A Key to the New World

-- Personal Reflection for COM5961 Course (2019)

This course delved into the concept and the technique behind the new media. Throughout the progression of this course, a wide range of different types of learning materials and sources were presented to us. The face-to-face courses guided me and helped me to understand the learning materials better. The course materials and the homework combined very well. I was worried about the final project at the beginning of this semester. Create a website by myself in a very short time, it seems like an impossible task for me. However, as I finish every assignment step by step, I feel like I have the capacity for the final project.

"Design Thinking" is the first idea that I meet in this course. From the example that shows in class, I gradually redirect the way I look at things. From just a sigh of the great work to think about the causes of the new things. I tried to ask what is the need of those users and is the product really solve the problem? It lets me see things from the users' or the designers' point of view step by step. It helps me take a more global approach to the problem. The Five-Second Test, Think Aloud Test, and A/B Test let me realize the importance of doing the usability test for a product. Also, the UX (User Experience) Elements and the journey map idea helps me a lot when I create my final project. Always be analytic.

Moreover, I realize that only "Design Thinking" is not enough. "Computational Thinking" is more important in new media. It is also the reason for what I always confused about. As the professor said that we are still on the stage of copy, paste, and understand. There's one time that I want to create something new by myself. I spend a lot of time and still can not

figure out the reason why I always have the error about a piece of js code. I googled a lot to find the answer. Finally, I found out that the problem shows just because of the reverse of two elements. The logic is always not what I thought it should be. I'm still trying to think like a "computer" when I did the coding work.

Meanwhile, I have learned a lot of useful websites and computer software from this course. For example, Airtable is what I'll use a lot. Not just at work. ParseHub and Openrefine helped me gather and integrate data from another website. Visual Studio Code and GitHub work together to upload data and my homework. More important, Pingendo is my beloved! In my opinion, it's better than Dreamweaver that have used before. Pingendo shows both the HTML code and appearance at the same time. I can change any of them to see the change of the other. It provides more convenience to me as a student who had just been introduced to programming. I'll save and continuing to watch the video and post material that the professor gave to us.

Since the professor shows the way to modify the program and to run a website in interactive mode with Airtable. It is really what I want to achieve. It is so cool if I could do that by myself. I'm looking forward to learning the basics of Python. By the way, the Facebook online class works great. I could see more clearly the process the professor did on the screen. Good try! I really benefited much from this course. Thank you so much.