ISM UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS

APPROVED BY
THE STUDY COMMISSION
Minutes No. 02-12-2023-03
as of 1st February 2023

GLOBAL ISSUES AND FUTURES THINKING

Course code	*HUM165*
Compulsory in the programmes	-
Level of studies	*Undergraduate*
Number of credits	*6 ECTS (48 in-class hours + 6 consultation hours + 2 exam hours, 104 individual work hours)*
Course coordinator (title and name)	*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jonathan Boyd*
Prerequisites	-
Language of instruction	*English*

THE AIM OF THE COURSE:

Futures Thinking is a multidisciplinary method for thinking constructively and creatively about the future, starting from the assumption that the future is not something that will happen *to* us tomorrow but is being created *by* us today. Students will be introduced to the major changes that will occur in the next 10, 20 or more years, including global warming, inequality, global health, and the future of work, among others. In each area, students will understand how experts have created scenarios to cope with uncertainty, identify dynamics, develop policy choices, assess alternatives, and ultimately, make decisions. Students will be immersed in Futures Thinking through discussing and debating influential reports – for example, by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the OECD, the United Nations, and McKinsey Global Institute. Students will then work collaboratively to assess the potential local impact of these global trends and evaluate local examples of Futures Thinking.

MAPPING OF COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES) WITH DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES (See Annex), ASSESMENT AND TEACHING METHODS

Course level learning outcomes (objectives)	**Degree level learning objectives (Number of LO)**	**Assessment methods**	**Teaching methods**
CLO1. Students will be familiar with the methods of 'futures thinking' and scenario approaches to problem solving;	BLO1.1 ELO1.1	Exam Presentations	Lecture
CLO2. Students will understand the basics of key global issues facing governments, businesses, and individuals;	BLO1.1 BLO2.1 ELO1.1 ELO2.1	Exam Presentations	Lecture
CLO3. Students will interpret and critically assess key influential reports about future scenarios from international organisations and research institutions;	BLO1.2 ELO1.2 BLO4.2 ELO4.2	Presentations	Seminar
CLO4. Students will place global issues in a local context and evaluate local responses and decisions on these issues.	BLO1.2 BLO2.1 BLO4.1 BLO4.2 ELO1.2 ELO2.1 ELO4.1 ELO4.2	Presentations	Seminar

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The ISM University of Management and Economics Code of Ethics, including cheating and plagiarism are fully applicable and will be strictly enforced in the course. Academic dishonesty, and cheating can and will lead to a report to the ISM Committee of Ethics. With regard to remote learning, ISM remind students that they are expected to adhere and maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting.

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic	In-class hours	Readings/Data/Viewings
Introduction to Futures Thinking	3	Marina Gorbis, Five Principles for Thinking Like a Futurist (2019)
Future of the Planet	3	1. UNCC: e-Learn Course: Climate Change: From Learning to Action Module: What is climate change? 2. NASA: Global Climate Change website 3. Documentary: David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet (Netflix - 2019)
Future of Work	3	1. McKinsey Global Institute, The Future of Work in Europe (June 2020). 2. Our World in Data: Working Hours 3. Documentary: VICE Special Report: The Future of Work (HBO – 2019) 4. Podcast: Bullshit Jobs (NPR, 2018)
Future of Global Health	3	1. World Health Organisation, Urgent Health Challenges for the Next Decade (2020) 2. Our World in Data: Covid overview 3. Our World in Data: Global Health 4. Documentary: China's Covid's Secrets (PBS Frontline -2021) 5. Podcast: David Wallace-Wells on the mutating dangers of Covid-19 (February 2021)
Future of Democracy & Human Rights	3	1. Human Rights Watch, World Report 2021, European Union 2. Our World in Data: Democracy 3. Our World in Data: Human Rights 4. Documentary: Exodus (PBS Frontline - 2016)
Future of Global Inequality	3	1. World Social Report: Executive Summary (United Nations, 2020) 2. Our World in Data: Global Income Inequality 3. Documentary: Capital in the 21st Century (Netflix, 2019)
Future of Money	3	1. World Economic Forum: Crypto, What is it Good For? (December 2020). 2. Oxford Economics: The Future of Money: How digital payments are changing global commerce (2017) 3. Documentary: The Ascent of Monday (PBS – 2009)
Future of Food	3	1. FAO/UN: The Future of Food and Agriculture (2018, summary version) 2. Our World in Data: Hunger and Undernourishment 3. Our World in Data: Environmental impacts of food production 4. Documentary: Kiss the Ground (Netflix, 2020)

