Course Outline

SENG3011
Software Engineering Workshop 3
Semester 1 2015

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Course Staff

Contact Details

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Consultations

Staff Name	Day/Time	Location

Course Details

Course Code:	SENG3011
Course Title:	Software Engineering Workshop 3
Units of Credit:	6
Course WebSite:	http://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~se3011/
Handbook Entry:	http://www.handbook.unsw.edu.au/undergraduate/courses/2015/SENG3011.html

Course Summary

The purpose of the 3rd year software engineering workshop is to give students experience with a group-based large-scale software development project involving a realistic application in the business domain (finance). In this session, teams will be developing a complex software application and the focus is to learn about a new application domain, study the requirements, manage the project, liaise with the stakeholder and deliver high quality working solutions. Another aspect of the workshop is to reinforce skills in software design, testing, reporting and the use of support tools around these activities.

Course Aims

This third year workshop focuses on the issues of designing and implementing a quality software system that conforms to the requirements of a stakeholder. Besides sharpening their design and coding skills, students will have to get immersed in a complex application domain, learn the basic concepts to be able to understand the requirements and continuously communicate with the stakeholder to discuss issues arising from the project such as design trade-offs, additional functionalities, new interface features etc. In addition, students will develop interpersonal communication skills by preparing correctly formatted and structured reports, negotiating technical, management and interpersonal issues within their teams and resolving problems within their development teams using effective conflict resolution techniques.

Unlike previous projects with rigid requirements, groups are encouraged to be creative in their implementation

by focusing on delivering the best quality product in consultation with the stakeholder. Consequently, they have the complete freedom in choosing the implementation technologies of their choice e.g. (Java, C++, J2EE, .NET or hybrids) providing they meet the requirements of the stakeholder.

The application domain selected in this session is in the finance area. In this workshop, students will be issued with an initial requirements document outlining the essential features of a product. Additional information will be given on a needs basis throughout the workshop in a variety of ways (emails, regular meetings, class lecture). A guest lecture will be organised with an industry speaker and access to relevant data from the Australian Stock Exchange will be facilitated.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will:

- reinforce existing knowledge about the concepts and principles of software development associated with the implementation of quality software within an organisational context.
- learn about the processes of requirements elicitation and engineering in a realistic context
- acquire practical design skills, particularly in architectural design and software component integration
- experience the process of implementing a quality software system by choosing appropriate languages, libraries and frameworks.
- acquire additional skills involved in working as part of a project team implementing a quality software system within strict time constraints.
- learn the process of writing reports and documentation for specific needs.
- get introduced to a new business application domain (financial market operations in this case)

This course contributes to the development of the following graduate attributes:

Graduate Attribute	Where Acquired
the skills involved in scholarly enquiry	yes
an in-depth engagement with relevant disciplinary knowledge in its interdisciplinary context	yes
the capacity for analytical and critical thinking and for creative problem solving	yes
the ability to engage in independent and reflective learning	yes
the skills to locate, evaluate and use relevant information (Information Literacy)	yes
the capacity for enterprise, initiative and creativity	yes
an appreciation of and respect for, diversity	no
a capacity to contribute to, and work within, the international community	no
the skills required for collaborative and multidisciplinary work	yes
an appreciation of, and a responsiveness to, change	yes
a respect for ethical practice and social responsibility	no
the skills of effective communication	yes

Assumed Knowledge

Before commencing this course, students should have:

- The ability to develop complex programs from stated requirements
- The ability to design and implement algorithms for text and data processing
- Good knowledge of design concepts and techniques (equivalent to UML class diagrams and ER)
- Good knowledge of database and Web technologies
- Writing and communication skills

These are assumed to have been acquired in the previous software engineering courses and workshops

Teaching Rationale

This course adopts a project-based approach to Learning and Teaching where students learn through applying their knowledge in situations inspired from real-life. Software development in a group situation is encouraged with the lecturer and other external evaluators guiding and providing continuous feedback to each group..

Teaching Strategies

In this workshop, a set of intermediate deliverables leading to a product are specified by the stakeholder, a role assumed by the lecturer in charge. Some weekly lecture slots will be used to elaborate on the deliverables and answer general questions. During these meetings, teams are encouraged to discuss their progress and demonstrate work-in-progress. Teams can also arrange additional meetings with the stakeholder if required. A tutor will be available to assist with technical matters and answer queries related to the case study. Assistance can also given over email by the lecturer in charge.

Assessment

The assessable components for the course are:

- Functionality and technical quality of the four prototypes (5%+10%+15%+35%=65%).
- Quality of 3 written reports: Initial, Testing and Final Reports (5%+10%+20%=35%).

Details about these assessment components and the deadlines will be given via the course's on-line system.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as "using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own". UNSW and CSE treat plagiarism as academic misconduct, which means that it carries penalties as severe as being excluded from further study at UNSW. There are several on-line sources to help you understand what plagiarism is and how it is dealt with at UNSW:

- Learning Centre: Plagiarism and Academic Integrity
- MyUNSW: Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct
- CSE: Addendum to UNSW Plagiarism Guidelines
- CSE: Yellow Form (whose terms you have agreed to)

Make sure that you read and understand these. Ignorance is not accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Weekly Schedule

- Week1: Introductory lecture. Group Formation.
- Week2: Guest lecture by Optiver. Finalising Groups.
- Week3: Mentoring.
- Week4: Mentoring. Management Report due.
- Week5: Guest lectures by Trunkplatform and IMC.Prototype 1 due.
- Week6: Mentoring Meeting.
- Week7: Mentoring. Prototype 2 due.
- Week8: Mentoring. Testing Report due.
- Week9: Mentoring Meeting.
- Week10: Public Demonstrations. Prototype 3 public demonstrations
- Week11: Mentoring Meeting.
- Week12: Final demonstrations. Prototype 4 and Final Report due.

Additional details and changes will be posted on the course's noticeboard.

Resources for Students

For domain knowledge (i.e. Finance), students are encouraged to research appropriate sources of information depending on their needs. They are also expected to learn about the basic concepts using Web sources (such as the ASXÂ's Web site www.asx.com.au).

Course Evaluation and Development

This course is evaluated each session using the CATEI system.

In the previous offering of this course, feedback was generally positive mainly because of the industry nature of the project and the involvement of industry partners. The course sponsor (optiver) gave at the end of the workshop a very clear message that this course supports software development skills being put into practice and provides a great foundation for working with industry.

Most suggestions for improvements relate to how deliverables were assessed. In response, every effort will be made at explaining the criteria used for marking in the documentation and during mentoring sessions with students.

Having said that, students much also appreciate that workshop projects are not programming assignments. They deliberately have some ambiguities in the requirements and whenever unsure, students should seek advice during mentoring sessions. In industry, it is rare that all requirements are clearly written down in advance for every project and workshops are designed to teach students to cope with uncertainty in business environments.