**Learning Journal Template**

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

**Journal URL:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G7ame1cKfxAXVMXAxXQ7RrB2y8eBlOW9>

**Dates Rage of activities:** 23/09/2024-04/10/2024

**Date of the journal:** 05/10/2024

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| **Key Concepts Learned:** | **Application in Real Projects:** | **Peer Interactions:** | **Challenges Faced:** | **Personal development activities:** | **Goals for the Next Week:** |
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| This week’s class session focused on important topics such as **Planning, Monitoring** and **Control**. With a well-defined concept of Planning, it led **emphasis on Work Breakdown Structure(WBS) which classifies the systematic structure of breakdown of project tasks** and thereafter discussing the planning techniques including **top-down and bottom-up approach**. It highlights the **Critical Path Method(CPM) and Goldratt’s critical chain methods** using graphs. | This week’s topic on project planning and monitoring speaks of a key impact in real-world projects. 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**. Companies use **Earned Value Management for handling the budget** and **scheduling operations.** | Discussing with my project group on our project, I discussed on the **Work Breakdown Structure and its effectivity in handling project task in phases**. **We discussed the importance of top-down and bottom-up planning** which again clarified the concept of overviewing timelines of a project. We gained key insights on how to be more efficient and accurate on project planning with a structure. | There are few challenges I encountered while studying these topics. **Firstly, EVM being a powerful tool for estimation of project performance but in real world applications it can be difficult with calculations of complex projects.**  For projects with a **short duration of timelines, the work breakdown structure might pose a problem with the division of tasks.** | As for my personal development with these topics on project planning, control and monitoring, **I researched various scenarios on WBS and EVM and real-timed projects where it was successfully implemented with clarity**. It helped me to understand the **calculations of costs and scheduling timelines. I attended online workshops available on YouTube where discussions were led on these topics**. | For this upcoming week, **I want to deep dive more into real world projects and the techniques of planning and monitoring tools used.** As it can be seen that planning is a very essential part of project activity and successful planning lead to successful software projects, I only target to make myself more and more better at understanding and planning software projects.  Also to strengthen my foundation over the practical areas of project planning, I intend to join and experience few more workshops and activities over the internet. |
| **Monitoring** and **Control** defines the process by which the **project managers can know the status and control of the projects by collecting sufficient data and delivering everything**. Controlling of scope, quality, time, scope and risk. A **detailed study of Earned Value Analysis** to achieve the objectives of determining **schedule variance and cost variance** was determined. | There are several challenges faced by the industries while implementing these. For suppose in any **organisation or project in which there is constant changes required these factors might get unpredictable**. Also, for **maintaining a standard budget document it is required to have sufficient data which is accurate enough for the estimation**. | While discussing the topic on EVM, there were **concerns about how to implement it on projects which does not have costs defined properly**. We then took the discussion to **how tracking tools on costs can be very important in order to ensure proper management of schedule variance and calculating project timelines**. | When the costs are not well defined for the project, **it gets difficult for a proper estimation using the EVA and mostly when the project is very complex then it can be problematic.**  **Techniques like Resource Leveling and Resource Smoothing are theoretically well explained but the practical implementation in real life scenario seems difficult and challenging**. | **I indulged myself into learning software tools like Trello which is being used for project scheduling, tracking progress, and managing resources**. This helped me to have a hands-on experience that can later help me practically while I am working in any industry. It also helped me clarify few parts of challenges mentioned earlier. | On advancing my concept more monitoring and tracking project tasks, **I need to devote more time to Trello and other project management tools to understand better of it. I need to see more practical scenarios of EVM and cost budgeting in general.**  Also, I have been continuing with my course in Certified Associate of Project Management(CAPM) and also undertook a Udemy course to understand it even better while preparing myself for the professional certification. |

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

**Final Reflections:**

**Overall Course Impact:** The course has helped me get **essential learning on the concept and components of software project management in the industry**. In long term **as a project manager it will help me take informed decisions.**

**Application in Professional Life:** The knowledge gained in this course on **Project Planning**, **Monitoring and Control** is **highly applicable to my professional life**. **If I get a task to lead a team with new application, I will have to carefully consider the project planning techniques with WBS as well as monitoring the project while making all the budget and schedule estimations.**

**Peer Collaboration Insights:** Engaging with classmates allowed me to gain diverse perspectives on complex topics like **project planning** and **monitoring**. **My peers shared practical insights from real world project which enlightened my aspects.**

**Personal Growth:** I have experienced **significant personal growth as a learner**, particularly in my ability to engage with complex concepts and apply them to real-world situations. **I have seen illuminating development of my aspect with Project Planning Structure and Monitoring techniques.**