

Course Syllabus

Description

Agile approaches to software development (and other endeavours) are drawing interest and investment from organizations worldwide. These organizations face volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA), challenges that cannot be addressed by traditional, predictive, waterfall approaches. Further, digital transformation gains importance as software-driven innovation continues to accelerate.

Transitioning to a new role, new practices and new modes of collaboration is difficult. Standalone, traditional classroom experiences can provide an introduction, but typically fall short in leading the practitioner to success.

As discussed in the [course Welcome](#), this learning experience follows an "Academy" model that aligns with and supports your Agile team launch. That is, as you and your team start sprinting, this learning experience will help you to apply what you've learned in your bootcamp AND provide support as you work through your first few team sprints as a Product Owner. To that end, the Academy itself follows a "Sprint" model, with four two-week "Sprints" providing the structure for the learning activities. During each Sprint you are expected to read, complete assignments, discuss related materials (papers, videos, guides), participate in peer reviews - and at the end of each Sprint, participate in a group retrospective. You're also invited to a weekly Synch Up! hosted via Google Hangouts to come together as a group. Along the way, you'll create your own learning portfolio adding an entry each week with your view on the key concepts and how they relate to your work efforts and context.

Learning Objectives

Upon the completion of the Product Owner Academy, you should be able to:

- Describe the reasons why Agile is a necessary mindset and set of practices for success in modern organizations.
- Describe how to be a successful Product Owner including core responsibilities
 - Work with stakeholders to understand their needs and facilitate helping the team realize these needs in their delivery efforts.
 - Use practices such as User Stories, Personas, Story Splitting, Story Mapping and Backlogs.
 - Collaborate with the Scrum Master, the Development team and Stakeholders while following Scrum.

In addition, this course sets you down the path of being well-prepared to complete the [Professional Scrum Product Owner](#) certification.

Course Structure

Sprint 0 (Weeks 1 & 2)

- Overview
- Starting with Why?
 - Discussion::Starting with Why?
 - Discussion::Connecting and Sharing
- The Agile Mindset
 - Assignment::Help the Business Understand Agile
- Scrum 3-5-3
- Agile Planning

- Discussion::The Importance of Planning and Feedback
- Product Vision
- Product Roadmaps
- Assignment::Create your Vision and Roadmap
- Quiz
- Synch Up!
- Retrospective

Sprint 1 (Weeks 3 & 4)

- Overview
- Ideation: Design Thinking, Lean and Agile
 - Discussion::How do the Pieces Fit Together?
- User Stories and the Backlog
- Themes, Epics, Stories and Tasks
- Business Value and Prioritization
 - Assignment::Delivering Business Value
- Quiz
- Synch Up!
- Retrospective

Sprint 2 (Weeks 5 & 6)

- Overview
- INVEST in Better Stories
- Splitting Stories
- Quality Deliverables
 - Discussion::How does the Product Owner Support Solution Quality?
- Assignment::Story Splitting, Quality and Batch Sizes
- Quiz

- Synch Up!
- Retrospective

Sprint 3 (Weeks 7 & 8)

- Overview
- Scaling
- Nexus
 - Discussion::How does Scaling Impact the Product Owner?
- Quiz
- Continuing the Journey
 - Certification Paths - Pursuing Professional Scrum Product Owner
 - Practice Assessment
 - More Practice Assessments
 - Product Owner Maturity Assessment - Maturing as a Product Owner
- Assignment::Learning Portfolio Review
- Synch Up!
- Retrospective

Communication

There are three main communication mechanisms for this class:
Discussions, Chat and Synch Ups!

Discussions

Each Sprint will have one or more topics covered in the Discussions section. Discussions can be accessed via the left-hand course navigation. This is a great way to share with your classmates regardless of the time of day.

Chat

This is a learning community. Each of your fellow students is also in the early days of their introduction to the Product Owner role. Use the Chat mechanism to share, discuss and learn together. Chat is for real-time communication and open discussion.

Synch Up!

As a class, we'll get together via Google Hangouts for a live video chat toward the end of each Sprint. This is a great way to come together, get to know one another better, share and learn.

Assessment Strategies

You will be assessed through the following approaches:

- **Mastery:**
 - **Quizzes:** Each Sprint will include a short quiz. You will be able to take the quiz multiple times. You will be required to get a score of 100% on each quiz.
 - **Practice Assessment:** In preparation for writing the PSPO Certification exam, you will be able to take the Practice Assessment multiple times. You will be required to get a score of 100%.
- **Peer-review Assessments:** You will be presented with a scenario prompt. In response, you'll provide a response with your solution to the scenario. Your peers will review your answers and provide feedback (and you'll have a chance to provide peer feedback as well!).
- **Maturity Assessments:** You will be introduced to a framework and tools to perform assessments of your maturity as a Product Owner.

- **Learning Portfolio:** Each Sprint you will be required to add to your Learning Portfolio. The page is your summary of the key assignments completed and ideas you've learned during the Sprint.
- **Participation:** Everyone is expected to be a thoughtful contributor throughout the duration of the Academy. This includes participating in Peer-reviews, Discussions, Chats, Synch Ups! and the Retrospectives.

Requirements

Complete Agile Bootcamp training event during Sprint 0 with your Scrum Team.

Work as a Product Owner with your Scrum Team.

Expectations

Participate.

Explore.

Share.

Guidelines

Thoughtful posts, chat and sharing.

This is a safe place for learning. There are no silly questions (or answers).

No such things as failing, just opportunities for learning!

Engaging in the Academy

The recommended approach for engaging with the Academy is to work your

way through the [Modules](#). Below you will find a summary of the assignments in the class. This is great for informational purposes, but not the best approach for navigating the overall academy or getting the most from the experience.