Now that you are almost finished with the course, reflect upon the field of systems analysis and design and your experience. Consider things such as these: What IS systems analysis and design? What attributes are important in a person who is in this field? What did you learn from the course? If you had the opportunity to change anything, what would it be?

Systems Analysis and Design is the art of taking something so complex and abstract that it cannot be understood in all its details as a whole, and breaking it down into manageable parts and making those abstract parts comprehensible through modeling. A person in this field should be a Type-A personality, someone with phenomenal organizational powers and attention to detail.

I felt extremely overwhelmed by the amount of information in this course, and continually wondered if there was not some way to make the subject matter simpler, more streamlined. Then, when I read Fred Brookes' "No Silver Bullet" essay for one of the discussions, I learned that the subject is inherently complex, and, therefore, any methodology that seeks to manage this complexity will also be complex.

I appreciated the way concepts introduced in one week came up again and again in the following weeks in different contexts. This repetition helped many of the ideas take root. My only suggestion for this course would be to have students build a few more models, as this is such an important part of Systems Analysis.

I just happened to be working on a project at work, where we needed models. So I happened to have the opportunity to apply what I've learned here. I used an open source tool called ArgoUML to design the diagrams. It has proven very valuable, and the diagrams I've been drawing are excellent for breaking our team out of our recent analysis paralysis:

http://argouml.tigris.org/

Other than that, I intend to keep our textbook as a resource on my desk at work. There was too much information to retain it all, but I'm familiar enough with the text as a reference to find what I need to know in the future.