

DECO3801: Individual Reflection  
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## Appendix:

### Reflective Journal

#### **Week 1:**

During the first week, I familiarised myself with the expectations of the course and the potential learning resources. Additionally, information was provided about what I could expect from the teaching team and I learnt about where I could access help throughout the semester. The teaching team also walked us through how the Microsoft teams site would be used.

I made some initial discussion with students I had met previously, with the intention of forming a team with them. The guidance provided on collaborating effectively helped me decide to plan to form a team with these students, as I knew I could work well with them. The outlining of the course and its structure was also invaluable for my future planning for the semester.

#### **Week 2:**

In week two, we formally began the process of forming our teams. Team Gilgamesh was established with Bryan Quek, Karl Thompson, Joseph Krebs, Reuben Joseph, Yuvraj Singh and myself. We were able to quickly form a team as I had met Bryan and Joseph previously, and Karl and Joseph were also work colleagues. We needed just two more people and were able to fill these spots with Reuben and Yuvraj. We discussed how we would collaborate and communicate, and who would lead the team during the project. From our initial discussions, I can see our team has a broad range of skills and we are all willing to work hard this semester to achieve a positive outcome.

The project expectations were also discussed in the studio, including when and how it is appropriate to 'break the rules,' as well as the expected level of functionality required to fulfil the brief for the projects. We learnt about vital team work skills and attributes that are beneficial to collaboration, including professionalism, problem solving and empathy in communication. Finally, we examined what is required for the piece of assessment, the statement of work.

During this week's studio, the team also took part in an activity to analyse our skills and identify areas of strength and weakness. We then discussed potential projects that we could build using our skills. We also swapped with other groups to potentially provide another perspective on our skills and again discussed what we could build using these skills. We used the analysis skills we developed to examine the project briefs and decide on three briefs that could be built using our teams' combined skills. I felt the analysis we did this week was very helpful in guiding our decision making, it also allowed me to realise there are a lot of projects that I would be capable of building.

#### **Week 3:**

Prior to the studio we decided on three projects that most closely aligned with our skillset. We were allocated project 38, News Curation using LLM in the weekly studio. We examined a number of factors to break down our project and create a framework describing what was required as well as timeframes and responsibilities of each team member. We identified a few challenges that we would need to address in order to be successful in the project. We expressed our hesitations to the tutor but were also able to remedy these issues after some discussion amongst the team and with our tutor.

During the studio this week, the course staff also covered assessment criteria, information about each piece of assessment and the platforms that will be used in the course. This allowed the team to gain a grasp of the scope of the project

Following the studio, our analysis and project information was formalised by the team in our statement of work.

**Week 4:**

The week four studio was not held due to the EKKA Public Holiday. However, the studio this week discussed techniques of collaboration and how to ensure that the team works efficiently and effectively. Reviewing progress and goals, getting to know other team members and evaluating expectations were all highlighted as key to developing a successful project. When working on the project, the importance of leveraging strengths and fostering cohesion was also underlined. Problem solving techniques were also discussed, including how to innovate, where to gather inspiration from and how to brainstorm.

The studio explained that it is also paramount to engage with stakeholders, stating there is “a vast gulf between a specification and the practical aspects of building an effective usable product.” Finally, the notion of rewarding success was mentioned. I think this is an important idea to remember as when hard work is not rewarded, it becomes difficult to maintain motivation.

The team met during the regularly scheduled studio time to finalise the statement of work, I felt the team worked collaboratively and effectively to complete this first piece of assessment. We submitted our statement of work and personally, as well as as a team, we were very satisfied with the work we had submitted for this assessment piece.

**Week 5:**

The week five studio began with a guest lecture from Andrew Dean of GridCube, he explained the concept of visual storytelling. I felt this was an interesting concept and aim to put it into practice in the future. During the week studio, we received feedback on our statement of work. Our tutor seemed pleased with how we had done, only noting that it would be a good idea to set up something like Jira to track the collaborative processes of the team. The studio discussed conflict and the topics of resolving conflict, sources of conflict, warning signs and preventative action. I felt that this information was very important as conflict in the team was something I had dealt with in a previous team project (DECO2500). In that project, we had not acknowledged the conflict and because of this, it was impossible to resolve.

The team reflected on the work we had completed so far and planned out our next period of work. As a team I feel our planning and organisational skills have been very strong. Between the week four and five studios we began discussing the idea of adding an extension to our project. I took some time to look at how this could be implemented and work with our project.

We met on the weekend to work on the project and work on our initial prototype that we would present alongside our showcase in week six. We continued the implementation of our project and Joseph gave a brief masterclass in React with TailwindCSS and next.js to increase all members familiarity with this tech stack.

**Week 6:**

Prior to our session in week 6, we prepared our presentation and rehearsed it. We had a few issues bringing the presentation down to five minutes but were eventually able to get it close to this time. The presentation went well, with Joseph, Karl, and Bryan speaking. They all spoke clearly and confidently, the team was also able to answer the questions from the tutors easily and we were happy the questions were centred around the concept itself and social considerations, rather than the what, how and why of our implementation. As to us, this implied we had done well in communicating what our project would achieve, how it would work and why it is needed.

**Week 7:**

During the week 7 session, we had a guest lecture from Tomasz Bednarz of Nvidia. He spoke about a number of topics, of particular interest were his thoughts on AI and the work being done at Nvidia with digital twins and imaging.

The week 7 studio covered ethics in software and IT, outlining a number of ethical quandaries to consider. Specifically the London Ambulance Fiasco was mentioned, which reminded me of the recent Boeing failures. Ethics in AI was also discussed and it is certainly an interesting topic in my opinion.

We discussed our plans to meet on the weekend and finish off a significant portion of the project. I think our proactive attitude towards accomplishing our goals has been very positive for getting our work done. I feel our team is very on top of the project and all of our meetings have been productive. I think the team has a high degree of cohesion and organisation which is extremely beneficial to working collaboratively.