

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Strategic Foresight and Futuring

Course Number and Section:

MOS

4489G 550

Instructor Name(s): Jan Klakurka

Instructor Email(s): jklakurk@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This course examines the future and how organizations, institutions, society and individuals can prepare for it. In this course, students will explore the discipline of strategic foresight, being introduced to the tools and techniques of understanding, conceptualizing, and communicating alternative viewpoints of the future. Acting as “student-futurists”, students will undertake scanning activities to accumulate cross-disciplinary data and assess trends. They will learn about scenario planning and ways to articulate various alternative views of the future. Students will take a systems-wide approach, applying critical thinking, to help them better understand the points of integration across their future organizations and broader parts of society. Finally, students will integrate their evolving understanding of the future to holistically plan how organizations – and their employees, stakeholders and the societies in which they operate – succeed in reaching their goals through anticipation, design and implementation of novel approaches and techniques that generate sustainable advantages. Students will apply an ambidextrous mindset that can be later taken to their organizations and personal lives to understand the context of emerging trends, effect on personal and corporate aspirations, and impact on societal norms.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand broadly the discipline of strategic foresight

Conceptualize and communicate alternative viewpoints of the future

Learn about horizon scanning and trend-spotting

Learn about scenario planning and other foresight & futures studies techniques

Learn about systems thinking and integrated approaches in the organizational context

Textbooks and Course Materials:

The Future: A Very Short Introduction, Gidley, J. Oxford University Press, 2017, 978-0198735281

Weekly readings (available on OWL)

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Participation	Daily	20
Futures Studies Literature Review	2/5/24	10
Trend-spotting Assignment	2/26/24	20
Horizon Scanning Log	4/1/24	5
Scenario Planning Project	3/18/24	25
Group Aspirational Foresight Report	4/1/24	20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Thursday, December 7, 2023