

International Relation and Political Sciences (IRPS)

Academic year 2021 - 2022

Future Thinking and Foresight Practice

RI-SP121- Autumn- 3 ECTS

Course Description

Foresight is a strategic planning tool that envisages alternative futures. This short-course will focus on the study of foresight tools adapted for horizon scanning and its application by participants in the course.

> PROFESSOR

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Syllabus

The course will meet every fortnight on Wednesday from 10:15 – 12:00.
To facilitate collaborative work, students will have access to a virtual collaboration space on MURAL.

Course Objectives

The main objectives are threefold: a) give an understanding of the strategic foresight approach and its horizon scanning components; b) equip the participants to develop their own foresight analysis based upon these components, and c) lay the ground for an integration of foresight with other approaches, such as design thinking and systems-thinking.

Requirements

a) *Foresight Paper* (60% of the course grade)

The main output of the class is the production of a short foresight report on the “Future of ??” jointly produced with 3-4 other students. The choice of the topic of the foresight will have to be decided no later than October 15.

b) *Class participation* (40% of the grade)

This course showcases collective intelligence processes and therefore active participation is essential. This is particularly the case in sessions 3, 4, 5 and 6 where we will practice intensively during the course. Those four sessions will each count for ¼ of the participation grade.

Schedule and Readings (DRAFT, FINAL VERSION DISTRIBUTED ON FIRST DAY OF CLASS)

All readings with (*) are mandatory readings.

September 22 (Session 1): **Introduction to the course: the mainstreaming of foresight in organizations**

(*) Schoemaker, Paul J.H. and George Day (2021). « Preparing Organizations for Greater Turbulence, » *California Management Review*, 63(4): 64-86

(*) Scoblic, Peter (2020). « Learning from the Future, » *Harvard Business Review*, July-August, pp. 37-47

(*) OECD (2019), *Strategic Foresight for Better Policies*, October.

(*) EU (2021) <https://www.2021portugal.eu/en/news/first-meeting-of-eu-ministers-for-the-future-launches-foresight-network/>

October 6 (Session 2): **Discovering foresight via selected examples**

(*) EU (2017). *White Paper on the future of Europe*. Brussels: European Commission

(*) IATA (2017). *Future of the airline industry 2035*. Geneva: IATA

(*) PwC (2018). *Workforce of the future*.

Gidley, Jennifer (2017). *The Future. A very short introduction*. Oxford: OUP.

October 20 (Session 3): **Calibration: trends and drivers**

(*) Blackrock (2018). *Mega trends*.

(*) European Parliament (2020). *Global mega-trends: scanning the post-coronavirus horizon* (PE 659.344, November).

(*) EY (2020). *Megatrends 2020 and beyond*.

(*) OECD (2019). *Envisioning the future of education and jobs. Trends, data and drawings*.

November 3 (Session 4): **Sensing innovation: signals**

November 17 (Session 5): **Imagining alternative futures: scenarios**

(*) CLTC and WEF (2018). *Cybersecurity Scenarios for 2025*.

(*) FES (2009). *The Geneva Scenarios on Global Economic Governance*. Geneva: FES.

(*) IFTF (2021). *After the pandemic. What happens next?*

(*) Mont Fleur Scenarios in *Deeper News*, vol. 7(1).

December 8 (Session 6): **From foresight to strategic action: insights**

December 22 (Session 7): **Group presentations**

CD, August 2021