MIS5102
In-class Exercise for Week 1: Planning Our End-Of-Semester Party

Objective: Understand the relationship between understanding process and project execution.

Learning Outcomes

• Define a process and articulate its underlying assumptions.
• Understand the relationship between assumptions and process.
• Practice working in teams to compare ideas and reach consensus.

Scenario

Anticipating all the fun we will all have in this course, we have decided to plan an end-of-semester party right now! No other details have been decided.

Step 1: Individual Planning (10 minutes)

• Make a list of at least five assumptions about the details of the party (i.e., the location, the timing, etc.).
• Create a task list for the planning and execution of the party consistent with those assumptions.

Step 2: Group Work: Comparing Notes (10 minutes)

• In your groups, compare your assumptions about the party.
  o What assumptions were common across your group members?
  o Where did they differ?
  o Why?
• Now compare your task lists.
  o How are they similar?
  o How are they different?
  o Cross-check differences against differences in your assumptions.

Step 3: Group Work: Create a Party Plan (10 minutes)

• Create a single set of assumptions on the details of the party.
  o Which assumptions need to be validated in order to ensure the party is a success?
  o Create a list of questions you would ask in order to validate those assumptions.
• Create a single set of tasks to plan and execute the party.
Step 4: Class Debrief and Discussion (30 minutes)

- Each group will share its two most important questions to validate their assumptions.
- Each group will share its final process.
- Discussion points:
  - What are the major similarities and differences in the plans across groups?
  - In what ways did the questions asked reveal the most important priorities in planning the party? What might have been missed?