**Learning Journal 1**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** [[https://books.google.ca/books?id=Lnr3m2JVFx8C&printsec=frontcover&redir\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=Lnr3m2JVFx8C&printsec=frontcover&redir_esc=y%23v=onepage&q&f=false)]

**Dates Range of activities:** 13/01/25 – 19/01/25

**Date of the journal:** 19/01/25

**Chapter 1**

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| **Key Concepts Learned:** | Projects are temporary work with specific starting and ending dates, which have defined goals.  Software-specific issues concern invisibility, complexity, conformity, and flexibility.  Roles: Leaders inspire teams, Managers make sure things run well, Scrum Masters remove blockers, and Project Managers balance scope with time and cost constraints. |
| **Application in Real Projects:** | These concepts form a base in the understanding of team organization, planning, and unique challenge resolution for software projects. Appreciation of such roles is conducive to successful cooperation and effective delivery of the project. |
| **Peer Interactions:** | Discussed the difference between Leaders and Managers, how their approaches affect project success.  Shared experiences on software-specific challenges and how to handle issues of flexibility in compliance with set standards. |
| **Challenges Faced:** | Understanding the practical implications of challenges such as invisibility and complexity on project planning.  Differentiating between project roles and how they overlap in Agile vs. traditional environments. |
| **Personal development activities:** | Researched examples of successful project leadership to understand role dynamics.  Discussed the practical applications of project life cycle phases in software projects. |
| **Goals for the Next Week:** | Research more about managing software-specific challenges like invisibility.  Identify some real-world examples of successful collaboration between Leaders and Managers in software projects. |

**Chapter 2**

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| **Key Concepts Learned:** | Project initiation, project charter, scope, objectives definition: define according to the SMART criteria.  Effort and cost estimations together with scheduling form a backbone of effective project execution. Techniques like project division improve the accuracy of cost and effort estimations. |
| **Application in Real Projects:** | SMART objectives bring clarity and focus, while the division of the project helps control the cost and resource alignment. Initial schedules show the roadmap for tracking progress and dependencies. |
| **Peer Interactions:** | Collaborated on writing effective SMART objectives to achieve success with measurability.  Discussed challenges in the estimation of project costs and the importance of breaking down tasks for better accuracy. |
| **Challenges Faced:** | Translation of concepts into actionable deliverables: project charter and scope.  Planning in detail has to be balanced with inherent uncertainties of software projects. |
| **Personal development activities:** | Additional resources on project charters and scope definition reviewed.  Practiced decomposing a sample project into tasks to enhance scheduling and estimation skills. |
| **Goals for the Next Week:** | Attempt a sample project charter and SMART goals for the case given below.  Explore risk management techniques unique to the project initiation phase. |