**L E A R N I N G L O G**

FOR COMM 3700 | BY JAMIE LU, W0441213

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| Class | What part of the class impacted me? | What have I learned? | How will I apply this learning? |
| 1 | Business Rule #1:  Without communication, you’re destined to fail.  Vocabulary Word:  Project | * What the course is all about * What project means * What good communication does * What is expected of me from this course | I will apply this in not only my coursework but also my future professional work and possibly even my social life. Communication is key and good communication can avoid a lot of misunderstandings. |
| 2 | Business Rule #2:  Develop a compelling elevator pitch  Vocabulary Word:  Networking | * What an elevator pitch is and what makes a compelling one * What networking means * What branding is * Creating a personal branding action plan and networking plan | I will continually work on myself and how I sell myself to possible employers. I used to dislike networking because I am very shy and keep to myself and to friends but after the class, I have realized the benefits and power of it. I must practice it though. Rome was not built in a day, but I believe that once I get the hang of it and get my confidence up, I can crush it! |
| 3 | Business Rule #3:  Hire People who disagree with you  Vocabulary Word:  Feedback | * What the importance of feedback is * What qualities IT employers value * What technical vs non-technical questions are and how to answer them | I will keep people who give me feedback close by or even in a project with me as feedback is the best way to learn and grow and it is better than having yes men. I will apply the tips and tricks to answers technical and non-technical interview questions (for example starting with a “*nugget”* that will sort of introduce my answer). I will ensure that I demonstrate the qualities IT employers look for and create a plan on how to do this and practice it. |
| 4 | Business Rule #4:  Do your homework  Vocabulary Word:  Strategy | * What a strategy is and how to create a job search strategy * What the importance of doing research is in job searches | I will continually “*do my homework”* when I conduct a job search. I will research on the different positions I can apply for as well as the companies that are hiring. It is important to know a company’s vision and mission statements as well as this can give us a look on what the company is like and strives for. I will develop a job search strategy by determining my interests, and creating a foundation on what I want, and doing homework on how to achieve it. |
| 5 | Business Rule #5:  Identify your weaknesses  Vocabulary Word:  Leadership Identity | * What leader identity is * What my weaknesses are and how to get rid or balance them with my strengths * What a portfolio is and the benefits of it | I will continually develop my portfolio as I go through the rest of my programs and even expanding to when I start working in the IT field. I will apply the gifts that I have determined in any projects that I work on and project my vision. I will also keep working on challenging myself by determining my weaknesses and focusing on my strengths to eliminate those weaknesses. |
| 6 | Business Rule #6:  It’s not always about money  Vocabulary Word:  Measurement | * What money means * What measurement is * Planning a portfolio | I will apply the learning from the class in planning my portfolio. I will identify what I need and prepare them. I will also determine how I want to present my portfolio at the end of the semester. |
| 7 | Business Rule #7:  Don’t wait until you’re hired to begin your job  Vocabulary Word:  Research | * What research is and how important it is * What I need to succeed in the interview process | I will continue to work on my portfolio and apply the learnings I have gotten from the class. I will investigate the examples given and look for inspiration and guidance on how to do mine from those. I will also put into action the tips I have learned when doing interviews. This will truly help me a lot because I tend to not do well on interviews. I think debugging a question/problem an interviewer gives is essential and something new I have not really thought of. |
| 8 | Employability Questions | * What the benefits are of practicing answering employability questions | I have learned the importance of practicing answering employability questions. I did this practice before when I first moved to Canada and have never done a formal interview. However, this is something I stopped doing but this class or session has made me realize its benefits so I will definitely start that back up again. |
| 9 | Business Rule #9:  Know your unique value proposition  Vocabulary Word:  Negotiation | * What the benefits of knowing your strengths and weaknesses are * What the benefits of knowing your value and negotiating are * What factors are used for employers to determine salary * What the tips and tricks are to negotiation | This class taught me something that I did not know was appropriate. I think this is very useful because it is always best to know your worth. I do not think I am 100% confident yet in applying my negotiation skills but I will be practicing in front of a mirror on how to negotiate politely and respectfully. |
| 10 | Business Rule #10:  When the season is right, Play Santa  Vocabulary Word:  Impression | * What an impression is * What to do to create an impression * What an appropriate gift is and when to give it | I have always loved giving gifts, whether they are to friends or family. I have even given gifts to teachers and previous employers. Although the previous employers were more like family to me. It is good to know when it is appropriate to give one and how to use it to my advantage. I will be more conscious about my actions and what possible impressions I leave. |

Brief Summary of Learning and Reflection from Professional Practice 3700:

I have always enjoyed my professional practice courses. Some people may not appreciate it and prefer to just do the technical courses but as someone who has never stopped working, I can see the real-world application and benefits from these classes. I used to submit resumes, go to interviews, and not get hired. I thought I was doing everything right. I thought I was answering questions perfectly and leaving the best impressions. However, I was making mistakes or accidentally ignoring opportunities. I have realized a lot of useful stuff from my course, such as setting SMART goals, the art of negotiation, making an impression, how to improve my resume, and much more. I have even already done some interviews and have applied the interview skills I have acquired from the class, and I have gotten nothing but positive feedback when I do them. I even remember seeing an interviewer’s face light up when I mentioned SMART goals.

One common theme from this course is *practice makes perfect*. We are taught all these professional skills but not all of them are expected to be perfected in a set time frame. Things like increasing my confidence to network and negotiate will need time and practice. I have also realized that self reflection is key. It is important to check yourself from time to time to see not only how you are doing professionally but as a person a well. It is important to know your strengths and weaknesses, and continually set goals.

In my opinion, I have definitely achieved a lot in this course. I have grown professionally and will continue to as it is a life-long process. I am eternally grateful for Melodie for such an enriching class and I owe the start of the development of my professionalism to her and Marc.