Reflection Essay – Mark Mahasandana

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Prior to this course, I am fascinated by datasets and programming. I always wonder how could those datasets are being created and why they are so crucial for my daily life routine. They will become more and more important each day. Not only this course is a requirement for my major (I am majoring in MS. Learning Analytics), but this course will also give me an opportunity to venture myself into the data mining world. For my background, I received dual degrees from my undergraduate study. The first degree is in Supply Chain Management and Informational System and the second degree is in Political Science. From this course, I found some correlation between course materials and my dual degrees. My personal learning goal for this course is quite simple but, for me, I would say it is pretty difficult to overcome. The goal is to be able to explore and to get the basic understanding of python and data mining processes. Previously, I have to admit that my knowledges in both python and data mining are quite fundamental. After taking the course overtime, my goal has altered a little but it is still in the same direction. I think the materials in this course are very interesting and I want to explore myself in to more complex areas. Therefore, I will definitely continue to improve my skill in data mining as well as coding languages.

The knowledge that I have obtained from this course is invaluable. Beside coding skills and data mining processes, I also learn how to “think outside the box.” One example is there are many ways to develop coding schemes, which will lead to the same result. Thus, I have to be alert and able to twist situations around. Other big lesson I have learned from this course is to “never give up.” Coding can be extremely frustrated. Particularly, this is my first time learning it and taking course online. However, it is important to keep claim and seek help as much as possible. My biggest take-away from this course is to “never stop learning.” The way I approach this challenge is to take one step at a time and refers back to course materials as much as possible. Overall, I think the professor did a great job in providing materials as well as supports. I also found out that there are many resources available for me to learn. With online learning and the pandemic situation, resources from around the world are available in front of me within just a split second. At this point, I think by only having countless numbers of resources available in front of me is not sufficient. I am fortunate to have kind support from the professor and this is my most favorite part of the course. Professor Liu always available for help. He is very patient and understanding. He is willing to take time explaining things to his students. Without him, I could fully say that my experience in this course would be much worse.

For future plan, I would say that I have achieved my “first stage” of learning goal. However, there is an endless route to venture about this path. The course has increased my awareness about the new content. I think the transition of the materials is excellent. Moreover, I have met many great fellow classmates. For connections, my future career path will definitely involve data mining and coding languages. For the next stage, I will venture myself more into data mining as well as spare half an hour to an hour each day for coding languages.

Last but not least, I would like to say “many thanks, Lukas, for supporting and inspiring me” and “I will take all of your advices to adapt as well as to improve myself accordingly.”