Andrea A. Venti Fuentes

Individual Course Reflection

CSC 431: Introduction to Software Engineering

This course provided a comprehensive overview of the software engineering process, from initial requirements gathering to final product delivery. Through both theoretical lessons and project-based work, I gained valuable experience in software design, specification writing (SRS/SAS), version control using GitHub, and collaborative development.

One of the most impactful aspects of the course was the final project, where we applied what we learned to present **BridgeChat**, a real-time multilingual messaging application. Although developing a prototype was optional, I chose to build one — and seeing a semester-long concept come to life was incredibly rewarding. This experience gave me hands-on insight into the challenges of system architecture, managing scope, UI/UX design, and integrating third-party APIs. It also reinforced the importance of iterative development and user feedback.

I especially enjoyed learning about the various processes within the software development lifecycle and exploring different engineering approaches. Gaining this perspective has boosted my confidence in pursuing software development professionally.

Overall, CSC 431 strengthened both my technical and project management skills, and gave me a clearer picture of what working on real-world software projects entails. I feel more prepared and motivated to continue growing as a developer.