**AUTONOMOUS LANGUAGE LEARNING FINAL PROJECT- OVERVIEW**

You choose what you want to research, to study. Restrictions are noted below by the key word **must**.

Everything in your project **must** be English only.

GOAL: To improve your English skills by working on a self-chosen & self-directed final project.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: Your very neatly handwritten or typed proposal **must** be uploaded to Moodle by **before class begins** on Week #2.

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORTS- DEADLINE: You will complete a weekly progress report of what you achieved on your project during Weeks 3 – 8 & 10 – 11 (n= 8). The completed reports must be uploaded to Moodle **before class begins** on each of those weeks, even if there is no class.

PROJECT DEADLINE: ALL projects **must** be completed by Week 13.

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT DEADLINE: This MUST be turned in on or before the end of class in Week 13 or your total project score is zero! There are ***no exceptions***.

One on One MEETING REQUIREMENTS: You MUST meet with the teacher at least two times during class time during the semester to discuss the progress of your project and any questions or concerns you have. Both meetings **must** be before Week 12: 1 time Weeks 3 – 6; 1 time Week 7, 8, 10, or 11. Failure to meet with the teacher two times will result in a lower score.

PROPOSAL FORMAT REQUIREMENTS: Your proposal acts like a contract between you and the teacher. Your proposal includes the following: 1) Name. 2) Specifies exactly what you will do in your project. 3) Specifies exactly what you want to learn by doing this project. 4) Discusses approximately how many hours you will work on this project. 5) Discusses how you will either present your project or discuss it in front of the class (see below). 6) Discusses where you will try to get your information for your project. 7) Discusses why you chose this project. 8) Mentions how your classmates might assist you (they do NOT have to) and mentions how your teacher will help you (they MUST). 9) Discusses exactly how you will present this material to the class.

Finally, this last step is very important because **you** **must** decide the grade you will receive for your project. Of course, you and I **must** agree on a suitable and appropriate grade. But, generally, you decide how you will be graded and what grade you will receive.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: You MUST do this individually, BUT you may assist each other.

Individually: Some people prefer to work alone. Please choose a project especially meaningful to you.

Groups: If you work in a group, then everyone should be working on the same theme, but with different topics. For example, if you want to learn the *meaning* of an English song, everyone in your group should want to learn the *meaning* of an English song too. Each member in the group, however, should work on a different song, not the same one.

*Please discuss any ideas, suggestions, or thoughts you have with the teacher*.

CLASS PRESENTATION: You MUST do one of the following: 1) Present your project to the entire class; 2) Discuss your project to the entire class. This varies depending on which kind of project you choose to do. Some projects cannot be "presented" to a class, some can. Some projects can be presented to the entire class, like giving a speech. In this project then, you would give your speech to the entire class. Some projects cannot be presented to the entire class, for example, improving your pronunciation. For this project then, you would tell the class what your project was, how you achieved your goal, and what you learned.

TIME LIMIT FOR CLASS PRESENTATION: This will vary for each project. However, 5 – 7 minutes is likely the maximum. Three full minutes is the minimum. Students who need extra time to present their project should consult the teacher at least 2 weeks prior to the presentations to arrange more time.

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT: You will receive this paper after you complete your project. It is due the last class meeting or your final project score is ZERO! You discuss what you learned/didn't learn, what was good/bad, what was helpful/not helpful, what was useful/not useful, what you wish you could have changed, and ANY OTHER comments you have about this project. *PLEASE BE COMPLETELY HONEST*. You receive one mark for this report: You complete the report and turn it in- Pass; you do NOT complete the report or turn it in- Fail (**and** your final project score is ZERO!)

This paper **must** be turned in. No e-copies! You may modify the formatting to fit your information, however.

LEARNER RESPONSIBILITIES: Your responsibilities are the following: do this project to the best of your abilities; teach yourself something about English; and teach yourself self-selected information in English; follow all the requirements above.

TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES: My responsibilities are to act as a resource, give advice, and to help you complete your project. Both you and I are responsible for your grade. When you need my assistance in ANY WAY, then you need to make an appointment during Cubicle Hours. You can see me after class if there is time. I will try to help you find material for your project. I will try to tell you where you can look for more information. I will try to advise you on what I think is "good or bad." If you need or want to discuss your project, I am here to listen. If you need advice, contact me. If you want to tell me what is happening with your project, please talk with me. If you want help, ideas, comments, suggestions, or to talk about your project, CONTACT ME. You MUST meet with me at least two times to discuss your progress. If you want to meet with me more often or only these two times is your decision. Please make an appointment for any visits.

STUDENT SUGGESTIONS (*THESE ARE STUDENTS' WORDS, NOT MINE!!!);*\*You should spend more time on English project. Find the interested way to make yourself learnmore. This is really very helpful for your future. \*Do your best on the project. Spend some timeon it. It will help you get more knowledge you can't find in your books. \*Sorry. I don't like it.\*Choose a topic they really like it. And be sure the topic you really want to do it. Finish it as youcould as possible. \* I think students should choice the subject that not only you are interested inbut also can help you to improve your English abilities, \*lf students really want to learn Englishwell, they should be do it really. \*Don't be afraid to read, speak, write, and listen to English, \*l think English isn't a monster. We should make it be friendly with English. \*You must do the project certainly and work hard. \*Don't give up learning English by your favorite way. \*l really want to suggest them to learn English by a funny way. \*l think everything is up to everyone. \*They will gain most by practicing English continuously, \*lf you want to study English, you don't have to go to "Buxiban: or buy more books. Because the materials are all around you: tv programs, commercials, and your old books. That's totally enough for you. \*Often talk to teacher. He will help you to solve difficult. \*You must choose the topics that you are interested. Do your best and discuss it with teachers or friends. So you could learn completely. \*They can discuss their own project to each other. \*Choose a good project which are interesting in. Do well job with your group. Find more information. \*Find a project you can do really. \*Learning English is not only reading an English book. I think that differentways of learning English may be also good. \*They can try to find many information. To learn theways to do it. \*Find what is your interesting in English. Then you can learn English happily.\*Don't afraid English. English is very interesting, when you like it. \*Work hard. You will gain alot of things. \*Try to do the project and have fun in learning English. \*Must keep your projectNo stop. \*Make a target. And be sure to carry out. \*English is very hard to learn. You can notlearn it well in a short time. So if we keep our mind to learn it well, someday we will learnEnglish well. \*They must be a spontaneous student. Because study is one's own business. Only depends on oneself just could success.

WHY? This is probably the biggest question you might ask yourself. It might be your biggest complaint too. There are many reasons why you are doing your own project, but I will discuss them only briefly. If you want to talk about it in more detail, please make an appointment during Cubicle Hours.

One of the most important tasks you should gain at university is how to learn. Many people have never thought about how to teach themselves something without having a teacher's help. But, who will help you after you graduate? Will you continue to attend *buxiban*? What happens if you can't find a teacher? What happens if you can't afford to hire a tutor? How much learning independence do you have after 15+ years of formal education?!

Most of the time, the teacher tells you what you need to learn. Most of the time, you memorize material but don't really learn very much. Most of the time, you learn things that you think are useless. Most of the time, you have no choice in what you would you would like to learn. Most of the time, you never learn how to apply what you have learned.

This project allows you to do something that you want to do, teach yourself something, learn what you think is important, decide what you want to learn, and try to apply what you have learned.

The MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED question most English teachers have is "How can I improve my English?" But, how can you improve your English if you don't know how to learn independently? Why do you think there are so many *buxibans*? Why do so many people spend so much time and so much money to learn English, but never succeed? One of my teachers taught me, "I can't learn you anything." Think about what this teacher said, what this teacher meant.

Some people will truly enjoy this project and thrive. Some people will hate it because you will think it is very difficult. You might think it is torture now. For those of you who will go to graduate school, you will be happy you had this experience. For those who simply want to finish university and get your degree, you will not be happy.

You can contact me at my email address <shanemcu@yahoo.com> if you have any issues that you would like to discuss. It is better, however, to stop by my desk during cubicle hours.

Please *TRY* to learn something. *TRY* to teach yourself how to learn English.Please *TRY* to have fun. It is *NOT* meant to be torture.

Really!

Good Luck