# Level 200 and 300 Course Relation

## BCIS201 Alternative Modelling

The BCIS201 course summarised the process, advantages and disadvantages of the following methodologies:

● Agile Software Development

● Extreme Programming

● Rapid Application Development (RAD)

● Rational Unified Process (RUP)

● Spiral Model

● Waterfall Model

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.

**Course Comments**

The course consisted of sessions where the lecturer verbally presented the methodologies, and occasionally accompanied by a powerpoint presentation. There was very little interaction with the students, and therefore ended up to be rather mundane.

The content itself covers methodologies commonly found in IT, however as per the above list, they are mostly methodologies found in software development.

I found it very difficult to apply the methodologies covered in class to my project as none of them really had a place in the role my project had me working. 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.

## DCIS150 Introduction to Networks

## DCIS151 Routing and Switching Essentials

## DCIS152 Scaling Networks

## DCIS153 Connecting Networks

These courses were done over the course of a year.

Coursework covered a range of topics down from the basics of routing and switching in theory and then moved on to more advanced items like ACL’s and site to site configuration.

This course was a great asset to my project as we spent a lot of time on practicals and worked via CLI, which was a huge limitation in my project. From looking back at my notes, I was able to pick out the commands I needed in order to retrieve the information I required to draw up a client proposal and helped me navigate around the client network and figure out which addresses to ping to ensure the networks were communicating.

This course also gave me an understanding of why clients may choose to configure their network a specific way, and looked at best practices that should be in place.

I learnt a lot in these courses, but unfortunately as my project was to recommend upgrades for the router itself and not anything else like changing configurations, I was unable to fully utilize the skills I had learnt in class. I did however take not that many clients on the list could have but didn’t shut down unused ports on their network which would have given them added security against attacks, and about 70% of the clients were using unencrypted passwords for the router and “accounts”.

**Course Comments**

Classes were well organized and structured. Classes were three hours long; one hour theory, two hour practical. Given the type of work involved in becoming a network. Given the type of course, the practical sessions in combination with the online material and books available proved to be a great asset to my project and one I can review in the future.

Hardware was available for practice 24/7 which was excellent and allowed us to get some hands on experience before diving into the real world - found this extremely useful as opposed to just being handed theory books.

The project work limited me to working with the CLI interface. Thankfully, I had discovered and used many of the commands needed to get the required information.

There is nothing that I would recommend for this course.

## BCIS301 Management of ICT

This course consisted was like a how to guide on project handling. It covered topics such as:

* Project Proposals
* Project Analysis and Prioritization
* Risks and Mitigations
* Quality Assurance

All of the above topics came up in my project and the knowledge I got from the course were priceless and helped me present my findings in a professional manner as is expected in the real world.

The lecturer did use his own experiences and real world samples i.e. Vodafone projects to help get the points across. Time was set aside at the end of each session for questions and a summary of each lesson was emailed to students so we had something to refer to if needed which proved to be of great use months down the line when I started my project.

Given the amount of time available, I think there is nothing that could be added – all the essential topics and information required for the project was covered well.

## BCCS283 Network Infrastructure

## BCCS253 Directory Services

## BCCS254 Application Infrastructure

## BCCS355 Cloud Services

These four courses I attended at Ara as part of the networking stream. At a stretch, I could say that the material learnt in these courses allowed me to efficiently navigate around the client’s server environment to determine how many users are in the network, any connected storage options and what devices are in the network i.e. printers to be put on the network documentation.

**Course Comments**

These courses had good teachers who were enthusiastic about the topic they taught. However, the courses seem to repeat themselves and I don’t feel like they really progressed from the basics of how to set up a Windows Server, virtual machines and storage options.

The courses were overall pretty well organized, except for one in which the teacher was learning while teaching the class. It made it confusing as he made mistakes during configuration and really just wasted class time.