

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 three 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