Syllabus: FORE 6351 Futures Research
Fall 2022
Course Time/Location: Tuesday, 5:30-8:30 pm US Central Time
Virtual Class on Zoom: https://uh-edu-cougarnet.zoom.us/j/9091039346
Instructor: Andy Hines
Office Hours: by appointment
Contact: ahines@uh.edu Skype: ahinesfuturist

Futures Research covers our core approach to exploring the future. It is based primarily around our Framework Foresight process supplemented by many different variations, tools, and techniques. It covers the basic ways that professional futurists use to help people and organizations understand, map, and influence the future. It is organized around the six framework activities: framing, scanning, futuring, visioning, designing, and adapting. 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 six framework activities
- Why and how to select a particular method

Required Texts
- 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!)
- Richard Slaughter & Andy Hines, *The Knowledge Base of Futures Studies 2020*. (note: it's $29.95, but free if you join APF as a student for $50).

Optional
- Jerry Glenn & Ted Gordon (eds.), *Futures Research Methodology V3.0*, CD, Washington DC, Millennium Project, 2012. Ordering info at http://107.22.164.43/millennium/FRM-V3.html

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.

- Chermack, Tom. 2017. *Foundations of Scenario Planning: The Story of Pierre Wack*
- Cairns, George and George Wright. 2017. *Scenario Thinking: Preparing Your Organization for the Future in an Unpredictable World*, 2nd ed.
- De Ruijter, Paul. 2014 *Scenario-based strategy.*

- Fahey, Liam & Randall, Robert (eds.) 1998. *Learning from the Future: Competitive Foresight Scenarios.*
- Georgantzas, Nicholas & William Acar. 1995. *Scenario-Driven Planning.*
- Hawken, Paul, Peter Schwartz & Jay Ogilvy. 1992. *Seven Tomorrows.*
- Kahane, Adam & Van Der Heijden. 2012. *Transformative scenario panning.*

- Lindgren, Mats & Bandhold, Hans. 2003. *Scenario Planning: The Link between Future and Strategy*.
- Ogilvy, Jay. 2002. *Creating Better Futures.*
- Ramirez, Rafael and Angela Wilkinson. 2016. *Strategic Reframing: The Oxford Scenario Planning Approach*.
- Wilkinson, Angela and Roland Kupers. 2015. *The Essence of Scenarios: Learning from the Shell Experience.*

- Ringland, Gill. 1998. *Scenario Planning: Managing for the Future* or *Scenarios in Public Policy*. 2002.
- Schwartz, Peter. 1996. *The Art of the Long View*.
- Van Der Heijden, Kees. 1996. *Scenarios: The Art of Strategic Conversation*. Or *The Sixth Sense*, 2002.
- Wilson, Ian & Bill Ralston. 2006. *The Scenario Planning Handbook*.

Interaction

Classes are held virtually on Wednesday evenings via Zoom (https://uofh.zoom.us/j/97624980744). If you can't make the virtual class, you can listen to an archived recording. Links to the recordings will be posted in the Zoom discussion forum in Blackboard. Regular communication with the instructor should be through blackboard, but you can use regular email if it's urgent (ahines@uh.edu) -- Skype if you're international (ahinesfuturist).

Activities and Assignments

See separate schedule document. The key assignment is that each student will pick a futures-related topic to develop a framework foresight project 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

Points	Category	Description
95	Excellent; 100 for super- awesome!	Demonstrates exceptional mastery of concepts, expression, and application of course materials. No improvable items
90	Very Good	Only one or two minor improvable items.
85	Solid Competence	Demonstrates good ability to meet specifications of assignments and evaluation criteria. Only one major *or* more than two minor improvable items

80	Meets Minimum Expectations	Demonstrates adequate performance on assignments and meeting evaluation criteria. More than one major improvable item.
75	Below Expectations	Some value, but serious deficiencies

Resubmitting Assignments

Students may re-submit assignments **one time** to make improvements based on instructor feedback. Please highlight your changes in a different color font!

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 **April 20, 2022.**