

EMERGING FUTURES: SOCIETAL INNOVATION MEETS FUTURES STUDIES

COURSE CONTENT, STRUCTURE, AND PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH

Futures Literacy : Navigating Tomorrow's Possibilities

At its core, Futures Literacy empowers individuals to explore and comprehend diverse future scenarios, providing a foundation for making well-informed decisions in the present. This transformative skill set involves the development of the capacity to identify, analyze, and envision various potential futures. It equips individuals and organizations alike to navigate uncertainties and adapt to change effectively. By fostering an understanding of anticipation mechanisms, this training enables the utilization of future insights for innovation in the present, fostering proactive and informed decision-making.

Endorsed by UNESCO, Futures Literacy is widely acknowledged as one of the most crucial competencies for the 21st century. Our course curriculum offers a comprehensive introduction to Futures Literacy tailored for third-year bachelor students. It encompasses practical experience in a Futures Literacy Lab, a deep dive into theoretical foundations, facilitation training, and hands-on lab facilitation practice. The curated bibliography includes key works in the field, forming the basis for enriching discussions and deepening knowledge throughout the course.

Social Foresight : Anticipating Societal Change

Social Foresight, an interdisciplinary field, is dedicated to understanding and anticipating the social dimensions of change. This includes an examination of trends, challenges, and opportunities that may impact societies and communities in the future. Our course is designed to impart the fundamental principles of Futures Studies and essential skills required for communities or institutions to adopt a forward-looking approach to challenges.

The discipline of Social Foresight contributes to decision-making processes, policy development, and strategic planning for various stakeholders such as governments, businesses, NGOs, and more. It integrates key elements of strategic foresight, involving the identification and analysis of emerging trends, opportunities, and potential risks to formulate informed strategies and action plans. One of the key objectives of this training is to foster an understanding of different types of futures and how to effectively utilize them for present-day action.

Additionally, the course delves into systemic thinking - an approach that examines relationships, interactions, and dependencies among different system components. Emphasizing the importance of viewing the system as a whole, this perspective encourages participants to go beyond isolated elements, providing a holistic understanding of complex systems.

Enrich your academic journey by immersing yourself in the profound insights offered by Futures Literacy and Social Foresight—essential tools for navigating the complexities of our ever-evolving world.

Description of the teaching methods

- Lectures, group work, learning by doing, assessments.
- Feedback during the teaching period.
- Lectures will provide feedback along the course. During the first week, special slots for check-in and check-out have the goal of providing feedback and verifying key take-aways from students.

Student workload

- Class preparation of 30 hours readings.
- Optional online videos and podcasts of around 30 hours.
- Teamwork 5-10 hours.
- Lectures 40 hours.
- Futures Literacy lab 20 hours.

Further information

- Short 2-week course initiated by Aurora.
- We reserve the right to cancel the course if we do not get enough applications. This will be communicated on webpage in start March.
- Expected literature will be provided after enrollment.