Syllabus: FORE 6351 Futures Research
Fall 2017
Course Time/Location: Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 pm US Central Time
Cameron 229 or online at http://uh.adobeconnect.com/research/
Instructor: Andy Hines
Office Hours: by appointment
Contact: ahines@uh.edu; 832.367.5575; 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, visioning, planning, acting. In addition to exploring the basics of the framework, we explore various additional techniques and options for carrying out these activities.

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 why 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!)
- Jerry Glenn & Ted Gordon (eds.), *Futures Research Methodology V3.0*, CD, Washington DC, Millennium Project, 2012.

And each student will do a synopsis of a different book from the list below. Get clearance from the instructor before obtaining your choice.

- De Ruijter, Paul, *Scenario-based strategy.* 2014.
- Fahey, Liam & Randall, Robert (eds.) *Learning from the future: Competitive foresight scenarios.* 1998.
- Georgantzas, Nicholas & Acar, William. *Scenario-driven planning*. 1995.
- Hawken, Paul, Schwartz, Peter, & Ogilvy, Jay, Seven Tomorrows, 1992.
- Kahane, Adam & Van Der Heijden, *Transformative scenario panning.* 2012

- Lindgren, Mats & Bandhold, Hans. *Scenario planning: The link between future and strategy*. 2003.
- ManyWorlds. *Grasping the future: Comparing scenario planning to other forecasting techniques*. 2001.
- Ogilvy, Jay. *Creating better futures.* 2002.
- Ringland, Gill, *Scenario planning: Managing for the future*. 1998. OR *Scenarios in public policy*. 2002.
- Schwartz, Peter. *The Art of the Long View*. 1996.

- Van Der Heijden, Kees. *Scenarios: The art of strategic conversation*. 1996.

- Wilson, Ian & Ralston, Bill *The Scenario Planning Handbook*

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 conduct 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 AdobeConnect, or listen to an archived recording of the class. Adobe Connect offers two-way voice interaction and a shared desktop. We encourage students who come to the Cameron 229 classroom to bring a laptop or 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 do a book review. 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.

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 **October 31, 2017**.