There were several things that I learned this semester that have been proven useful. The most useful things helped the most during our course project. The first one is design techniques. I felt that learning how to design the project, mainly with using the noun-identification technique and designing the class diagram, helped the most when deciding how the project was going to work. When using the noun-identification technique, I realized how many classes were going to be needed, and it helped a lot with thinking about how each class was going to be communicating with other classes. After identifying the nouns, creating the class diagram using those nouns was also helpful: being able to see the associations really helped when starting the implementation of the project.

The second most useful thing I learned this semester was testing techniques. Going over how to create good test cases that cover all possible incomes and outcomes helped when debugging our project. I also put those techniques into other projects in other classes, and felt a lot more confident that the test cases covered the possible incomes and outcomes of the project. I know that after this class I will use those techniques, along with others, to help when creating more projects.

The part that I liked the most about the class was the group project. Although it was tough work, I really enjoyed being able to create a bigger project than my other classes. I also enjoyed being able to work with a larger group. I think the best part of the project is that we got to decide what the project was going to be. Being able to create something on our own without any concrete requirements and restraints on the project was great. Working on this project was tough, especially when it came to debugging the project, but it is the most rewarding project to finish.

There were a couple of team issues during the project. One issue was that a group member didn’t show up for several group meetings. He also didn’t contribute to any of the phases outside of the meetings that he missed. To solve the issue, the remaining group members dispersed the extra work and finished the phases without him. Having to do extra work because we were missing a person was not the best, but we worked around it, and got the phases completed and on-time.

Another issue was that one member refused to use subversion. Because of that, we had to spend a lot of time attempting to merge the subversion project with the project that he was working on. A lot of the time more than one group member worked on the same thing, adding to the time that it took to finish the project. Also, when attempting to merge the projects, things were often missed and would have to be re-written or debugged. To attempt to resolve this issue, we emailed the project files to each other, and when we met, we would save the project files on flash drives. Although this kind of resolved the issue, it also raised another issue: having more than one version of the project. It wasn’t the best situation but working together often made it not so detrimental to our work.

One major lesson that I learned from the group project was that everyone has a different way of working and a different way of coding. I learned that not everyone can sit and code for a small amount of time, while others can break up coding in the small sections. I also learned different ways of working out problems in code. Another lesson I learned was being patient with others. Not everyone works the way I do, I had to be patient and wait for group meetings to work on important parts of the project. Unlike some of my group members, I like to spend a large chunk of the work at one time.

Teammate Evaluation (Group 6):

* Melanie Nanke – 5 – worked on every phase, contributed meaningful work, and attended all group meetings.
* Sam Andreski – 4 – worked on most phases, contributed meaningful work, and attended all group meetings. Showed up late to meetings, refused to use Subversion.
* Ian Arndorfer – 3 – worked on half of the phases (missed phases 5-7 and half of phase 8), sometimes contributed to the work, missed a lot of group meetings, and showed up late to meetings.