

Class Reflection ENVS3999 Ziyuan Ma

This class gave me something that I have never experienced in other courses. When we learn theoretical knowledge in school, this knowledge is acquired through classroom instruction, reading books, reference materials, etc. Although this knowledge is essential, they are only a conceptual understanding and lacks application in real scenarios. Therefore, we need to translate this theoretical knowledge into practical skills in our internship to meet workplace challenges truly. During this session, we will have the opportunity to learn valuable skills, understand how to work with the town, which is the best practice of book knowledge, and interact with professionals in the industry. We can identify and solve real-world problems through real-world practice and learn about workflow and task assignments, which will better prepare us for our future careers. Also, this time is an essential transition from the school to the social environment. During my school years, I was usually in a relatively closed environment, while the internship allowed me to be more in touch with society and interact with people from different backgrounds and experiences, thus increasing my knowledge and improving my social skills, which will be an essential help for my future career development.

In addition, during the internship, I discovered my strengths and weaknesses. By interacting with the team members and Courtney, I can better understand my career direction and room for development and find out where I need to improve. The internship process can also enhance my self-confidence and prepare me for my future career. To sum up, an internship is a critical process that can apply the theoretical knowledge we have learned into practice and help us discover our shortcomings. This can help us better adapt to the workplace environment and fully prepare us for our career development.

However, I think some projects need more profound understanding and more and more time to practice, but overall this class gave me a 100% different experience from other courses and gave me a real opportunity to get in touch with the world; I know there are many things I didn't do the best, but I believe I can do better given some more time because environmental science is a major I am currently taking classes that don't focus on. Still, this class allowed me to work deeply with my group members. I enjoyed this class, and it made my semester very meaningful.