CPEN 321 – Fall 2016
Project Reflection Statement

Project Group: Course Planner

We have learned a plethora of concepts through working on this project. We have witnessed firsthand the importance of adopting a lifecycle design model. We have also come to understand the crucial role that a strong management hierarchy plays in successful software development. We have greatly increased our ability to accurately estimate the time it takes to complete programming tasks.

We learned many technical skills through the development process of our product. We primarily learned mySQL and PHP in order to build the majority of our project. We also learned how to effectively build a GUI that can interact with a database. We learned how to incorporate an API into our design. We implemented our calendar system using an existing API. We also gained an understanding of web crawlers and used this method to populate our database with courses offered by UBC. Finally we learned better testing methods.

In retrospect we recognize that there were many opportunities in which our development methods could have been improved. Our primary point of failure was in our time management. In the early stages of our product development we were unaware of the complexities of the tasks we set before ourselves and we needed to gain a better understanding both of our tasks and possible methods of achieving those tasks. We would also have benefitted greatly from a better base knowledge of the programming languages we used in creation of our project. A very specific change we would make to our development cycle in retrospect is we would have adopted using a calendar API much sooner than we actually did. This would have allowed us to focus on features of our product that had to be either reduced or cut from the project entirely. These features would have better distinguished our product from other available products.