**Learning Journal Template**

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

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Final Journal............................

**Final Reflections:**

**Overall Course Impact:**

**Software Project Management has deeply enlightened** my understanding of project management principles and processes. Throughout the course it has **followed a systematic approach** on topics such as **project initiation, planning, control, monitoring and closure**. In-depth analysis of requirements and change control system has led to a deep understanding of the importance it holds while managing projects in a software industry leading to its success. Researching about risks in software projects I found out various parameters and on strategies like **risk mitigation, risk transfer, avoidance** which highlighted dealing with the kind of risks. Configuration management in projects made me understand a significant aspect of project monitoring where we **maintain versions of our software development** in order as to avoid any issues whenever there is change. **Requirement management gave a key insight on how to gather proper requirements and communicate it with the customers as to have a smooth project flow**. Moving further, on **project closure it taught on how important documentation is** to carry forward for upcoming project uses and keeping a track of the ongoing ones while signifying all the milestones and quality gates and ensuring the deliverables are on time. One of the most **transformative insights has been the necessity of adapting project management methodologies**, like selecting between the waterfall and iterative models, to suit the specific needs and dynamics of a project which was very insightful. **These insights were valuable and will significantly influence my approach to managing projects.**

**Application in Professional Life:**

The knowledge gained in this course can be directly applied to various professional scenarios. For instance, the principles of risk management and **Earned Value Analysis (EVA) will help in managing project budgets and timelines** more effectively. The concepts of **iterative development models like SCRUM and quality assurance processes** are particularly valuable for projects involving rapidly evolving technologies. Additionally, skills in configuration management will ensure better control over software changes and versions, reducing chaos in collaborative environments.

The knowledge gained in this course has got a very significant importance in professional life where we will be dealing with real-world projects. **For example, the use of COCOMO model and Delphi technique** helps in estimating the attributes of a software project. The COCOMO model, with its empirically based framework, enables more accurate effort estimation while in Delphi it relies on expert consensus for effort estimation, is particularly useful in collaborative projects. **Another important example is while using WBS, a proper structure of breaking down tasks is carried out for complex projects.** Thereafter classifying the project as a top-down or bottom-up approach is helpful for resource optimisation in the industry. The **Requirement management phase of the project where we gather all the necessary requirement upon analysis and thereafter classification, changes, verification and validation**. Lessons from **Release management outlined activities like product implementation, user training, and maintenance types such as preventive, corrective, and adaptive.** These concepts are vital for developing reliable software and maintaining lifecycle continuity in professional projects.

All these **plays a key role in professional life and I have had very knowledgeable insights on Software Project Industry through this course**.

**Peer Collaboration Insights:**

One of the major source of my knowledge was through collaboration with my peers and it really help broaden my perspective. While working in a group project and having team members who had previous working experience in software industry, we were able to discuss on every topic using real-world examples and about our experiences. **For example, while exploring** **software lifecycle management**, my peers and I debated the suitability of the waterfall model versus iterative models like SCRUM for different project types. **One of us shared a real-world example from their internship where the iterative model helped their team quickly adapt to changing client requirements. Another said about how waterfall model works good with projects having well-defined requirements**. We discussed on various software project management tools like JIRA and Trello and utilised those to **enrich our perspective of knowledge.**

Another very insightful discussion with my peers which I remember was that of software requirement management where one of my batchmate presented on how **poor requirement management skills had affected the project during his previous working experience and the project being called off leading to a failure. We discussed on the importance of Requirement Analysis and Classification potentially highlighting the importance of it forming the base structure** for any successful project. We supplemented our learning and research on the Requirement Management phase, and we sought help understanding documentations for real-world software projects carried out and attended online webinars to broaden our understanding.

**Personal Growth:**

As far as my learning perspective and personal growth is concerned, this **course has greatly fostered my knowledge and skills over the horizon of software project management**. I started studying for the professional certifications such as **Certified Associate in Project Management(CAPM**) from the Project Management Institute and on the same time followed a **Udemy course (**[**Link to Udemy Course**](https://concordia.udemy.com/course/capm-certification-training-prep-course/learn/lecture/39526934#overview)**) for the preparation** for it apart from the learning materials of this course. This University course and certification will help me to stand out with my knowledge over the project domain area and instill the confidence factor to me required for successful leading of software projects in my career. **I gained my hands-on learnin**g on the mentioned Project tools which enhanced my proficiency in advanced project monitoring and techniques. Most importantly, having **previous work experience of 2 years where I worked in various software projects**, I could relate to them and rectify all the necessary pointers in my mind through the help of this course and it helped me shape myself on the brighter side.

Furthermore, **I started on with research work in the field of Software Project management integrating it with some of the famous Economical curves used worldwide** and have been working on it. This course not only equipped me with practical skills but also a continuous improvement mindset. This **alignment of practical experience with theoretical knowledge** has prepared me to take on future challenges in software project management with greater confidence and competence.