**Student Name: Alina Budhathoki**

**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** [Github link](https://github.com/aleenabudhathoki/SOEN6841/blob/main/final%20%20reflection.docx)

**Dates Rage of activities:** 7 Oct – 31 Oct

**Date of the journal:** 1 November 2024

**Overall Course Impact**

This course has completely changed how I view software project management, making the connection between theory and real-world application much clearer. It’s walked me through every phase of a project, from starting out and planning to testing, launching, and maintaining. I now see how all the pieces—like managing risks, analyzing requirements, and improving processes—fit together to create a successful project. The case studies were especially eye-opening, showing how frameworks like agile, waterfall, and iterative models work in real life. They’ve taught me the importance of being flexible and adapting management strategies to suit the unique needs of each project.

What really stood out, though, was the balance between the technical side of things and the human element. Working with teams, communicating with stakeholders, and managing suppliers are just as important as getting the technical details right. This course helped me understand how to bring out the best in a team while staying focused on delivering quality outcomes. It’s been a great mix of technical insights and strategic thinking, and it’s shown me that project management is as much about leadership and empathy as it is about tools and techniques.

**Application in Professional Life**

The lessons from this course are incredibly useful for my professional life, especially when it comes to managing complex software projects or working across different teams. I’ve learned practical tools like Work Breakdown Structures and COCOMO models, which make it much easier to plan projects, estimate resources, and stick to budgets. These methods will be a game changer in situations where it’s critical to get accurate timelines, like launching a new product or upgrading an existing system. On top of that, understanding iterative processes, agile principles, and testing strategies has given me the skills to maintain quality even when project requirements keep changing.

But it’s not just about the technical side—this course has also helped me build the soft skills I need to lead teams and work with stakeholders. I’ve learned how to manage expectations, resolve conflicts, and encourage collaboration, which are all crucial for keeping projects on track. Whether it’s leading a team, negotiating with a client, or working with suppliers, I feel more confident tackling challenges while staying focused on the big picture. This course hasn’t just given me the knowledge I need—it’s also given me the confidence to apply it, even in high-pressure situations.

**Peer Collaboration Insights**

The collaborative parts of this course have been a huge part of my learning experience. Working with classmates gave me the chance to see things from different perspectives and learn from their unique approaches. Group discussions and assignments were especially valuable—they allowed us to tackle real-world challenges together, like estimating costs, managing risks, or planning project timelines. These interactions not only reinforced what we learned in class but also opened my eyes to creative problem-solving methods I wouldn’t have thought of on my own. It felt a lot like how professional teams work, where everyone’s expertise adds value to the final outcome.

What stood out the most was how much peer collaboration highlighted the importance of communication. Feedback from classmates helped me sharpen my ideas, and brainstorming together led to some really creative solutions. I’ve realized that collaboration isn’t just about dividing work—it’s about bringing everyone’s strengths together to create something better. These experiences showed me how teamwork and mutual learning are critical for success, and they’ve helped me grow important interpersonal skills I know I’ll use in the professional world.

**Personal Growth**

This course has been a big part of my personal growth, both as a learner and as someone preparing for a professional career. It’s helped me think more critically and tackle problems in a structured way, especially when it comes to creating detailed plans, estimating costs, or managing risks. The step-by-step methodologies we learned have made it easier to break down complex challenges into smaller, more manageable pieces, which has helped me stay organized and efficient. The hands-on approach in the course has also boosted my confidence in applying these strategies to real-world situations, making me feel more prepared for professional challenges.

Beyond the technical skills, this course has helped me become more resilient and adaptable. The challenging concepts and collaborative projects taught me to see mistakes not as failures but as chances to learn and grow. Working with peers and instructors also pushed me to communicate more clearly and to consider different perspectives, which has really sharpened my teamwork and communication skills. Overall, this experience has prepared me not just for work but for lifelong learning and self-improvement, which I know will serve me well in the future.