

Independent Research and Presentation in Class

Objectives

1. opportunity to engage in self-directed learning in the context of a independent research exploration
 - 1.1. this work is more conceptual than the course project and is intended to *complement* complements 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: collaborationThese 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

Norman, D. A. (1993) *Things That Make Us Smart*, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Reading, MA.

Learning

Bruner, J. (1996) *The Culture of Education*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

Collaboration

Bennis, W. & Biederman, P. W. (1997) *Organizing Genius: The Secrets of Creative Collaboration*, Perseus Books, Cambridge, MA.

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

objective	date for posting on the class website	remarks
Form a team (3 persons) and choose a topic	please start right away	find other students with whom you want to work and who would like to work with you
one page statement	Monday, Feb 25	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
one page progress report	Wednesday March 13	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
3-5 page final report	Monday, April 8; 10am	communicate your research in writing to the other students and instructors
class presentations	April 8, 10, and 15	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

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!