**Learning Journal**

**Student Name:** Umang Savla

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

**Journal URL:** [**https://github.com/umang232/SPM**](https://github.com/umang232/SPM)

**Final Week:** Jan 16 – April 3

**Date:** March 30

* **Overall Course Impact**

The course has significantly improved my understanding of software development processes and methodologies. It provided a comprehensive overview of the entire software development life cycle from requirement management to release and maintenance, focusing on structured approaches and effective management practices.

The course taught me about structured methods in software development and how each of the phases help in shorter duration of time-to-market and reduced cost and time, like involving testing early, clear communication for requirements, and keeping up quality control. The case study carried out for the chapters helped a lot in understanding how these methods work in real projects. The chapters (Chapter 1- 14) encouraged to improve software products continuously through iterative development, focusing on practices like continuous integration and unit testing. Also, collaborating with classmates in meetings and discussions helped me understand the material better. Overall, the course changed how I see software development, emphasizing the need to follow structured process in development and good project management to make sure I deliver efficient solutions that meet customers needs.

Particularly, I had an impact from Chapter 9: Introduction to Software Life-Cycle Management as it delves into software engineering and development life cycles, focusing on their vital role in managing large-scale projects. It highlights process improvements, mature life cycles, and early testing team involvement for effective system testing. The chapter covers phases of the development life cycle, work products, and activities within each phase. It emphasizes software metrics for quality products. Overall, it provides insights into concurrent engineering, software measurements, quality control, and the importance of work products in software life cycles. The learnings from the chapter will provide me guidance for personal and professional software projects. It will enhance efficiency, quality, and structured development helping in early issue detection and informed decision-making.

* **Application in Professional Life:**

The course knowledge can directly be applied to my professional life by enhancing project efficiency through early testing and clear communication. Continuous improvement methods like unit testing will help maintain code quality, while collaborative learning drives teamwork and innovation. For example, in implementing change requests to software, these methods reduce errors and maintain functionality.

By incorporating these practices in professional life, I’ll be able to deliver complete solutions that meet client needs efficiently. Furthermore, structured methodologies streamline development workflows, ensuring potential issues are identified and addressed early on. In scenarios involving new feature development, these methodologies mitigate risks and enhance project success. Overall, the course equips me with practical skills and insights applicable across various software development projects, enabling me to contribute effectively to delivering high-quality solutions and meeting client expectations.

* **Peer Collaboration Insights:**

Peer collaboration throughout the course was immensely valuable, leading to a deeper understanding of the material and enhancing my learning experience. The project deliverables and posterathon conducted in the course enable us to collaborate and work as team. It improved my teamwork capabilities and team collaboration ability.

The collaborative group project, focusing on financial literacy app, was an incredible experience in applying theoretical concepts practically. Conducting market analysis, assessing project feasibility, and proposing solutions challenged us to think critically and manage resources efficiently, demonstrating the value of teamwork and diverse perspectives.

Engaging in frequent project team meetings allowed for open discussions and the exchange of ideas, ensuring everyone was aligned and contributing effectively to project goals. Additionally, participating in the Posterathon team meeting provided an opportunity to brainstorm creative solutions collectively, bringing diverse perspectives to come up with innovative outcomes.

* **Personal Growth:**

Throughout the course, I've witnessed significant personal growth as a learner, particularly in areas of critical thinking, collaboration, and practical application of knowledge. One notable improvement is my ability to analyze complex concepts and derive efficient software solution. It is possible due to engaging discussions and interactions with peers.

Additionally, my collaboration skills have strengthened through frequent team meetings and collaborative learning activities, enabling me to contribute effectively to group projects and discussions. Moreover, I've developed a deeper understanding of how to apply course concepts in real-world scenarios, as we did on practical implementations during study sessions. Overall, the course has not only expanded my knowledge base but also enhanced my critical thinking, collaboration, and practical problem-solving skills.

* **Acknowledgement:**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Professor Joumana Dargham and the dedicated Teaching Assistants for their invaluable support and guidance throughout the course. Their expertise and assistance greatly enhanced my learning experience, leading towards academic growth and understanding.