

Course Outline

Managing the Agile Product Development Life Cycle Course AGL-BA25: 4 days Instructor Led

About this course

This 4-day course explores how adapting Agile values and principles will improve product development within an enterprise. It contrasts traditional SDLC methods with the most popular Agile methods to set the stage for benchmarking performance. Then it introduces a comprehensive set of Agile techniques and practices, and gives attendees the opportunity to simulate an end-to-end project while using them. Attendees discuss significant issues such as how to transition traditional IT roles (development, business analysis, testing and project management), and how to work with new roles (ScrumMaster and Product Owner).

Several recent surveys show that Agile is more widespread and effective than structured approaches. Recognizing these trends, the IIBA has produced an Agile Extension to its *Business Analysis Body of Knowledge*® and is proposing a perspective related to Agile in conjunction with the draft *BABOK v3.0* in progress. PMI has developed a new certificate called the Agile Certified Practitioner (PMI-ACP). The BA25 course is aligned with both organizations.

The strength of this course comes from more than two dozen exercises and discussions that give attendees hands-on experience with practical situations. The complete product life cycle is covered from inception to release planning and deployment, from managing a backlog to demonstrating results, and from prioritizing requirements to changing them. Attendees provide estimates using several techniques at successively lower levels of detail. They experience what it is like to participate in self-managing teams. Instructor-led discussions will debrief each exercise and apply learning to the attendee's environment. The class will also discuss the organizational, cultural and management implications of implementing Agile practices.

Audience profile

The course is appropriate for Business Analysts, Business and IT Management, Quality Assurance, Data and Process Management, Developers, Project Management, Business and IT Architects, IT Operations and HR Management.

At course completion

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Ensure your project delivers required functionality with less waste, and adds value to the business
- Plan, manage and close requirements at every development stage
- Minimize project uncertainty and risk with improved estimating and planning
- Create an environment of self-management for your team so that they will be able to continuously align the delivered product with desired business needs, easily adapting to changing requirements throughout the process
- Measure, evaluate and communicate status based on working, tested software, while creating higher visibility and accountability into the process

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Section 1: Introduction – Fundamentals of Agility

- Why Agile?
- Exercise 1a: Waterfall-Lean-Agile Simulation
- Agile Manifesto, Agile Principles and Waterfall vs. Agile comparison Exercise 1b: Agile SCRUM Terms and Concepts Cheat Sheet
- The Scrum framework, roles, and Agile Product Life Cycle

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- Exercise 1c: Challenges to building end-to-end systems with Agile
- Introducing Agile to the organization

Section 2: Value Driven Delivery – Identify Case Study and Team Members

- Value-driven development: Understand why agile focuses so heavily on working products
- Agile Scrum characteristics
- Exercise 2a: Selecting the Case Study (selected by participants from current projects; basis for subsequent exercises)
- Assemble the Agile team
- Committed and Non-Committed members
- Product Owner responsibilities, characteristics and examples Exercise 2a: Select the “Product Owner”
- Building the Scrum team
- Scrum Master and committed team members
- Team collaboration
- Redefining traditional roles
- Exercise 2c: Agile PM and BA (handouts; discussion)
- Exercise 2d: Build the Scrum Team (Scrum Master and Committed Members)
- Contrast with Waterfall using RACI matrix

Section 3: Stakeholder Engagement – Envision the Product

- Understand the motivation behind stakeholder expectations and high-level functionality
- Business motivation model
- Product envisioning
- Evaluate functioning solutions for improvement opportunities
- New product vision and scope. Breakdown epics into features and stories
- High-level business and technical functionality
- Exercise 3a: Product Vision Goals and Strategies
- Agile coordination
- Section 3b: Review Agile Checklist: Strategy, Release Planning, Sprint Planning, Agendas and Guidelines
- Section 3c: Post-Chapter Activity: Conduct a Daily Review and Retrospective

Section 4: Initiate an Agile Project – Planning Releases

- Envision the product and project outcomes, common practices that work Exercise 4a: Adapting a Change-Driven Project Plan that Works
- Agile Product Development Life Cycle planning
- Compile the Product Backlog
- Decision and acceptance criteria for user stories
- Planning Releases
- Prioritize Releases first, then Product Backlog items. Factors to consider
- Order Product Backlog items for initial Release Plan Exercise 4b: Create Release Plan
- Release Planning as an iterative planning process

Section 5: Coarse-Grain Estimating and Time-Boxing

- Estimate high-level items at sufficient detail for planning and prioritizing
- Exercise 5a: Elaborate Business Functionality (10 or more User Stories and associated technical functions)
- Estimate relative complexity
- Planning poker using story points

