

## **Syllabus**

**FORE 6311: Introduction to Foresight**

**Fall 2016**

**Course Time/Location: Cameron 229, Monday 5:30-8:30 pm US Central Time**

**Instructor: Terry Grim**

**Suite: Cameron 221**

**Office Hours: by appt (online) Usually there an hour before class starts as well**

**Contact: [tegrim@gmail.com](mailto:tegrim@gmail.com) (preferred) / 832-549-0378/Skype (terry.grim1)**

**Prerequisites: None**

## **Overview**

This course explores the field of foresight, presenting an overview of the discipline and a base and context for thinking about the future. While, it is a survey course for a majority of the methods and courses that follow, it also provides a perspective and foundation for those that want an approach for thinking about the future in other disciplines.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the course are for students to become:

- familiar with important concepts in foresight
- familiar with basic foresight approaches and methods
- capable of applying greater foresight about emerging issues, trends, impacts, and their implications
- excited about the foresight field

## **Required Texts**

Foresight courses require a lot of reading. The type of reading for this course, however, is for overall comprehension and understanding, not for facts and details. Therefore, you can and should read these in a way that gives you an overall picture and allows you to extract for yourself the most important terms and ideas. You should not read for every detail.

The required text is:

- *Teaching about the Future*, P. Bishop & Andy Hines [Available in UH bookstore]

There are other readings that will be provided online during the course.

## **Approach**

The foundation of the course is built around two documents—this syllabus and the schedule about)—found under “Syllabus” in Canvas. Your first step is to study these documents, ask any questions you wish, and then get into the introductory activities.

## Class activities

The instructor will typically lead off with a PPT to introduce some ideas about the topic we are covering that week. We review readings and occasionally do an activity or exercise. Beginning in Week Four, we will ask a few students to share their Elevator Speeches to kick off each class.

## Scanning hits

Each student will submit 5 scanning hits to “assignments” using the template form, one for each of the five STEEP categories.

## **Activities, assignments and reflections**

The week begins and ends at midnight on the night before the class meeting (i.e., Sunday night) so material can be prepared for the class meeting. All assignments are due at that time. Assignments may be turned in late, If an assignment **is more than 3 weeks late**, it will not be accepted unless there is previous agreement with the Instructor.

Class meetings are held at 5:30 pm (US Central Time) in Room 229 Cameron Hall. Those online can participate via Adobe connect (information will be provided). Overall, the assignments should not take any more than 10 hours each week (including participating in class), and many weeks less. Please contact the instructor if you find yourself having to spend more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis.

**No portfolio – you may revise and re-submit an assignment one time.**

**Topical Schedule** (see separate Schedule doc for details on each week)

## Date

Week 1. Aug. 22: Orientation

Week 2. Aug. 27: Introduction to Foresight

Week 3. The Field (No class – Labor Day)

Week 4. Sept. 12: Framework Foresight

Week 5. Sept 19: Framing & Scanning

Week 6. Sept. 26: Systems Perspective

Week 7. Oct. 3: Social Change

Week 8: Oct. 10: Baseline Forecasting / Alternative Forecasts

Week 9: Oct. 17: Images (No class – work on assignments)

Week 10. Oct. 24: Finish Alternative Forecasts (no class – work on assignments)

Week 11. Oct. 31: Visioning & Leadership

Week 12. Nov. 7: Planning

Week 13. Nov. 14: Futures Perspectives (No class – work on assignments)

Week 14. Nov. 21: No class – Thanksgiving

Week 15. Nov 28: Creating Change

Dec. 5 midnight – final deadline for all work

## Grading

The breakdown:

“Regular” weekly assignments	50%
Assignments: Scanning hits	15% (5@3% each)
Activities: Discussion postings	20%
Participation in class – online / discussion	15%

Submissions are assessed on a five-point scale according to the following criteria –

- A = outstanding submission, shows considerable insight and/or proficiency
- B = good submission, shows more insight and/or proficiency than required
- C = acceptable submission, shows insight and/proficiency required
- D = poor submission, shows less insight/proficiency than required
- F = failed submission, shows no insight/proficiency

### Re-submission

Students may revise and re-submit any assignment one time – at any point in the semester before Dec. 5 at midnight. If you’re not happy with your grade or would like to improve your submission, you can respond to the feedback that comes with the grade, and re-submit one time....**provided you clearly indicate changes in different color font and explain as needed.**

### Lateness

For assignments, any submission more than one week late (but not over 3 weeks late) is reduced by a letter grade (10 points). That is the only penalty, so even a very late assignment should absolutely be turned in – in other words, there is no good reason to not turn in every assignment.

For discussion forum posts, on-time posts judged to be of sufficient quality, get two points. Any post more than one week late, earns one point. As with assignments, discussions cannot be submitted more than 3 weeks late. The goal, of course, is to keep up as we go. Your comments to others posts will also be considered.

### **Interaction**

The course is conducted online. Grading and assignments are housed on the Blackboard website ([www.uh.edu/blackboard](http://www.uh.edu/blackboard)). Daily interaction (except for assignments) will be conducted on Canvas: <https://canvas.instructure.com/>. Students should visit canvas to see the weekly checklist of topics, readings, posts, and what the assignments are. The only reason to visit Blackboard is to submit assignments and see how they are graded (this is done for security reasons). So, to be clear, the course is primarily on Canvas, with the exception of assignments.

Classes are held on Monday 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 are encouraging student who come to the Cameron 229 classroom to bring a laptop or pad and a comfortable headset. While we have a room-based microphone, the sound experience is far superior when everyone uses a headset.

Participation is 15% of the grade. Attending class either through your presence or AdobeConnect is one of the easiest ways to participate. The discussion topics are there specifically as discussion topics so that class members can discuss and learn from each other. It is expected that each person will actively participate and engage with the canvass discussions.

### **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,

**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.

**Withdrawals:** Last day to drop a course or withdraw with a "W" is **Oct. 28, 2016.**