Future of Animals	3	1. World Wildlife Fund: Living Planet Report 2020 2. Documentary: Extinction, The Facts (BBC, 2020)
Future of Artificial Intelligence	3	1. McKinsey Analytics: The State of AI in 2020 2. Our World in Data: Technological Progress 3. Documentary: In the Age of AI (PBS, 2019)
Future of Energy	3	1. International Energy Agency (IEA): World Energy Outlook 2020 2. Our World in Data: Energy 3. Our World in Data: Renewable Energy 4. Documentary: Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom
Future of Truth	3	1. Fake News and Media Literacy - A syllabus (several different articles) 2. Documentary: The Social Dilemma (Netflix, 2020)
	Total: 48 hours	
CONSULTATIONS	6	
FINAL EXAM	2	

FINAL GRADE COMPOSITION

Type of assignment	**%**
Group Components	
Documentary synopsis group presentation	10
Reading synopsis group presentation	10
Local report presentation	25
Individual Components	
Midterm exam	25
Final exam	30
Total:	**100**

DESCRIPTION AND GRADING CRITERIA OF EACH ASSIGNMENT

1. **Documentary synopsis group presentation (10%)**: Students will – in small assigned groups – provide an oral presentation of approximately 15 minutes in length on an assigned documentary film.
2. **Reading synopsis group presentation (10%)**: Students will – in small assigned groups – provide an oral presentation of approximately 15 minutes in length on an assigned written report or article.
3. **Local report group presentation (25%)**: Students will – in small assigned groups – provide an oral presentation of approximately 30 minutes on applying futures thinking locally.
4. **Midterm exam (25%)**: A multiple-choice exam will assess students' knowledge of the first five weeks of course material.
5. **Final exam (30%)**: A multiple-choice exam will assess students' knowledge of the last seven weeks of course material.

RETAKE POLICY

The retake exam will assess knowledge of the entire course's content and be worth 55% of students' final grade.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

None

REQUIRED READINGS/DOCUMENTARIES

See above

ADDITIONAL READINGS

See above

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ANNEX

DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives for the Bachelor of Business Management
Programmes:
International Business and Communication,
Business Management and Marketing, Finance,
Industrial Technology Management

Learning Goals	Learning Objectives
Students will be critical thinkers	BLO1.1. Students will be able to understand core concepts and methods in the business disciplines
	BLO1.2. Students will be able to conduct a contextual analysis to identify a problem associated with their discipline, to generate managerial options and propose viable solutions
Students will be socially responsible in their related discipline	BLO2.1. Students will be knowledgeable about ethics and social responsibility
Students will be technology agile	BLO3.1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in common business software packages
	BLO3.2. Students will be able to make decisions using appropriate IT tools
Students will be effective communicators	BLO4.1. Students will be able to communicate reasonably in different settings according to target audience tasks and situations
	BLO4.2. Students will be able to convey their ideas effectively through an oral presentation
	BLO4.3. Students will be able to convey their ideas effectively in a written paper

Learning objectives for the Bachelor of Social Science
Programmes:
Economics and Data Analytics,
Economics and Politics

Learning Goals	Learning Objectives
Students will be critical thinkers	ELO1.1. Students will be able to understand core concepts and methods in the key economics disciplines
	ELO1.2. Students will be able to identify underlying assumptions and logical consistency of causal statements
Students will have skills to employ economic thought for the common good	ELO2.1.Students will have a keen sense of ethical criteria for practical problem-solving
Students will be technology agile	ELO3.1. Students will demonstrate proficiency in common business software packages
	ELO3.2. Students will be able to make decisions using appropriate IT tools
Students will be effective communicators	ELO4.1.Students will be able to communicate reasonably in different settings according to target audience tasks and situations
	ELO4.2.Students will be able to convey their ideas effectively through an oral presentation
	ELO4.3. Students will be able to convey their ideas effectively in a written paper