Independent Research and Presentation in Class

Objectives
1. opportunity to engage in self-directed learning in the context of an independent research exploration
   1.1. this work is more conceptual than the course project and is intended to complement the general experience of the course project?
   1.2. in other words: it can be directly related to the course project, but it does not have to be!
2. you will form three teams of 3 members each (first come, first take) focused around the following topics
   2.1. team 1: design
   2.2. team 2: learning
   2.3. team 3: collaboration
   These are broad topics and you should define a focus for your investigation by finding a specific topic in your area of investigation.
3. some ideas:
   3.1. for your information gathering process use books, articles, opinion pieces, the WWW
   3.2. interview people (e.g., faculty members, PhD students, friends, colleagues at work, ..) about their insights and perspectives

Some Suggested References
the references below can help you to get you started — but you can also use as starting points some of the papers that we have discussed in class! Again, these are just to get you started—you should not limit yourselves to these resources.

Design

Learning

Collaboration

remark from Gerhard: if groups what to take a look at these three books: I have them and you can borrow them for some time
**Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>objective</th>
<th>date for posting on the class website</th>
<th>remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form a team (3 persons) and choose a topic</td>
<td>please start right away</td>
<td>find other students with whom you want to work and who would like to work with you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one page statement</td>
<td>Monday, Feb 25</td>
<td>name: (1) the members of your team; (2) your topic; (3) the more focused area of research within your topic indicate a strategy how you will conduct your research activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one page progress report</td>
<td>Wednesday March 13</td>
<td>inform us about the progress you have made (your information gathering phase should be completed) any modifications to the original plan plan for things remaining to be done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5 page final report</td>
<td>Monday, April 8; 10am</td>
<td>communicate your research in writing to the other students and instructors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>class presentations</td>
<td>April 8, 10, and 15</td>
<td>design a presentation providing the foundation for a class discussion use your creativity to make this something other than just a straightforward lecture-style presentation of your paper followed by discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remark:** all material should be posted (one posting per team) on the class Swiki on the dates indicated by 10:00am

**Assessment**

1. your contribution to this major aspect of the course will be assessed as follows:
   1.1. your work material submitted, including
      1.1.1. your “mastering” of the theme chosen by you
      1.1.2. your originality (i.e., just copying phrases from different sources will not do)
   1.2. your presentation in class

2. your work will be evaluated as a team effort — so hopefully all team members will act as “good contributors” to the collaborative effort!