INTRODUCTION

As you have probably noticed, self-directed learning is a big part of this course. Indeed, one of our course learning objectives is aimed directly at life-long learning skill building: 

Demonstrate a capacity for self-directed learning, including goal-setting and selection of learning strategies, time and effort management, personal motivation, resource discovery, and self-reflection and self-assessment.

To support this goal, I attempted to design the projects with room for you to explore and take control of your learning, within certain defined constraints. In addition, most of you specified personal learning goals at the start of the term – things that you wanted to get out of the experience. How did things go? Did you make progress toward your goals? Did you take control of your learning? Did you develop new knowledge, skills, or attitudes? Are you thinking differently about your learning? I’m interested in hearing how you’re doing so far, and how the course format may be contributing to or hindering your progress as a self-directed learner.

For this assignment, I’d like you to spend some time reflecting on your learning and recording your thoughts in writing. I am particularly interested in how you may have progressed as a self-directed learner over the semester, and how the course may have contributed toward your progress.

WRITTEN REFLECTION

Please provide a (one-page maximum) written reflection on your experiences thus far in the course. Some aspects of the course experience that you may consider reflecting upon include the following:

○ Your personal learning goals. Did you make progress toward your goals? Did your goals change? How did you evaluate progress toward your goals?

○ Your attitudes, motivations, and behaviors: What did you learn about your personal beliefs or attitudes toward learning? What aspects of learning did you find intrinsically motivating, or personally relevant or valuable? What strategies did you use to maintain perseverance, motivation, and interest? How did you manage your time and effort?

○ Your interactions with others: How did your teaming interactions affect your engagement in the course, or your learning? Did your instructor interactions have any effects on your learning approaches or outcomes? Did you gain any new insights or skills with regard to interactions with others?

○ Your thinking, and your thinking about your thinking (cognitive and metacognitive skills): Did you gain any insights into your own learning processes? Did you build skills in setting goals, selecting learning strategies, finding and using resources, diagnosing problems, monitoring and adapting your approaches, or self-evaluating outcomes?

This is your reflection, so please make it work for you. Comment only on the things you feel are relevant to your experience. I won’t be grading your self-reflection in the traditional sense – you’ll get full credit if you submit a thoughtful written reflection. I just want to learn how this course is contributing (or not) toward your development. Write your reflection as a word document or pdf. Please email your reflection to me by midnight on Thursday, December 18.

Thanks everyone! Have a wonderful winter break!