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- Exercise 5b: Estimate Complexity (coarse-grain)
- Team velocity
- Establish the project time-box. Considerations: hours worked, resource availability ...
- Embrace the high-level Vision and Release Plan Exercise 5c: Establish Project Time-Box

Section 6: Plan the Iteration (Part I)

- Day 1 Sprint planning with the Product Owner
- Contrast sequential and overlapping development
- Create an accurate backlog at the Iteration level Exercise 6b: Sprint “Zero” Activities
- Anticipate Spikes
- Create a Master Test Plan
- Exercise 6c: Review Iteration Planning Checklist
- Sprint planning meeting
- Elements of successful Sprint planning
- Prioritize user stories and identify PBIs for the Sprint Exercise 6d: Confirm and Refine High-Priority Backlog Items
- Exercise 6e: Post-Chapter Activity: Conduct a Daily Review and Retrospective

Section 7: Plan the Iteration (Part II)

- Day 1 Sprint planning with committed team
- Plan and estimate Iteration tasks
- User stories and associated tasks
- Sprint planning, story size and task size
- Produce task list
- Estimate relative effort (fine-grain by team)
- Planning poker using ideal days
- Sprint backlog example
- Exercise 7a: Identify and Estimate Sprint Backlog Tasks
- Commit backlog items to the Sprint
- Finalize the Sprint Plan
- Exercise 7b: Review the Sprint Plan

Section 8: Tools and Techniques for Managing Scrums

- How to approach techniques in an Agile environment
- Exercise 8a: Discussion – Project Activities for Scrum (communications, analysis and design, product quality, soft skills)
- Sprint goal
- Manage the Sprint backlog – key points
- Information radiators and project status
- Daily Scrum meeting
- Scrum task board
- Sprint Burn Down Chart
- Product Burn Down Chart reflecting scope change
- Exercise 8b: Create a Scrum Task board – Identify Work Streams

Section 9: Running the Sprint

- Exercise 9a: Discuss Success Criteria for Self-Managed Teams
- Self-managed teams

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- Paradigm shift in managing requirements
- Team facilitation activities
- Elaborate requirements details
- Non-functional requirements
- Select 'next priority task' and re-estimate task length (team member)
- Challenges and opportunities in a global environment
- Managing Scrums
- Daily Scrum rules (committed v. non-committed speakers, handling issues) Exercise 9b: Hold a Daily Scrum and Update Task Board
- Authority to change the Sprint Backlog
- How to manage requested changes during the Sprint

Section 10: Sprint Review

- Working product is showing progress Exercise 10a: Discuss Review Planning Checklist
- Prepare for Sprint Review
- Assess whether organization is ready for change
- Verifying and validating requirements
- Create test scenarios and test cases
- Customer acceptance and sign-off
- Definition of Done
- Update the product backlog - Rework the high-level (coarse-grain) plan
- Input for the next Sprint
- Exercise 10b: Conduct a Sprint Review
- Exercise 10c: Post-Chapter Activity: Conduct a Daily Review and Retrospective

Section 11: Sprint Retrospective

- Sprint Retrospective
- Key process indicators and Kaizen
- Continuous improvement and measuring PDLC maturity Exercise 11a: Review Retrospective Planning Checklist
- Exercise 11b: Conduct a Sprint Retrospective
- Exercise 11c: Pop Quiz!

Section 12: Boost Team Performance § Dangers of Agile Scrum – It's hard!

- Agile performance – integrated perspective
- Leading causes of failed Agile projects
- Is your organization ready for Agile? Preconditions required Exercise 12a: Process Issues
- Boosting team performance
- Ensuring integrity of Scrum practices
- No outside changes during a Sprint
- Exercise 12b: People Issues
- Coaching the Team – How to keep them motivated and moving forward towards the desired outcome
- Engaging everyone in status
- Exercise 12c: Remove Impediments to Progress
- Communicate status
- Remove impediments
- Coach team to recognize barriers to further adoption of Agile
- How to integrate Agile into current methodologies

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- Scaling Scrum teams – Scrum of Scrums Exercise 12d: Review Agile Exercises

Section 13: Transitioning from Waterfall

- Waterfall Cultural roots
- Significant trends in “successful” projects and ability to deliver value
- Inverting the iron triangle and improving ROI
- Agile adoption from tactical to strategic
- Agile methodologies are evolving
- Lean development focus on value chain
- Lean principles and techniques
- Organizational alignment enables efficiency (congruence model)
- Agile adoption survey results and updates: greatest concerns, leading causes of failed projects, and barriers to adoption
- Exercise 13a: Current Issues and Next Steps

Section 14: Wrap-up and Additional Information

- Glossary
- Agile reading list