Project Based Learning Class Syllabus
MIT ESP – HSSP
Summer 2013
Sam Shames

General Information
Instructor: Sam Shames
Instructor email: shames@mit.edu
Class Dates: Sundays July 7th – August 18th
Class time: 11:05-12:25
Class location: 14-0637
HSSP Office: 1-246

Class Overview
Learn how to become an expert at anything you think is cool.

This class teaches project planning, research methods, and communication skills that students use to pursue independent research projects on topics of their choice. Students present their work a form of their choice to their peers on the last class.

The class aims to show students how fun learning can be when given the opportunity to control what you learn and how you do it. It also aims to equip students with the tools and confidence to become independent learners capable of mastering any topic that interests them.

Class Structure

The class is divided into four modules, which corresponds to the four stages of completing an independent research project. The first three modules will be during the first threes of the class. Weeks four and five will be time for everyone to work independently on their projects. Week six will be devoted to communication, and week seven will be for presenting our work to each other.

Four Modules:
1) Defining a project
2) Research Methods
3) Project Planning & Execution
4) Communication

Week by Week Plan
Week 1: Introduction, Class Overview, Defining a project
Week 2: Project Planning
Week 3: Research Methods
Week 4/5: Independent Research
Week 6: Presentation Zen
Week 7: Projects and Pizza