Coming into this semester after having worked at a data science company at home over the summer, I decided that I should take a databases course in IST, namely this course. What I wasn’t expecting, however was such an elaborate and collaborative group project being involved. At work, I was generally assigned my own tasks, only seeing my fellow employees working collaboratively on their data cubes and various queries. This class taught me that it is difficult to work collaboratively, especially at such scale. Communication, trust, and each group members capabilities were pushed this semester.

I believe that since we organized, we were the most responsive, communicative, and responsible group in class. We showed up to class consistently, stayed after class nearly each class, and had great communication outside of class. We pushed eachother to take on responsibility, and to complete our assigned tasks. Each of us utilized GroupMe to collaborate and discuss issues we were having, frequently, we hopped into each others section of the project on Google Docs and worked through an idea or a paragraph that the other group member was struggling with. We generally communicated on GroupMe and stayed after classes to meet each of our individual scheduling concerns. After class, we immediately got to work, checking up on progress each week and making sure everyone knew what task they had to take on.

This class did present several personal challenges for me, however. I often struggled with the time commitment necessary to meet homework and lab goals in addition to Flix2You, and as such I felt like I couldn’t hold up my share of the project, though I recovered and made up for it as soon as I had time. I also struggled with the contention that I was taking IST210 as an elective as I’m in Computer Science, where this isn’t a required course. This struggle took away from my motivation to commit as much time as I could to the class, but in the end I found myself enjoying the struggle of the time commitment with the gratification following of getting a working query or designing a clean dashboard for the Flix2You database. Designing the Flix2You Proposal and making sure everything looked aesthetically pleasing was a challenge as I struggle with slight obsessions over perfections in design, so I found myself stressing myself out over the number of dots between the title in the table of contents and the page number.

I have almost nothing negative to say about my classmates, my teammates, and those who I’ve worked closely with these past 15 weeks. We worked very well together and kept eachother accountable. This class has taught me a lot that I hope to absorb and retain moving forward, potentially into a career in the data sciences, or in the IST major if I choose to do so.

Thanks again for this year Professor Heberling,

Taylan Unal

IST 210-Online