

## Independent Research ("Book Report") 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 ("Hands-On") 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 teams of **2-5 members** each focused design, learning, collaboration. These are broad topics and you should define a focus for your investigation by finding a specific topic in your area of investigation. Themes for more specific research topics are:
  - 2.1. social creativity
  - 2.2. meta-design
  - 2.3. end-user development
  - 2.4. distributed cognition
3. some ideas:
  - 3.1. for your **information gathering process** use books, articles, opinion pieces, the WWW, information on Amazon about the suggested books
  - 3.2. **interview people** (e.g., faculty members, PhD students, friends, colleagues at work, ..) about their insights and perspectives
4. **interaction between teams**: the four different teams should interact with each other and see how their findings can profit from each other
5. discuss how your findings **relate to some of the other topics discussed in the class**

### Deliverables:

1. a **three to five page summary report** of your "book report"
2. **please post this report (and copies of your slides in case you use slides) on the Swiki not later than 10:00am on the day of your presentation!**
3. a **presentation in class**
  - 3.1. each team will have a full class session
  - 3.2. think about how to get the audience involved

### 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!

### **Timetable for Presentations:**

- Mo, 4/12**      **Collaborative Learning in Undergraduate Classrooms** (Bill Beachley, Jun Chen, Huda Khan, Sarah Kim-Warren Scott Zweig)
- Wed, 4/14**      **Learning: Theory and Practice** (Robert Surles, Jennifer Tamez)
- Mo, 4/19**      **Design of User-Friendly Systems** (Joel Clawson, Genevieve Hudak, Brock LaMeres, Kitty Turner)
- Wed, 4/21**      **Collaboration in Software Development Process** (Randell Rivadeneira, Rizwan Ansary, Andrew Skalet, Nilo Tsung)