Project Management Course – Reflection Portfolio

Fall Semester 2025–2026

1 Date: 12/10/2025

This lecture emphasized the significance of project management in successfully achieving our goals, especially when it comes to planning projects with a focus on time efficiency, low cost, and optimal results. We discussed the most effective strategic technologies for managing projects and covered the main attributes that contribute to success, including a clear purpose, a temporary nature, project flexibility, the presence of a customer, and having sufficient resources.

2 Date: 14/10/2025

This lecture provided a thorough understanding of project management, emphasizing the core areas in which a project manager must be skilled. We also discussed what makes a project successful and how it can achieve its objectives. The lecture introduced the concept of a project portfolio and the importance of reflection, which was new to me. We also went into detail about the project for this subject, helping me connect theory with real-world application.

3 Date: 16/10/2025

In this video, the project management knowledge areas are thoroughly explained, including their individual purposes, scopes, and how they contribute to managing projects successfully. The video provides real-world examples of how each area operates and the specific responsibilities involved. It also stresses the critical role of coordination and communication across all knowledge areas during the project's life. Ultimately, it emphasizes that integrating these areas into a cohesive management strategy significantly boosts the chances of achieving project success.

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4 **Date: 19/10/2025**

In this lecture, we discussed program and portfolio management in detail. We also explored Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which was the first time I learned about it. The lecture focused on the role of the project manager, emphasizing how crucial it is for the manager to work closely with stakeholders, particularly the sponsor and the project team. This helped me understand the collaborative nature of project management and the importance of communication throughout the project lifecycle.

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5 **Date: 21/10/2025**

In this lecture, we started a new chapter focusing on the systems approach and its components. We discussed the three-sphere model and its connection to the systems approach, followed by a detailed exploration of the four organizational frames. Additionally, we examined the factors that contribute to project success or failure and delved into the concept of organizational culture, looking at its key characteristics and impact on project outcomes.

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6 **Date: 23/10/2025**

The video offers a comprehensive explanation of the Waterfall model, beginning with its definition and the reasoning behind its structured, linear flow. It walks through the six phases of the model, describing each phase in detail, including its purpose, activities, and the order in which the phases must be completed. The video emphasizes that progress flows downward from one stage to the next, with no revisiting of previous steps. Finally, it discusses the advantages and disadvantages of using the Waterfall model in software development projects.

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⑦ Date: 26/10/2025

In this lecture, we delved into the project and product life cycles, breaking down their definitions and the different phases that comprise each cycle. We clarified that products can be either a physical product or a service. The lecture also covered the three main categories of the project life cycle: the early phase, middle phase, and final phase, discussing the purpose and characteristics of each. Furthermore, we explored various life cycle models, including the Waterfall, Spiral, Prototype, and Rapid Application Development (RAD) models, highlighting their unique approaches.

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⑧ Date: 28/10/2025

There was no lecture on this date

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⑨ Date: 30/10/2025

In the video, the Agile methodology is explained as a solution to the limitations of the Waterfall model. The focus is on Agile's iterative and incremental approach, where software is built in small cycles, enabling early feedback and ongoing improvements. The video illustrates how Agile boosts flexibility, enhances product quality, and accelerates delivery by continuously involving the customer. It concludes by stressing that Agile's core objective is to quickly deliver working software while adapting to evolving requirements.

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(10) Date: 2/11/2025

we discussed trends like outsourcing and the rise of virtual teams. While virtual teams offer flexibility, they also present challenges like communication issues. We also explored agile project management and Scrum, which helps break down complex projects into smaller, manageable tasks.

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(11) Date: 4/11/2025

we focused on modern trends like globalization and agile project management. Virtual teams offer flexibility but come with challenges, especially in communication. The agile approach, particularly Scrum, was interesting as it breaks down projects into manageable sprints, making project delivery more efficient.

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(12) Date: 6/11`/2025

In this video, Scrum is explained, including a comparison with the traditional Waterfall method. The video goes into the details of Scrum's rules, artifacts, ceremonies, and the workflow. It also discusses the pros and cons of Scrum, giving a comprehensive overview of its strengths and weaknesses. The comparison to Waterfall really helped me see the flexibility and iterative nature of Scrum as a more adaptive approach to project management.

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⑬ Date: 9/11/2025

we learned about the system life cycle, focusing on the planning phase and how to identify areas for improvement using the PIECES framework. I found the data flow diagrams (DFDs) and flowcharts really interesting, as they help organize and present system processes clearly. The lesson on algorithms, especially flowcharts, showed how different methods can be used to visualize and simplify complex tasks, which is a great tool for any IT project.

⑭ Date: 11/11/2025

covered use cases and how they help document and design system functionalities. We learned how use-case diagrams show how users interact with a system and how to identify key actors. I thought it was interesting to see how use cases can be linked with "includes" and "extends" to represent different scenarios. This method of modeling will definitely be useful in creating a more user-friendly system that accurately represents the user's needs.

⑮ Date: 13/11`/2025

In the video, process mapping is explained as a visual tool that arranges steps sequentially from start to finish, with an introduction to common symbols used in the process. Personally, I feel the video doesn't add much value beyond what we have already studied in class. The content closely mirrors the subject slides, and it didn't provide much new or extra information.

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16 Date: 16/11/2025

we learned about Entity-Relationship Diagrams (ERD) and how they help design databases by illustrating entities and their relationships. The various types of relationships, such as one-to-one and many-to-many, showed me how data is structured in a database. I found the idea of attributes, like composite and derived attributes, interesting because they help define the details of entities in the system. This knowledge is valuable for understanding how to represent data and relationships clearly when building a database.

