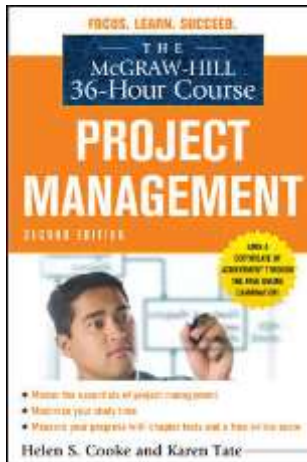


PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***The McGraw-Hill 36-Hour Course: Project Management – 2 edition***

Author: **Helen S. Cooke and Karen Tate**

Publisher: McGraw-Hill

List Price: \$21.00 Format: Soft cover, 400 pages

Publication Date: 2011

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Reviewer: **Rizwan Hasnie, PMP**

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Introduction

This book discusses generic Project Management and its strategies. The target readers are those curious about Project Management and those who are doing or are planning to do Project Management.

This is one of the books from “McGraw-Hill 36-Hour Course” series. It is written by two highly accomplished Project Managers who have also been active leaders in the Project Management institute (PMI).

Overview of Book’s Structure

The Book has twelve chapters spread over 326 pages. Each Chapter begins with Overview and Goals for that chapter. There are sections for Summary and Review Questions at the end of each chapter. There are also five Appendices in the book: Process Flowcharts, PM templates, Organizational Assessment, a Case Study and Deliverables’ Life cycle.

The book is aptly punctuated with graphs, diagrams, tables, charts and bullet points that make it easier to understand the material. The placement of the chapters and flow of the book is very logical and methodical.

After finishing the book and chapter quizzes, the reader can take the open book Final Exam. The Final Examination is available online that could be used to achieve Certificate of Achievement.

Highlights

The book starts with defining and justifying Project Management. The evolution of Project Management is addressed in a very interesting and informative way. The book discusses all project phases including inception, execution, and closeout in details with hands-on aspects.

The writers also make a very compelling case for having mature Project Management culture in any company. The pros and cons of several Project Management practices are also addressed.

Historical examples, frontline strategies, meaningful flowcharts and tables, reference templates, etc. are strengths of the book. In a nut-shell, this book basically tries to answer “What”, “Why”, “How”, and “When” of Project Management.

The book does have some shortcomings. For example, the book addresses Risks as “Threats” only and does not deliberate on “Opportunity” aspect of risks. Moreover whereas the contemporary PM practices view constraints with several variables (like scope, schedule, budget, quality, resources and risk), the book emphasizes on the classical, and now somewhat outdated, triple-constraints of schedule, scope and cost.

Highlights: What I liked!

I loved the discussion of the evolution of Project Management and arguments of some famous and ground-breaking projects of the past. I found the historical accounts of projects and undertakings and extraction of Project Management lessons from therein to be both enlightening and entertaining.

Moreover, some of the phrases in the book are really worth contemplating. Here is a sample of my favorite gems from the book.

- It stands to reason that you cannot manage what you cannot control, you cannot control what you have not planned, and you cannot plan what you have yet to define.
- Answering the unasked questions prepares the project to deliver on its promises.
- It is better to make a “good” communication now than perfect one later.

Who might benefit from the Book?

People who are new to Project Management will find it an interesting and useful read. The book has many real-world scenarios, practical tips and even some templates to help out those who are new in this field. The seasoned Project Managers could also benefit from the advice and experiences that the book offers.

Moreover, this book is a nice reference for teaching also. There are numerous stories and scenarios in the book that could be used to make any Project Management training course more useful and stimulating.

Conclusion

If you wanted to know what it takes to be a successful Project Manager in the real-world then this book is for you! This book effectively elaborates the challenges of being a Project Manager and offers frontline solutions.

The book is also a quick way to learn about the history of Project Management and its real world applications and impact. This makes the book a good guide and a source of supplemental information.

The book is not designed for PMP exam preparation. You may however use the book as a primer and reference for the exam preparation.

For more about this book, go to:

<http://www.36hourbooks.com/0071738274.php?c=toc>

<https://www.mhprofessional.com/9780071738279-usa-the-mcgraw-hill-36-hour-course-project-management-second-edition-group>

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Rizwan Hasnie has experience of over 20 years in Telecommunications & IT fields. He has worked on projects in USA, Canada, China, South Korea, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Currently he works for AT&T in Texas. He has taught professional and technical classes. He achieved his PMP certification in 2013. He also has Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University and has three AWS Cloud certifications.

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