SOFTENG 761: Advanced Agile and Lean Software Development
Deepening Rationale and Insight (7% of final grade)
Due: 9pm, 9th August 2024 (End of Week 4)

Learning outcomes

The purpose of this assignment is to target the following learning outcomes:

- *Discover* and *demonstrate* new insights surrounding a topic area,

- *Critically study* research literature to reflectively challenge your own opinions,

- *Identify* and *compile* points of uncertainty that require further investigation and questioning.

Deepening the Rationale and Insight

This assignment is all about learning new knowledge and insights about the project you and your teammates have been allocated. We want to learn *as much* and *as quickly* as possible, before we meet the client. We are going to take a *divide and conquer* approach, where each teammate investigates the broader and deeper rationale of the project using a different lens to their teammates.

This assignment is still going to be mostly focusing on the *rationale*[1]. If you want to also discuss the *purpose* of the project (if it's apparent from the project description, or if you met the client), then that's OK. But it's not essential, and most of your report will be around the rationale and demonstrating renewed insight. Most of the teams would not have met their client yet, and even if they have, would not have discussed too much around the specific purpose and scope of the project (which is what the "purpose" is mostly about, while here you can just focus on "rationale" if you want).

Here's what you need to do:

1. Find a research paper relevant to your project. It is important that the paper you select is NOT one that another one of your teammates is using! **Every team member needs to use a different paper.** No two team members can use the same paper. So, you need to communicate clearly which paper you found with your teammates, so they know not to use the same one.

   - Note: If you feel like you want to use two papers (to collate more insight), this is OK. It just means you need to read two papers. If you select more than one paper for this assignment, again make sure they are not papers that your teammates plan to use.

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[1] https://softeng761.digitaledu.ac.nz/topics/project-rationale

2. The research paper needs to be at least 5 pages (if double column), or at least 8 pages (if single column). This excludes references of the paper, and substantially non-text pages. In other words, the paper needs to have a reasonable amount of content in it.

3. The research paper you find must be one that provides a deeper insight to the rationale of the project area. You need to demonstrate awakened insights:

   - Why was this paper useful?
   - What from it will be valuable that your client would appreciate you understanding and being aware of?
   - Was there anything you found in the paper that surprised you relevant to the project's topic?
   - Any new learning that will inform how you might tackle your project?
   - How has it shaped your perspective on the project?
   - From reading this paper, what questions have you come up that you would like to ask the client about the project's rationale?

   These are just a few prompts of what you can discuss in your writing. You don't have to answer these exact questions: you might come up with your own, use some of them, or add more of your own. You just need to respect the nature of these questions, and demonstrate your highly-reflective take on how the paper you read has influenced your thinking around the project's topic.

4. Your responses to such questions need to be in context of the paper you read. In other words, you cannot just provide answers to these questions without it having anything to do with your selected paper. It needs to be clear that the paper influenced your views (and hence the answers).

5. Again, avoid discussing specifics of the solution (software application) that you will end up developing. This assignment is about demonstrating your ability to look at something from a different lens, and show that you are entering discussions with the client with a little more preparedness around the topic than before.

6. This document is to be **written as a reflection**, in the context of a research paper. As such, there is no need to have references, other than of course mentioning the paper you are referring to. You can use personal language, but of course should not be casual/unprofessional with your tone.

7. Attach your selected paper along with your reflection.

Collective insight

Why must you select a different paper from your other teammates? The collective value of this activity is that each team members contributes a deeper understanding or insight to some aspect of the project area/topic. Having everyone investigate a different paper will help *the entire team* contribute in discussions, where everyone can share some insight with the team and client. If you all read the same paper, this will not be as effective in contributing new knowledge and insight to the project. And, of course, it also makes it difficult to demonstrate your personal effort on the assignment (as an academic undertaking).

Using ChatGPT

You are more than welcome to use ChatGPT if you see value in it improving your productivity. All you need to do is elaborate how you used it. No matter how you used it, you won't be penalised — so don't worry! There is a dedicated section in the assignment for you to complete and elaborate how you used ChatGPT. You can include some of the prompts you used, and/or describe your process using it. It's a valuable learning exercise to reflect on how it was useful to improve your productivity. With that said, keep in mind this assignment is largely reflective, so using ChatGPT might not be as valuable here. But maybe you can use it in helping you dig deeper into some of the points of point #3 above.

Submission and Formatting

- Submit in Canvas using the A3 Quiz.

- 800-900 words for the entire report. You should be maximising the space you have for this limit. If your page is noticeably empty, this won't appear like you maximised the space available to discuss the renewed insight you have discovered about the project's area/topic.

- Write in full paragraphs.

- For this report, use professional tone and language.

- You will also need to submit the paper you used to write the report (i.e., attach the entire paper to your submission).

Academic honesty

- The work done on this assignment must be your (and/or ChatGPT's) own work. Not your friend's work (unless ChatGPT is your only friend).

- **The submission will be checked using Turnitin.** This will not only compare your submission with online and academic databases, but it will also compare between your peers' submissions. These submissions will be entered and saved into the Turnitin collection, and will therefore be compared against past and future submissions. Submissions with suspicious similarity will result in an Investigative Meeting, and will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee.

- Penalties for copying will be severe – to avoid being caught copying, don't do it.

- To ensure you are not identified as breaching academic conduct, you should follow these points:

  - Elaborate how you used ChatGPT. Remember, you are allowed (and encouraged) to use ChatGPT for this assignment. Just elaborate and reflect how it was used.
  - Always do individual assignments by yourself.
  - Never show or give another person your submission.
  - Keep your workspace private, and do not share your documents with anyone.
  - Never put your work in a public place (e.g., Reddit, public GitHub repository, forums, your website).
  - Never leave your computer unattended. You are responsible for the security of your account.
  - Ensure you always remove your USB flash drive from the computer before you log off.

Marking Rubric

The assignment will be marked out of 7 marks, and will be scaled to 7% of the course:

- Content (4 marks):
  - Answering questions in the spirit of point #3 above. Each question you answer contributes up to 1 mark, for a total of at most 4 marks. Try to make use of ChatGPT to dig deeper here.

- Reflection quality (1 mark):
  - The writing demonstrates a high level of reflection, demonstrating new insights and discussing how those insights have informed your perspective going into the project. Chances are that ChatGPT won't be useful for this bit.

- ChatGPT reflection (1 mark):
  - Elaborate how ChatGPT was used. Where was it useful? Where was it not useful?

- Writing style (1 mark):
  - Avoids personal or casual language/tone.
  - Grammar, spelling, and punctuation etc.
  - Correct and professional formatting (making use of the word limit, etc).
  - Meaningful structure of the report (in terms of how well the paragraphs are written, whether the paragraphs flow well one after another).

Penalties apply for going over the word limit, and not including the paper you were basing your writing on.

Late submissions

Late submissions for this assignment will incur the following penalties:

- 10% penalty for zero to 12 hours late,

- 20% penalty for 13 to 24 hours late,

- 100% penalty for over 24 hours late (Canvas Quiz automatically closes).