

Reflection on this Python Class

This class was a lot of work for me. I came into the class with no programming experience and it was a lot of work. My weekends were full with watching the YouTube videos, re-watching the lectures and attempting to do the homework. The office hours with Julian helped a lot as I was able to see some of my mistakes or things I wasn't doing right, but for the past 12 weeks, I felt I was doing double or triple the work for this class.

What worked for me in the course is that it was online and I could go and re-watch videos and the lectures to complete the homework. If this course was in the traditional classroom, I would have probably dropped it early on. The other part that worked for me in this course is both the instructor and IA, Anubhaw and Julian. The way the material was presented, the demos in class, the discussions with other students on what issues we had during the assignment all worked to help make the class more enjoyable. However, those 3 hours once a week for class were brutal especially being here in St. Louis, MO (central time). I can't imagine what the folks on the east coast, if there were any, had to go through, starting at 9pm-12midnight.

As mentioned, Anubhaw and Julian definitely helped with this course in making it as easy as they can. The material presented, the examples shown in class and the accessibility of them both is what kept me in this course. They both are knowledgeable in the material to know exactly some of the mistakes I am sure most of us were having. For example, I couldn't make the office hours and couldn't figure out part of the assignment couple weeks into the course, so had to email Julian with an example and an explanation. I knew it would have better to have a one-on-one conversation to explain but I had no choice but to email. Julian knew exactly what my issue was and was able to respond explaining over email which worked and I was able to submit that assignment with working code. With online classes and students all over the country, you know there will be some difficulties but these two guys made it work for us.

Regarding python programming, if I had to choose one topic that stood out for me will have to be this last assignment. Breaking the code into various classes and testing each of those classes is definitely the way to go with future scripts. As our code/scripts gets larger as we further our skills in python, I can see how helpful it is to break up the code and test along the way. The library was impressive to me as well, but I know it will take practice to really know when to use it and how to use it for various coding in python.

As the course comes to end and working to complete the last assignment, I am struggling on if I should continue with the 3 course certificate in Python or not. The assignments in the course were challenging for me and there were several assignments I submitted knowing the code was not working. I knew going into this course that it will take me longer to get the material and even work the assignments, but now I am thinking if I had difficulties in this foundational course, how will it be in the certificate. I do want to have this skill, so I should still pursue the certificate even though it will be a lot for me and take me longer than most to understand the material, so I have to make a decision in the next couple weeks so I can start in January. Overall great course and I am happy I took it, now is to figure what to do next.