17 Date: 18/11/2025

There was no lecture on this date

18 Date: 20/11/2025

The lecture on Project Scope Management really emphasized the importance of planning the scope thoroughly. It made me realize how critical it is to define the project's boundaries and gather requirements early on. I found the WBS creation process especially interesting, as it helps break down complex projects into smaller, manageable tasks, which is key for tracking progress and avoiding confusion.

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19 **Date: 23/11/2025**

There was no lecture on this date

20 **Date: 25/11/2025**

we discussed the definition of SWOT analysis as a strategic tool. We learned about the four dimensions of SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The focus was on how to define strengths and weaknesses as internal factors that can be controlled, and the importance of identifying external factors like opportunities and threats that impact strategy. It was also explained how SWOT analysis can be used in the decision-making process for strategic planning

21 **Date: 27/11/2025**

The video on SWOT analysis was really insightful! It showed how to break down your personal traits into strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. I loved the example they gave because it made the process much clearer. This method will definitely help me to better understand my abilities and areas where I can improve. It's a great tool for personal growth.

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22 **Date: 30/11/2025**

There was no lecture on this date

23 **Date: 2/12/2025**

we went deeper into when to use SWOT analysis and in what contexts. It was clarified that SWOT is most useful in situations like strategic annual planning, launching new products, entering new markets, and responding to significant changes. The lecture also highlighted situations where SWOT analysis is not recommended, such as for urgent decisions or complex problems that require deeper analytical tools. The importance of regularly updating SWOT analysis to maintain its effectiveness was also discussed.

24 **Date: 4/12/2025**

I found the video about project scheduling and critical path analysis really useful! It showed how important it is to identify which tasks directly impact the project's completion time. By calculating the critical path, we can prioritize tasks that need immediate attention. The visual example really helped me understand the method in a practical way.

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25 Date: 7/12/2025

we explored Critical Path Method (CPM) and how it helps manage project schedules. It was insightful to learn that the critical path is the sequence of tasks that determine the minimum project duration, and any delay in these tasks will delay the entire project. I also found the idea of float determination interesting, as it shows how much flexibility there is in non-critical tasks without impacting the overall schedule. This method helps project managers allocate resources efficiently and stay on track with project timelines.

26 Date: 9/12/2025

we learned about the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on project management. It was interesting to discover how AI automates repetitive tasks, such as assigning resources and scheduling. I was particularly intrigued by how tools like Trello and Asana use AI to prioritize tasks based on urgency and team performance. The lecture also introduced predictive analytics, which can help foresee risks like delays or budget overruns, allowing project managers to tackle problems before they escalate.

27 Date: 11/12/2025

Mike Clayton's story is an inspiring journey of someone who transformed his career from a theoretical physicist to a prominent figure in project management. His shift to consultancy and later education shows how being open to new opportunities can shape a career. I particularly appreciated his view on the future of project management and the need for greater professionalization in the field. It's clear that project management is more than just a technical skill; it's about managing people, navigating change, and continually adapting to new challenges.

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28   Date: 14/12/2025

ocused on AI technologies like Machine Learning (ML), Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Automation. I was impressed by how Machine Learning helps predict project delays based on past data. Additionally, the use of NLP for tasks like sentiment analysis of team communication and automating document creation can save a lot of time and improve team collaboration. These technologies are truly transforming the way projects are managed by providing deeper insights and more efficient workflows.

29   Date: 16/12/2025

we discussed how AI is essential for resource optimization and risk management. It was great to learn how AI ensures resources are allocated effectively, helping project managers focus on high-priority tasks. The ability of AI tools to identify potential risks, like changes in regulations, and suggest solutions before issues arise is something I hadn't considered before. This lecture reinforced how valuable AI is in modern project management for ensuring timely and successful project completion.

30   Date: 18/12/2025

There was no new content posted on the learning platform.

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31 Date: 21/12/2025

we presented Change and Configuration Management. The presentation made me realize how important it is to control changes in a project properly. I learned that good change management helps avoid confusion and keeps the project on track with its objectives. Also, we talked about how configuration management ensures that all project components are well-tracked, ensuring consistency and preventing errors during the project. Another group discussed Requirements Engineering and how it plays a key role in project development. The presentation focused on the importance of collecting, analyzing, and documenting requirements clearly.

32 Date: 23/12/2025

I was absent in this lecture

33 Date: 25/12/2025

Official Holiday due to Christmas

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(34) Date: 28/12/2025

In this lecture, two groups presented different topics, SDLC and the Waterfall model. The presentations explained how software development follows clear stages, starting from planning and ending with maintenance. I learned that SDLC helps structure the development process, while the Waterfall model uses a linear approach where each phase is completed before moving forward. Overall, the presentations helped clarify how structured models are used in managing software projects.

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(35) Date: 30/12/2025

I was absent in this lecture

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(36)   Date: 1/1/2025

Official Holiday due to New Year's

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37   **Date: 4/1/2025**

During this lecture, two groups presented different topics, Testing and Validation, and Project Monitoring Tools. The presentations showed how testing helps verify that a system meets requirements and works correctly. We also learned how monitoring tools are used to follow project progress and detect problems early. These topics demonstrated the importance of quality control and continuous tracking in project management.

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38   **Date: 6/1/2025**

During this lecture, one group presented Project Monitoring Tools and explained their role in controlling and tracking project activities. I learned how these tools help project managers follow progress and detect problems early. The presentation highlighted the importance of monitoring tools in maintaining project quality and achieving project goals.