

BCPR294

Server-side Programming

Course evaluations from

Co-operative Education

Project 2016 s1

## Introduction

When students of the Co-operative education project were submitting their final report they were asked to analyse their previous courses with what they had learned and in relation to their project. Here we have statements the students have made about what is good about BCPR294 and any recommendations that could be made about the course content. Each statement is made by a separate student and bullet points are used to make this distinction.

## What students think is good about this course

* This is the course in which I learnt most about programming values. We discussed class structure and abstraction which was essential when making the product open to modification. I was also forced in this course to learn a new programming language while working which was valuable in allowing me to pick up and use C# for this course.
* During this course we learnt about the SOLID principles. These principles were helpful when designing our project. We ensured classes obeyed the Single Responsibility principle and only managed one thing.
* In BCPR294 Server Side Web Programming, I learned PHP as a web side programming language, PHP is a popular general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited to web development. Fast, flexible and pragmatic. I practiced a lot of examples during the course and developed a small light-weight PHP MVC framework.
* I learned a lot about good OO principles - SOLID, DRY.
* However, my industry supervisor was performing load testing, which would involve server-side programming (asp.net). Therefore, this course would still be relevant to certain types of automation testing.
* The PHP language is a good language that interacts really well with HTML and it also helps to create databases which WordPress uses. I felt that BCPR294 gave me the knowledge I needed to understand how projects like this work and how they interact with databases. This course was like BCPR280 in terms that it didn’t have much multimedia in the course but it was more helpful because it helped with interacting with the databases on WordPress.
* The technologies and methods learnt in this course, helped me understand the design and setup of the server-side of the Innovation Hub.
* This course taught me how to create a self-hosted web client using WAMP and PHP as the scripting language that is embedded into HTML. This course taught me how to access database using PHP and displaying its contents in the website.
* The programming language we used in this course is PHP. This class taught us how to do basic programming in PHP and the MVC structure. Most of the learning was done by the student themselves. Old school way of doing AJAX was taught here. The exercises were helpful in learning how to write functions and algorithms in PHP.
* I learn how to use PHP to build up a web page which can display the data from SQL query. Also, I learned how to use PHP create and update the database. I didn’t use database and PHP in my project, but the experience I get from this course still helps me in future job hunting.
* Server Side Web Programming really helped in this project as most of the files in the PrestaShop software were written in PHP if not CSS. Being able to understand the PHP coding helped when making the coding changes necessary and finding the particular piece of code that needed to be changed. Many of the files were huge so being familiar with the language that it was written in was a definite need or otherwise it would all look written in well, code.

## What students recommend for this course

* If a class can be arranged to introduce the popular PHP frameworks, such as Laravel, Symfony2, Yii, etc.
* Improvements: would it be worthwhile to get students to use a PHP framework in this course, such as Drupal?
* Coverage of object-relational mapping technologies, comparisons to other server-side languages, aside from PHP
* I would recommend to include in the course syllabus the lessons about PHP, XML, AJAX, and MySQL.
* Should have taught us more useful things like how to interact with MySqli Database, how to take advantage of JavaScript plugins like JQUERY and use built in functions like $.ajax() to talk to the database. JQUERY is very powerful tool when building and manipulating elements in the view of a web page.
* The final assignment is just about how to use PHP to run SQL query display information from database, how about data update and modify tasks?