# **Content for 200 and 300 courses**

### *Professional Practice (BCIS206)*

Professional practice taught me about risk management and how to draw up a risk plan and come up with mitigation plans to help avoid the risk and if it were to happen how to solve it with the least amount of time and money wasted. We also learnt how to work together as a team and to create a final product by splitting the workload but also keeping in constant communication so that you knew what everyone was doing and what point they were up too. I really enjoyed doing all of the site visits in this class as it provided a look into the workplace that we are heading for which I had never seen before as I don’t know of anyone that is in the industry other than past students. This professional practice class gave me practice in how to talk to the clients and how to conduct myself in a professional way.

### *Software Applications and IS Testing (BCIS285)*

Software applications and testing was a class that every person should take as it covers a number of the pathways and no matter what career you do chances are there will be testing that has to be done for projects that you have made. This class taught me the best ways to test my work to avoid issues and bugs throughout the code so that the final product would be up to a high standard. Testing as you go with the project helps save time in the long run and this is something I learnt in this class. Testing is an extremely important element to any project because when working for a client or anyone for that matter you have to provide them quality assurance so they themselves can understand that what you are delivering is of a high standard. This then can allow anything from repeat business to them spreading the word and your business receiving more clients. I had to run multiple tests for my project and my project was simply a prototype. Were this a real product that would be going live immediately there would be so many more tests that would have needed to be done. Testing is not simply if I click this does it take me to where I want to go but it is also making sure that your website is secure so that no one else can hack into it and gain access to any personal details that may be stored from customers.

### *Management of Information and Communication Technologies (BCIS301)*

Management of Information and Communication Technologies was the one class that I failed during this Bachelor and it was an awful feeling that I do not intend on having to feel again. But in some ways I am glad I came back and did all of that class again as having to do that class a second time around I picked up more information than I did the first time around and succeeded in all the assignments and the exam. I had a rough time the first time I did this class and I learnt how it is often difficult working in teams to get a project completed. I found that the way my team members went about handling it was not in a mature manner as they went running to the tutor rather than talking it out with me and trying to fix the issues first. I believe that the way they behaved could have been better but again working with others is not always an easy feat but it is something that you have to learn to do especially in the information technologies industry.

Not only did we learn about teamwork but we also did a large amount on quality assurance which was very useful for this project as we had to look into quality assurance again and this time put it into practice. We also did more on risk management and how to figure out whether it is a risk or not. If there is an extremely slim chance of it happening it is not really a risk that you will encounter.

### *Multimedia Project (BCIT352)*

The multimedia project was a true help when it came to creating the Paper Tree website. In this course I learnt all about making the website responsive. My project was making a website for the CPIT Department of Computing and I had to write multiple media queries so that when the screen got smaller it rearranged the page so that it would fit and still be readable instead of squishing it all up and having the zooming in and out issue. By designing the website, it gave me the experience I needed with the CSS coding to truly understand the CSS code in the PrestaShop files so that I could edit and fix the website to look how I wanted.

### *Server Side Web Programming (BCPR294)*

During Server Side Programming I advanced my database skills that I learnt earlier on and added them into my web design skills. I learnt how to attach a database to a website so that I could record all of the users and their passwords so that they can log in or create an account and more. PHP was a very interesting language and there were many parts of it that I did not understand and I was quite surprised that I got high enough marks to pass in this class. We were quite unlucky in the semester that I took this class as we had a number of classes that got cancelled so we missed out on sitting our weekly tests and had to self-teach a number of those lessons. 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.

### *Alternative Modelling (BCIS201)*

Alternative modelling taught us a number of methodologies some of which included waterfall methodology, agile and SCRUM. This was very useful for this project as we again had to look into methodologies and write an essay about one in particular. Unfortunately the methodology I had to research was completely new to me but it did have some similarities to others we had looked at.

### *Systems Design and Implementation (BCIS202)*

In systems design and implementation we learnt how to plan for IT systems and then go about successfully implementing them. This is not a class I remember well but I am sure the information is still stored away somewhere.

### *Website Development (BCIT242)*

Website development gave me some of the foundations of my knowledge for CSS and HTML which greatly helped in this project. This class taught us the basics in website coding and without it I would not be able to build that websites that I can today.

### *Multimedia and Animation Development (BCIT252)*

The first half of this class was basically a repeat of the BCIT152 class only we had to make the project in half the time. I really enjoyed working with Opus and once you got the hang of all the things it could do it was so much fun to use. I still remember making my ghostly presentation for this class. The second half of the semester had us working on Blender for 3D animation. To start with we had to make a lighthouse and things just got more complicated from there. I really enjoyed this part of the class and made me have a change of heart in my pathway for my career. Blender was quite a limited program for animation and it took a while to render a project but this is a class that I recommended to a number of people that were not going down the interactive media pathway. This was the class that got me accepted into the design school and gave me cross credits so that I could take classes alongside completing this project.

### *Mobile Technology (BCIT388)*

In this class we used App Inventor to design many different mobile applications. For the final assignment we had to design an application that would be used by other people so it was great to put yourself in other people’s shoes and think what they would use. It is not as easy as it looks. You can come up with many ideas but you have to think if the app inventor can handle that. Especially since we had to use an emulator so making it too complicated froze the emulator and every time you made a change you had to relaunch it. It was much simpler when I got an android phone and simply got the QR code each time. I was quite pleased with this class although it again was a lot of self-teaching as all we did was get given an app inventor project and get told to make it - there was no real documentation and learning that took place.

### *Database Management Systems (BCPR203)*

Database Management Systems was a class I loved going to even though it meant getting up for an 8.00am class. I had previous experience working with Access during my time in the diploma and also at high school so I am glad that we did not spent too long on that but it was good to have a bit of a refresher to that knowledge. MySQL was something that I took to quickly as it was one of the things my mind just clicked to. Having this background in the SQL language allowed me to understand the database workings in this project.

### *Software Engineering 2 (BCPR280)*

For software engineering 2 we had to create a website that could be used as a learning tool for Maori learning English or vice versa. In this class I created a drag and drop game so that you had to match the words to the images by dragging and dropping them into the appropriate box. I was so proud of what I created in this class and it really gave me even more experience working with websites. I worked with HTML, CSS and JavaScript to create this activity. I found that the more languages you know the easier it gets to pick up others as they often have similarities.

### *Network Infrastructure (BCCS283)*

When it came to networking it was never my strong suit. Multimedia I got, programming I could handle but in networking I just seemed to crash and burn no matter how hard I tried. I still do not know how I managed to pass this class.

### *Improvements or Recommendations*

I really did enjoy my time at Ara and studying these courses but there is one thing that I would suggest be changed.

This is coming from someone who went down the interactive media pathway. But also someone who was taking classes when they decided to change from the “business” elective to any elective you chose to take. At first I was extremely happy with this change as it meant that I did not have to go searching through only the business papers to find the ones I wanted to do but I could look at all of the courses available. That was until I actually went and had a look at the courses I could take. I was looking forward to there being more multimedia type papers that I could take only to find that there weren’t any on offer. All of the papers I had to choose from were other streams as the multimedia courses that were offered were all compulsory ones that I would have to do anyway. People specialising in programming had other programming courses they could take for their electives so why are there not more interactive media courses available? **(Appendix 5)**

I believe that this should be a change that is made. I often hear people commenting about how not enough girls are coming through the information technology pathway. I believe that if there were more “design” options or media type classes you could attract more girls as more tend to go over to the design block to do the visual communication papers which are exactly like website development but seeing as it has more design features on offer that is where the girls are heading. Also it would not hurt the guys either to learn some design features rather than all coding.