**Student Name:** Thansil Mohamed S

**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** https://github.com/ThansilMohamedS/SPM

**Date of the journal:** 29/03/2025

|  |
| --- |
| **Final Reflections** |
| The Software Project Management course has been a transformative experience in my academic journey. Coming in with limited exposure to structured project frameworks, I now feel equipped with the methodologies, tools, and critical mindset required to lead and manage software projects effectively.  From foundational topics like project initiation and effort estimation to advanced techniques such as Earned Value Management (EVM) and risk mitigation, each chapter deepened my understanding of real-world software lifecycle challenges. Concepts like Gantt charts, WBS, and CPM were not just theoretical; I actively applied them to my team project, the Food Expiration Alert System which made my learning both practical and outcome-driven.  This course sharpened my ability to anticipate risks, allocate resources intelligently, and manage scope, quality, time, and cost in parallel. More importantly, it taught me that adaptability, reflection, and proactive planning are keys to project success.  Through the chapters, I developed hands-on knowledge in planning, building, and maintaining software projects. One of the key challenges I faced was mastering the balance between using flexible methodologies like Scrum and more structured approaches like Waterfall, particularly when working on dynamic and evolving projects. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Application in Professional Life** |
| The knowledge gained from this course will be pivotal in shaping my future in the tech industry. Whether as a software developer, product owner, or project manager, the following applications stand out:  **Effort Estimation Techniques**: I now understand when to use COCOMO, Function Point Analysis, or Delphi methods depending on project complexity. These will guide accurate sprint planning and resource forecasting.  **Risk and Configuration Management**: In real-world software environments, version control and traceability are non-negotiable. I can now set up structured CM plans and proactively assess risks that could derail releases.  **Project Planning & Monitoring**: With tools like Gantt charts, CPM, and EVM, I can track real-time performance metrics and make data-informed decisions that align with stakeholder goals.  **Agile Thinking & Iterative Improvement**: While we explored traditional models, the emphasis on continuous feedback and adaptive planning has solidified my preference for hybrid or agile frameworks in fast-paced teams. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Peer Collaboration Insights** |
| Working with peers was one of the highlights of this course. Our brainstorming sessions and debates especially comparing estimation techniques or choosing project planning methods gave me fresh perspectives. The diversity in approaches, especially when dealing with challenges in our group project, enhanced my teamwork and conflict-resolution skills.  For example, deciding between top-down and bottom-up planning methods sparked insightful discussions and led us to adopt a hybrid approach that fit our timeline and technical constraints best. Peer feedback also helped identify flaws early in our version control and risk mapping strategies.  Me and my group had a good bond with ourselves pushing each other to think in a more refined and a unique way. They motivated me and appreciated my efforts which was a crucial factor that intrigued me in this course. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Personal Growth** |
| Throughout the course, one of my most impactful areas of personal development was learning to navigate and balance different project management methodologies. Initially, I found it difficult to determine when to apply a structured approach like Waterfall versus a more adaptive framework like Scrum, especially in the context of evolving or uncertain project requirements. However, through hands-on application and team discussions, I gradually developed the ability to assess project dynamics and choose the most suitable approach. This flexibility not only enhanced my decision-making skills but also prepared me to handle real-world scenarios where hybrid models are often necessary for success. |