IS201

## What is good about this course

A lot of course content was valuable for my project especially the Agile material and what Scum is, roles involved and how to apply it within projects

During this course the importance of modelling a system was presented. It allows for a simplified version of the product and a focal point for discussion among interested parties. During the project we modelled the system architecture and used class diagrams to model the application’s internal classes. We were then able to discuss issues during development with each other and other interested parties.

The concept of including the client who takes an active role during the development phase is a basic yet powerful one. They are after going to be the end user or have a close relationship with the end user of the product. It makes sense to utilise the knowledge they possess.

During the project a McKesson employee acted in that role for us. He attended our weekly planning meetings and end of Sprint reviews as well as some of our daily stand ups. It was he who would be using the product once it had been completed. When time was short his input as to where the effort should be focused was invaluable.

As an alternative to the ‘Waterfall Model’ Scrum was discussed during Alternative Modelling. Having foreknowledge of Sprints, backlogs, and Scrum teams among other aspects of Scrum, allowed us to implement and work effectively within this framework during development.

Prior education led me to believe that there was only one correct process to carry out a project, however this course allowed me to discover the various methodologies available to suit different types of projects and environments. The content covered although basic, gave me enough understanding to visualize and choose the most appropriate methodology for the circumstances of this project and deliver the work required. In the end, I went with a close to agile approach which required very little planning so I could get on with the work and still provide high quality results, and then later switched to a RAD methodology to produce “products” at a faster rate without compromising quality.

It was good to learn about the different development methodologies: SCRUM (cross-functional teams, and continuous improvement); Waterfall; Spiral model. Useful for project management.

It was a good exercise having to write essays. Malcolm Wieck was quite concerned about good grammar, which is important if you are wanting to write a professional report.

This course helped me in order to write up my methodologies essay, as we were required to explain and show how we used a preferred methodology within our project.

## Recommendations

I would however recommend that the course could include more practical Scrum material rather than so much methodology research.

Given both the BCIS201 course and usage of a methodology was compulsory as part of the CE301 project, the one suggestion I would make is to cover other types of models relating to other fields of IT i.e. many network engineers I know use ITIL or change management but never use or come across

any of the course covered methodologies, so such methodologies would be a welcome addition to the course.

It may be useful to learn about domain-specific languages in an IS course, to complement programming activities.

My recommendation for this class would be to improvise the way of teaching – by including game’s or tasks to cover a particular subject