Syllabus: FORE 6351 Futures Research
Fall 2018
Course Time/Location: Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 pm US Central Time
Cameron 229 or online at Zoom (link to be provided)
Instructor: Andy Hines
Office Hours: by appointment
Contact: ahines@uh.edu Skype: ahinesfuturist

Futures Research is a survey course about the methods and tools that professional futurists use to help people understand, map, and influence the future. It is organized around the six framework activities: framing, scanning, forecasting (futuring), visioning, planning (designing), acting (adapting). In addition to exploring the basics of the framework, we explore various additional techniques and options for carrying out these activities. This is the core course for learning how to carry out a foresight project!

Objectives

The student will understand and become familiar with:

- The Framework Foresight process for exploring the future of a domain/topic
- Several methods for carrying out each of the six framework activities
- Why and how to select a particular method

Required Texts (available from UH bookstore)

- Andy Hines & Peter Bishop, Thinking about the Future, (2nd edition), 2015 (note: the 2nd edition has a new chapter on Framework Forecasting that is worth having!)

And each student will do a synopsis of a book about scenario planning. Some suggestions are provided below. Please get approval from the instructor first.

- De Ruijter, Paul. 2014 Scenario-based strategy. .
- Kahane, Adam & Van Der Heijden. 2012. Transformative scenario panning.
- Ramirez, Rafael and Angela Wilkinson. 2016. Strategic


Interaction

The course is conducted online. Grading and assignments are housed on the Blackboard website (www.uh.edu/blackboard). Daily interaction (except for assignments) will be conducted on Canvas (https://canvas.instructure.com/). All instructions, materials and submissions are done through the websites.

Classes are held on Wednesday evenings in Cameron 229. Students can come to the classroom, or link in via Zoom, or listen to an archived recording of the class. Zoom offers two-way voice interaction and a shared desktop. We encourage students who come to the Cameron 229 classroom to bring a laptop or e-pad.

Activities and Assignments

See separate schedule document. The key assignment is that each student will pick a futures-related topic to develop a framework forecast around. The pieces of the framework are chopped up into smaller bites in “assignments,” so it is worked on it throughout the semester. Students will also submit 5 scanning hits relating to their framework project, and a review a book on scenarios. There are also weekly discussion posts.

Grading

The breakdown:

Assignments: Framework Foresight Project  65%
Assignments: Scanning hits (part of FF project)  15% (5@3% each)
Activities: Discussion postings   15%
Scenario Book Review:     5%

Criteria

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Demonstrates exceptional mastery of concepts, expression, and application of course materials. No improvable items</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100 for super- awesome!</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Only one or two minor improvable items.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>Grade Description</td>
<td>Evaluation Criteria</td>
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<td>85</td>
<td>Solid Competence</td>
<td>Demonstrates good ability to meet specifications of assignments and evaluation criteria. Only one major or more than two minor improvable items.</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Meets Minimum Expectations</td>
<td>Demonstrates adequate performance on assignments and meeting evaluation criteria. More than one major improvable item.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Below Expectations</td>
<td>Some value, but serious deficiencies</td>
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**Resubmitting Assignments**

Students may re-submit assignments **one time** to make improvements based on instructor feedback.

**Late Assignments**

Assignments are given due dates in the schedule and in Blackboard. Late assignments are deducted a one-time 10 point penalty and may be submitted any time thereafter with just that penalty. So, there is no good excuse not to submit an assignment!

**Discussion Post Scoring**

For discussion posts, it’s a simple two point system: 2 points if you are on time, and one point if you are late, but you can post late right up until the final deadline for all work.

**Other policies**

*Academic honesty policy.* All UH students are responsible for knowing the standards of academic honesty. Please refer to the UH catalog. Plagiarism, using research without citations or using a created production (such as other people’s words) without quotations or citations, will result in a grade penalty or failure of the course. Internet sources must be credited according to the sites recommended citation guideline if available. If no citation guideline is provided by the web source, then the date, URL site owner, and author must be included with the web material used.

*Disabilities:* If you have a disability and need a special accommodation consult first with the Coordinator of Health Disabilities Services, Bayou 1402, telephone 283-2627, and then discuss the accommodation with me.

*Incompletes:* A grade of "I" is given only in cases of documented emergency or special circumstances late in the semester, provided that the student has been making satisfactory progress. An Incomplete Grade Contract must be completed.

Last day to drop a course or withdraw with a ‘W’ is **November 1, 2018**.