**Student Name:** Alireza Amini

**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/DarCyStorm/SOEN-6841-Course/tree/main/Journal>

**Overall Course Impact:**

Before this semester, when I wanted to choose this course, the topic of the course and the explanations given about this course attracted me, because so far in my education, my main focus in the field of software engineering is on programming and management. The technical aspects were software and I didn't have proper information about how to manage the overall and higher level of the projects. My purpose in choosing this course was to step into the new world of project management. After starting the classes, when I got acquainted with the course material, I realized that I would learn a large part of management topics. At the beginning of the classes, the topics were a bit incomprehensible to me, but over time, the topics found their connection in my mind, and I became more interested in the lessons. Finally, after taking this class, I realized that to have a successful project, how to properly plan and what steps to go through so that we can achieve the success we need. The good thing that happened in this lesson was that we didn't just learn the topics theoretically and we had to try them using the class project to achieve success. In the project of this lesson, based on the different phases that it had for us based on the teaching process, we had to work on the topic that was given to our group and design a project. Since the topics were determined by the professor, at first it was very strange for me and I didn't think that I would be able to finish the project, but when we went based on the topics taught in the Pace class, I realized what the main use of the topics taught is. In the project, at first, we had to find the problems and deficiencies of our field and we implemented the rest of the topics we learned in class. In this way, I came across topics that I didn't think were particularly important in project management in the past, even though they were very important in reality. For example, risk management was one of the things that I did not deal with in the way that I know now, and it brought many challenges for me. More importantly, project planning in the past was very disorganized for me, so I treated all projects the same without paying attention to the nature of the project, and this caused me to go step by step instead of setting correct goals. I just think about the final result, which would have caused many problems in my projects, but now with the information I have, I look at my projects from a different perspective and plan for them. Finally, if I want to say in general, the things I learned in this class made me gain a bigger view of my field and understand the importance of project management more so that I can use it in my future.

**Application in Professional Life:**

When I chose to study Computer Engineering, especially software specialization, there was always a question in my mind what the difference between me is who studies this field in university and someone who only learns programming, this question made me want to get to know more about different areas of software engineering, which was one of the reasons why I chose this course. After completing this course with the topics, I learned and the project I did, I fully realized the importance of this field in my future life and career. With the lessons of this class, I have a much more organized and purposeful approach to projects, and despite my lack of experience in project management, I tried to use my lessons in the rest of the lessons of this semester, which made it more organized and with I am more likely to achieve success in my goals and complete my projects. The important thing about this course for me was that these topics should not necessarily be used in large industry projects and these topics can be implemented even in small student projects and achieve the goals of the projects with better performance. This made me know from now on how to plan my projects better and more profitable, and what steps should be more important in the implementation of the project. For example, in the past, when I was not familiar with the process of change management in the project, it often happened to me that I made changes in my project and because I did not pay attention to recording and managing the changes, I would have problems later and I would not remember what Something has caused a problem, although now with my current knowledge, I deal with changes more optimally and regularly, and I consider this a great improvement in my scientific level.

**Peer Collaboration Insights:**

Peer collaboration during my software project management course proved invaluable for my learning journey. At first, I found the idea of working with strangers daunting, as the teacher had deliberately assigned us to groups rather than letting us choose our teammates. However, this arrangement soon revealed its benefits. Through our project work, we gradually got to know one another and understood each other's strengths and weaknesses. This understanding became crucial as we aimed to leverage our abilities towards our project goals. As we progressed, a sense of camaraderie developed among us, making collaboration more seamless and enjoyable. One of the most impactful aspects of our collaboration was evident during the user investigation phase. We were tasked with interviewing potential users to gather insights and identify challenges. I must admit, this was a daunting prospect for me initially. However, as a team, we embraced the challenge and supported each other through the process. Despite the initial apprehension, we were able to conduct the interviews effectively and gather valuable insights that contributed to the success of our project.

**Personal Growth:**

Looking back, I've grown a lot as a learner in the software project management course. Specifically, I've improved my managing and social interaction abilities. First, my managerial skills have leveled up. Before, I wanted to lead but didn't feel confident or prepared. However, through projects and working with classmates, I practiced managing. I learned how to assign tasks well, coordinate efforts, and keep things moving forward. This new managerial confidence lets me take charge when needed. The course helped me improve my social skills. Although I'm outgoing, I felt unsure about interviews and project talks. By practicing and observing, I learned to adapt my communication style. Whether leading a team meeting or interviewing users, I can now read situations better and adjust my approach. The software­ project management course­ helped me grow as a le­arner. I learned management skills. I also improved my social skills. Every part of the course developed me. It gave me helpful abilities. These abilities are useful outside the classroom too. As I continue my education, I know these new skills will assist me. They will help in academic pursuits. They will also aid professional endeavors.