

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Strategic Foresight and Futuring

Course Number and Section:

MOS

4489G 550

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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 various ways of understanding the future

Gaining interdisciplinary insights into various organizational contexts

Learn tools to undertake foresight exercises in practice

Understand approaches to trend-spotting and sensemaking

Learn about personal and institutional anticipation

Textbooks and Course Materials:

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

Readings (available on BrightSpace)

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	Daily	20
Futures Studies Literature Review	02/04/25	10
Trend-spotting Assignment	03/04/25	20
Horizon Scanning Log	04/01/25	5
Scenario Planning Report	03/18/25	25
Aspirational Foresight Group Project	04/01/25	20

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

Monday, December 9, 2024