates.

I have reached my learning goals for I can follow the codes and identify the methods when problems came up. However, I do hope that I can be more familiar with coding. In the future, I will spend more time exploring coding and actively seeking for help.