**LEARNING JOURNAL TEMPLATE**

**Student Name:** Mihir Rameshbhai Gediya

**Course:** SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** [**https://github.com/mihirgediya2001/spm\_2024**](https://github.com/mihirgediya2001/spm_2024)

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1. **Key Concepts Learned**

* Studied the **Project Closure** phase, including critical tasks like finalizing deliverables, archiving metrics, and capturing lessons learned.
* Explored **software lifecycle models** such as Waterfall and iterative models like Scrum and Extreme Programming, noting the adaptability of iterative models for evolving projects.
* Learned about **requirement management** as essential for aligning project outcomes with customer expectations, helping prevent rework through effective validation and change management.
* Understood that combining elements of iterative and Waterfall models can enhance flexibility in projects with evolving requirements, without compromising stability.

1. **Application in Real Projects**

* Recognized the importance of **metrics archiving** and documenting lessons learned in real-world projects to ensure knowledge transfer and continuous improvement.
* For the "Home Exercise Planner" project, I plan to implement an iterative model to allow frequent updates based on user feedback, which aligns well with the project's evolving requirements.
* Reflected on how a structured project closure can prevent recurring errors in future iterations by retaining critical insights.
* Considered the possibility of a **hybrid approach**, incorporating aspects of both iterative and Waterfall models to provide flexibility and control within the "Home Exercise Planner" project.

1. **Peer Interactions**

* Discussed different approaches to **requirement management** with peers, gaining insights into handling changes in iterative vs. Waterfall models.
* Learned about concurrent engineering from a peer, who suggested managing project phases in parallel to expedite product delivery—a strategy that could be beneficial for "Home Exercise Planner."
* Received feedback on effective documentation of lessons learned, which I plan to incorporate into my project for smoother future iterations.
* Gained new insights into balancing **flexibility and structure** from peer discussions, enhancing my approach to lifecycle model selection for complex projects.

1. **Challenges Faced**

* Encountered challenges in understanding **requirement validation cycles**, especially within iterative models that demand quick adaptation.
* Deciding on the right lifecycle model for the "Home Exercise Planner" was complex, as balancing flexibility with control requires careful consideration.
* Struggled with managing change requests efficiently without disrupting project stability, a challenge that I'll address by further exploring hybrid models.
* Found it challenging to determine how much of the **Waterfall structure** to incorporate into an iterative project like "Home Exercise Planner," where flexibility is essential.

1. **Personal Development Activities**

* Joined a study group focused on **software lifecycle models** and their applications, which provided real-world insights into model selection based on industry needs.
* Explored tools like JIRA to understand how requirement tracking can support iterative and Waterfall methodologies, reducing rework and maintaining project quality.
* Researched best practices for project closure, particularly around archiving and version control, which are essential for project continuity.
* Began experimenting with **hybrid project planning** techniques to gain hands-on experience in balancing flexibility with structured processes.

1. **Goals for the Next Week**

* Deepen my understanding of requirement management, with a focus on efficient handling of frequent change requests.
* Create a sample project plan for "Home Exercise Planner" using a hybrid lifecycle approach, integrating elements from both iterative and Waterfall models.
* Discuss closure techniques and lifecycle model applications with industry professionals to improve adaptability in future projects.
* Investigate **concurrent engineering** techniques to identify potential efficiencies in delivering project phases for "Home Exercise Planner."