Welcome to 6.811!
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
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!

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

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<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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<tr>
<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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<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
Lecture/Lab Expectations

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

• Full attendance at labs and lectures