Welcome to 6.811!

September 3, 2014
Agenda

- Motivation
- Staff introduction
- Course overview, syllabus, and logistics
- Project example
Pre-Class Survey: Themes

- Interest in technologies that help people with disabilities
- Challenging design and engineering constraints
- Personal experience with disability
- Get out of the MIT bubble
Practical, Customized Assistive Technology

- Needs-driven, not technology-push
- Effective, usable, robust, affordable
Remembering Seth Teller (1964-2014)

Professor Seth Teller Memorial Service
Monday, September 29
2:30pm-7:00pm
Fall 2014 Course Staff

Grace Teo  
Instructor

Michelle Chen  
Teaching Assistant

William Li  
Instructor

Abby Klein  
Lab Assistant

Rob Miller  
Instructor

Ishwarya Ananthabhotla  
Lab Assistant

Maria Rebelo  
Course Admin

Jeff Dusek  
Lab Assistant

6.811: Principles and Practice of Assistive Technology, Fall 2014
http://courses.csail.mit.edu/PPAT
Fall 2014 Course Staff
William

- EECS PhD student (data science, speech recognition, assistive technology)

- Founded MIT AT Club; TA for PPAT in Fall 2011
Grace

- HST PhD ‘14, BioE/MechE
- Multidisciplinary, holistic approach to AT
- Founded Open Style Lab
PPAT Course Goals

1. Understand principles and complexities of assistive technology design and engineering.

2. Learn challenges and realities of people with disabilities and become equipped as an advocate.

3. Gain experience managing a team-based design/engineering project and working with a real client.
How PPAT works

- Lectures: MW1-2
- Labs: MW3-5
- Client meetings: Weekly

- Mentoring during W3-5 lab

Client & 3 students → Mentor → Client & 3 students
How PPAT works - your project

Check out “Project Progress” column in syllabus’ schedule

Sept 15: Client matching
Sept 22: Student-client matches announced
Lab check-ins every Wed lab, lots of prototyping/iterations
Oct 20 & 22: Mid-semester presentations
Nov 17: Deliver final prototype to client
Dec 1 & 3: Final presentations
Who are our clients?

Find out more on Sept 15!

- Community members (<1h away by T)
- Adventurous
- Educators
- Physical & cognitive disabilities
- Welcome to lectures & labs
## Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Four blog posts</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2-3 min video</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mid-semester presentations</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Online open-source documentation &amp; press release</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Final-semester presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Attendance, discussions, lab participation</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Peer feedback</td>
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PPAT Class Blog

- Goal: personalized reflection on disability and disability

- Four blog posts, from list of suggested topics
  - Attend a Boston-area event related to disability or AT
  - Write more about your client
  - Discuss a disability-related issue

- Deadline: every two weeks
Class Sites

**Stellar website:** All downloadable materials, including syllabus

**Google calendar:** Most updated schedule

**Wordpress:** Blog submission

**Vimeo:** Video submission

**Piazza:** Discussions/materials sharing
Lecture/Lab Expectations

• Presence and active participation
  ◦ No screens when there are guest speakers

• Full attendance at labs and lectures
Adding/Dropping

Ideal class size: 36
Number of preregistrants: 50

- Confirmation if you’re in the class by Friday
- Highly discouraged to drop after client matching on Sept 15, 2014.
Action Items

• Lab TODAY at 3pm-5pm (32-044) on communication/etiquette with people with disabilities
• Fill in the SURVEY: bit.ly/ppat2014survey

• Abilities Expo, September 5-7
  ◦ Go with PPAT: meet at 10:30am on the inbound platform at Kendall/MIT T Station
  ◦ Go directly: email ppat@csail.mit.edu or text us